

GRE® 官方题库 范文精讲

GRE® CAT Answers
to the Real Essay Questions

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Mark Alan Stewart, J. D.

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前言

从 2002 年 10 月起, 所有 GRE 考生参加 GRE 考试时, 必须撰写两篇作文:

- 对一个是非问题 (Issue) 提出你自己的见解 (45 分钟)
- 分析一个逻辑问题 (Argument) (30 分钟)

机考系统会从官方的题库中随机抽取题目作为你的 GRE 写作考题。

好消息:

GRE 考题的制定方——美国教育考试服务中心 (ETS) 已经预先透露了 GRE 写作考题的完全题库。这样, 只要你愿意付出努力, 就可以对每一道题都有所准备。

更好的消息:

本书囊括了超过 200 道的 GRE 官方作文题库高分样文! (你在第二至第五章中可以找到它们。) 而且, 本书的第一章还介绍了在作文考题上获得高分的所有技巧。

怎样在线升级 GRE 作文题库

不要忘记查看作者对本书的在线补充和修订。有时候, 考试的制定方 (ETS) 会将其官方题库中的题目次序加以变更, 同时也会在题库中添加新的题目。更新题库请访问下列网址:

www.west.net/~stewart/grewa

或者访问作者的 GRE 主页, 在这里你可以找到使用指南和针对整个 GRE 考试每部分的小测验以及书评、链接, 甚至更多内容:

www.west.net/~stewart/gre

怎样将我们的文章与官方题库匹配

有些时候, 考试服务中心会将其官方题库中的题目次序加以变更, 也会在题库中添加新的题目, 同时删除旧题目。第二至第五章对每篇文章进行了预测, 相当于对当前的题目进行了描述, 而这种描述会帮助你将两者进行匹配。如果你在进行匹配的时候需要更多的帮助, 请你根据我们的相关关键词, 在官方题库电子版文件中进行搜索。(为了醒目, 我们已经将关键词加粗。) 而且, 如果你需要升级官方题库, 请点击以下网址的“升级”页面: www.west.net/~stewart/awa

当你学习本书中提供的范文时, 需要记住三点:

1. 我写这些文章时没有定时限制。而且, 为了使它们成为你们更好的学习范本, 我还对它们进行了润色。所以, 如果你写出的文章不像我的文章那样丰富流畅, 别担心。对于在 30 分钟内写出的东西, 要采取现实的态度。
2. 我在每篇文章的第一段中都扼要复述了题目, 不过你要记住, 读你文章的人不会指望、也不想要你在文章中复述题目。所以你的开头一段要尽量简洁。
3. 这些范文旨在为你提供真实的、系统的、流行的写作思路, 但是决不是用于供你逐字抄袭的。我要预先警告你: GRE 的阅卷者会时刻警惕抄袭现象。

本书作者

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第一章 GRE 写作应试指导

自 2002 年 10 月起, GRE 考试新添了写作题: Issue(是非问题分析)作文和 Argument(逻辑问题分析)作文。如果您准备参加 GRE 考试, 这本书能给您提供写出高分作文的所有技巧。在本章您会学到:

- 怎样组织和写作 Issue 高分作文
- 怎样组织和写作 Argument 高分作文
- 作文考试的计算机界面是怎样的
- 考试专用文字处理软件有何特点
- GRE 作文是怎样打分和评估的
- 怎样充分利用你有限的时间备考

在后四章中, 我们给出了 200 多篇范文, 全部和 GRE 考试官方题库中的问题相符。我们建议您登录互联网, 下载 GRE 考试题库。ETS(美国教育考试服务中心)官方网站的题库可以免费下载。或许您不需要获取官方题库就能从这本书中获得很大的收获, 但是您如果手头上有官方题库, 您从本书中得到的收获会更多。获取考试题库, 请参照本书附带的指示说明, 并登录其网站(www.west.net/~stewart/grewa)。

一、GRE 写作概要

1. 考试内容

GRE 作文考题由两个不同的部分组成:

