

GRE Verbal (Reading)

All page numbers are for the 3rd edition.

Types of Questions

Reading comp (p. 47)

Letters in ovals = Only ONE answer (“the best”) is correct

Letters in rectangles = One OR MORE answers are correct; choose all that apply

Recommended approach: Read passage first, and read for comprehension.

Text completion (p. 49)

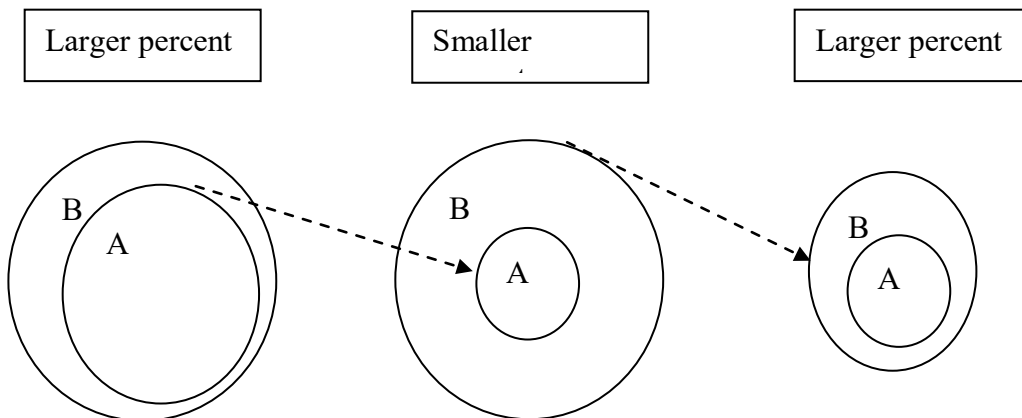
Sentence Equivalence (p. 52)

A smattering of math – you just can’t get away from it!

Percent principles

Percent = Successes / Choices. Therefore, a higher percent can be caused by more successes OR fewer choices.

A as a percentage of *B*:



Individual vs. statistical conclusions