- 针对某一是非问题给出你的个人见解(45 分钟)。考生需要有广泛的知识面。
- 对某一论点做出分析(30 分钟)。你必须对特定的论点进行评述。

2. 作文题库

在计算机考试系统的题库中, 储存的 Issue 题目和 Argument 题目分别超过了 200 道。在你考试的过程中, 系统会为你随机抽取两道 Issue 题目, 你要从中选择一道作为你的 Issue 作文题。但是, Argument 题目是不可选择的; 系统会为你随机抽取一道题目作为你的 Argument 考题。

3. 考试时间

总共 75 分钟(45 分钟写 Issue 作文, 30 分钟写 Argument 作文)。

4. 考场规则

- ① 两个写作任务之间没有休息时间。
- ② 考试系统不允许你用超过 45 分钟的时间来完成 Issue 考题。同样, 也不允许你用超过 30

分钟的时间来完成 Argument 考题。

③ 考试时,一旦开始第二个写作任务,你将无法返回到第一个任务。(但是如果你的第一个任务完成得较早,可以马上开始第二个任务,这由你自己决定。)

④ 考试时提供草稿纸和铅笔(同考多项选择题一样)。

⑤ 写文章时,你既可以使用考试系统内置的文字处理软件,也可以以手写的方式交卷。

注意:如果你希望以手写的方式提交作文考卷,你在指定考试座位的时候就得将答卷提交方式提出。

5. 考查要点

内容 考生通过列举合理的推论性和支持性例子来提出恰到好处的、具有说服力的相关见解和论点的能力。

组织 考生以结构清楚紧凑的行文提出观点的能力。

语言 考生的英语语言支配能力,通过考生的词汇量、措辞(词汇的选择)以及俗语的应用得以体现。

结构 考生对标准书面英语的熟练程度,包括语法、句法(句型结构)以及词汇的应用。

注意:拼写和标点不是 GRE 作文的评分依据,除非考生犯了过多类似的错误,以致无法有效地表达考生的观点。(GRE 考试内置的文字处理软件没有拼写检查功能和语法检查功能。)

(编者注:在考场上你只能靠自己避免这类低级错误,虽然 GRE 不像 TOEFL 考试那样重视拼写和语法问题,但是 ETS 所有的 6 分范文每篇中类似的低级错误都不超过三个。)

6. 评分系统

两位打分员根据上述考查要点为每篇文章分别打分,从 0 分至 6 分(0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 或 6),6 分是最高分;每篇作文的分数按照考生在四个考查重点上所获得的分数平均计算成绩(四舍五入精确到 0.5 分)。

注意:在本章中,我们会给出更加详细的打分和评估标准。

二、Issue 写作详解

Issue 作文考查考生针对某一是非问题有效、有理地提出自己见解的能力。你的任务是分析该是非问题,周全地考虑每个不同的观点,并给出自己对原观点的见解。在为你的 Issue 作文题打分的时候, GRE 评分者关注的是你的下列四种能力:

- 有效地识别并处理原论点的复杂性和各观点间的牵连关系
- 有效地组织、发展并表达你自己的见解
- 有效地支持自己的观点(通过列举原因和例证)
- 有效地支配标准书面英语的各项要素(语法、句型以及词语的运用)

注意:在 Issue 部分,从来没有“正确的”答案。也就是说,重要的是你怎样表达并支持你的见解,而不是你的见解是什么。

1. Issue 作文特征

Issue 考题由两部分组成:简洁的提示(对你的任务的描述),后面紧接的是 1~2 个主题句(观点陈述或论点的引语)。每篇 Issue 的提示差不多都一样,基本上是下面的语句:

Present your perspective on the following issue; use relevant reasons and/or examples to support your viewpoint. 针对下面的是非问题提出你的个人见解;运用相关原因和/或例证支持你的观点。

Issue 题涉及的范围很广泛,需要考生掌握大量而全面的知识,大学生或大学毕业生会经常接触到这些题材。下面是三个考题例子,你可以在 GRE 官方 Issue 题库中找到类似的题目。(注意:这些只是模拟题,并非 GRE 题库中题目。)

“In order to achieve greatness in a particular field—whether it be in the arts, sciences, or politics—any individual must challenge tradition as well as the conventional wisdom of the day.” “为了在特定的领域塑造辉煌——不论是在艺术、科学抑或政治领域——任何人都必须勇于挑战当前的传统和常理。”

“The objective of science is largely opposed to that of art; while science seeks to discover truths, art seeks to obscure them.” “科学的目的是在很大程度上与艺术的目的背道而驰,科学所追求的是发现真理,而艺术的目标则是使之隐讳。”

“The only way to ensure that our natural environment will be protected and preserved is through government penalties and other regulatory measures. No society can rely on the voluntary efforts of its individuals and private businesses to achieve these objectives.” “使我们的自然环境得以保护并保存的惟一途径,就是通过政府的强制力和其他法规性的措施。没有任何一个社会可以依赖个人和私有企业自发的努力来实现这一目标。”

2. Issue 作文要则

① 在你开始限时写作 Issue 作文前,考试系统会显示满满一屏幕的关于此项任务的详细说明。

这些说明会指出上面讲过的四个综合评分标准,下面就是该说明的内容:

- 你的答题时间是 45 分钟。
- 选择你认为可以接受的那个题目进行写作。
- 题目会以对某一普遍问题的简单陈述这种形式出现。
- 你可以随心所欲地赞同、反对或者证明原论点。
- 你应该通过你的经历、观察和阅读等渠道提出原因和/或例证,支持你自己的观点。
- 在你开始写之前,最好花几分钟思考一下如何组织你的文章。
- 你应该预留出富裕的时间,检查自己写过的文章,做出必要的修改。

② 官方题库中的题目有很多共同的主题。尽管每道官方 Issue 作文考题都有独特性,但是它们的基本主题有很多共同的背景。下面列出的主题能涵盖 Issue 题库中大部分题目(排列不分先后顺序):

- 一致性和传统惯例 VS 个性和革新
- 实用性和用途 VS 创造性和个人致富
- 文化特性(习俗、礼节以及思想观念)的重要性
- 个人成功并取得进步的关键因素
- 社会进步的关键因素,以及我们怎样对其定义
- 我们如何获取知识,或者如何让我们的知识更加丰富,以及更加广泛的知识是怎样组成的

- 常规教育的目标和方法是怎样的
- 研究历史的价值何在
- 知识对社会和个人的冲击
- 社会上公认的英雄或伟大领袖的分类
- 艺术和科学的功用和分类(分别对于个人和社会来说)
- 在保证社会福利方面,政府、商界以及个人的恰当角色

总体来讲, Issue 作文题所探讨的范围涉及所有的知识领域——包括社会学、人类学、历史、教育、法律和政府、政治科学、经济学、哲学、生理和行为科学、美术以及表演艺术等等。

- ③ 对于任何 Issue 写作题目来讲,不存在“正确答案”一说。在官方题库中,你既不会遇到无法反驳的题目,也不会找到完全错误的题目。题目编纂者如此出题的目的在于检验你赞成或反对某一立场的辩论能力,检验你证明或“推诿”自己观点的能力。
- ④ 对于每篇写作文章来说,不存在所谓限定的或“正确的”长度。本考试系统惟一在长度方面施加的实质性限制就是 45 分钟的考试时间。那么, GRE 作文评分人员偏爱简短的还是较长的 Issue 文章呢? 其实,这完全取决于文章本身的质量。一篇简洁明了并且中肯扼要的文章的得分要远比漫无目的的长篇大论更高。但是话说回来,结构清晰、有大量独到见解并且附带足够论据的长文章,肯定会比缺乏实质性内容、过于简单的文章得分高。

我在 GRE Issue 写作方面的经验就是,你写一篇 400 字左右的简洁文章,就可以得到 6 分。在后面几页你看到的 Issue 范文都符合 ETS 相关标准,得到了 6 分。它是有意写得这样简短的——只有 400 字左右——只是为了要说明你不必为了追求高分而长篇大论。

本书第二章和第三章的范文较长;字数大约维持在 500~750 之间,而且大多数分为 5 或 6 段。ETS 公布的惟一一篇 6 分 Issue 范文大约 700 字,分为 7 段。但是,ETS 也承认,或许没有这篇文章更有说服力的其他作文也得到了 6 分。因此,要想得最高分 6 分,你的文章不必像我的范文或 ETS 的范文那样词句丰富或言辞精练。(编者注:实战中最合适的字数在 400~500 字之间。)

3. Issue 写作流程

为了在 Issue 写作题中得高分,你必须展现出前面提到的那四种能力。为了确保你能在 45 分钟内充分表现出这四种被考查的能力,请遵循下列七步走的方法:

- ① **动脑思考,同时动笔记录(2~3 分钟)**。努力提出几个赞同和反对原论点的理由,以及几个分别支持 Issue 各个方面的例子。记录下来你想到的任何想法,即使它似乎不着边际、看似陈腐、毫无理由或者不足以令人信服。当你写作的时候,它会帮你想到如何将较弱的想法转变成较强的观点。也就是说,第一步的时候,请不要自我审查!
- ② **选择立场,组织你的想法(1~2 分钟)**。将你第一步记录下来的理由和例子标注为“正面”或“反面”。组织你的想法,分为 3 或 4 个主要段落,然后决定它们被提出的逻辑顺序,并据此为你的提纲编号。
- ③ **写简洁的开头段(3~4 分钟)**。在第一段中,你应该完成下列所有任务:
 - 证明你对这道是非分析题目中的暗示或其复杂性已经有所了解。
 - 让判卷者明白你对这篇 Issue 有着明确的观点。
 - 为你将在文章主体部分提出的观点做出相应的铺垫。

只用两三句话就能完成上述三个任务。先不要急于详细地罗列你的理由,也不要列举具体的例子。在你的文章主体部分再写这些内容。

注意:除非你是通过手写格式提交作文,否则你可以考虑等到写完 Issue 作文的其他部分以后再写文章的开头段。为什么?当你撰写 Issue 文章论证段的时候,如果你的立场有所改变(有时会发生类似的情况),你就不必重写开头段了。

- ④ **根据你的回答撰写文章的论证段落(20~25 分钟)**。撰写文章时尽量贴近你的提纲,但有时也要灵活掌握。尽量选择最容易阐述清楚、看起来最深刻或最有说服力的观点作为开头。然后,在第六步中,如果你决定将这个要点安排在其他一个或多个要点之后,一定要注意合理用词,重视表达效果,以便使文章更具逻辑性和连贯性。在第四步中,你的主要任务就是狂敲键盘,以便把更多的思路搬上考卷。尽量运用简短的语言来表达提纲中的各个要点,最好每个要点不要超过三四句话。而且,假如时间太短,不足以逐一表达提纲中每一个要点的时候,你不必过于担心。判卷者明白,对于绝大多数考生来说,45 分钟的时间限制使大多数人都无法做到面面俱到。
- ⑤ **写一段总结性质的结尾(3~4 分钟)**。除非你的文章带有明显的结尾,否则判卷者会认为你没有在规定的时间内完成写作题目。因此,一定要记住留出一定的时间来总结全文。最好用两三句话对文章的主旨进行概括。如果你想到了一个很特别的、见解深刻的要点,那么把它放到文章的最后一句话将会非常之好。
- ⑥ **根据情况对文章进行修改或润色,以确保文章的连贯性和平衡性(8~10 分钟)**。尽量留出足够的时间修改你的文章。下面就是你应该在第六步中完成的一些工作:
 - 确保你在文章中针对原论点提出了多种形式的观点。极力坚持某一立场是可以的,但是你也应该知晓其他观点的优缺点。如果你的文章写得过于片面,你在这时就需要添加一段以弥补这个缺点。
 - 重新整理你的各个段落,使文章在各个方面都更具逻辑性,更有说服力。确保每段的第一句话都能清楚明了地向判卷者传达本段的主要内容和思路。
 - 检查你的各个段落,看看它们在长度上是否平衡。如果长度不平衡,或许是某一环节的讨论过于冗长,或许是罗列了重复的例子,而在论述其他要点时或许忘记提供足够的论证(理由和/或例子)。这时,就需要做出适当的增减,对文章进行修饰,已达到表达上的平衡。
 - 检查你的开头段和总结段,确保它们能够前后呼应,并与题目相照应。
- ⑦ **校对一遍,检查低级错误(3~4 分钟)**。对“丑陋”的句子进行再加工,使它们表达得更流畅。检查措辞、用法、语法以及拼写等方面的错误。谨记:你的文章不需要完璧无瑕也可以得到 6 分。GRE 作文判卷者不会因为文章中偶尔出现的蹩脚句子或极少量的标点、拼写、语法或词语用法的错误而降低你的分数。不必追求将每个句子都写得像海明威或斯坦贝克的文字,否则你会背上沉重的包袱。把剩下的时间都用来修改最明显的低级错误即可。(这部分的时间安排并不固定,可根据各人情况进行灵活调整。)

4. Issue 作文范文

现在我们来看一篇范文,是关于第 112 页提到的第三个 Issue 题目的。在这篇文章中,我在某些起过渡作用的词汇和短语下面标注了下划线,帮助你看清我是怎样组织我的观点的——即第一步的“正面”和“反面”例子和理由——这样,它们可以自然而然地从一个要点过渡到下一个。(在真正考试的时候,你是无法使用下划线、斜体字或其他标记的。)

在你阅读下面的文章时,请牢记:

- 我所罗列的要点没有一个是不可反驳的,因为是非论断问题并不是“白与黑”的问题。它只是一个观点。这正是 Issue 作文的本质所在。

- 我的这篇文章无论在风格上还是在语言上都相对来说比较简单,而且足够简洁(400字),可以在45分钟之内完成。
- 我完成这篇文章的时候没有时间方面的压力,因此如果你的习作没有经过太多的润色,也不用过于担心。

针对下述论点的范文:

"The only way to ensure that our natural environment will be protected and preserved is through government penalties and other regulatory measures. No society can rely on the voluntary efforts of its individuals and private businesses to achieve these objectives."

While nearly everyone would agree in principle that certain efforts to preserve the natural environment are in humankind's best interests, exclusive reliance on volunteerism would be naive and imprudent, especially considering the stakes involved. For this reason, and because serious environmental problems are generally large in scale, I agree that government participation is needed to ensure environmental preservation.

Experience tells us that individuals and private corporations tend to act in their own short-term economic and political interest, not on behalf of the environment or the public at large. For example, current technology makes possible the complete elimination of polluting emissions from automobiles.

Nevertheless, neither automobile manufacturers nor consumers are willing or able to voluntarily make the short-term sacrifices necessary to accomplish this goal. Only the government holds the regulatory and enforcement power to impose the necessary standards and to ensure that we achieve such goals.

Admittedly, government penalties do not guarantee compliance with environmental regulations. Businesses often attempt to avoid compliance by concealing their activities, lobbying legislators to modify regulations, or moving operations to jurisdictions that allow their environmentally harmful activities. Others calculate the cost of polluting, in terms of punishment, then budget in advance for anticipated penalties and openly violate the law. However, this behavior only serves to underscore the need for government intervention, because left unfettered this type of behavior would only exacerbate environmental problems.

One must admit as well that government regulation, environmental or otherwise, is fraught with bureaucratic and enforcement problems. Regulatory systems inherently call for legislative committees, investigations, and enforcement agencies, all of which add to the tax burden on the citizens whom these regulations are designed to protect. Also, delays typically associated with bureaucratic regulation can thwart the purpose of the regulations, because environmental problems can quickly become grave indeed. However, given that the only alternative is to rely on volunteerism, government regulation seems necessary.

Finally, environmental issues inherently involve public health and are far too pandemic in nature for individuals to solve on their own. Many of the most egregious environmental violations traverse state and sometimes national borders. Individuals have neither the power nor the resources to address these widespread hazards.

In the final analysis, only the authority and scope of power that a government possesses can ensure the attainment of agreed-upon environmental goals. Because individuals are unable and businesses are by nature unwilling to assume this responsibility, government must do so.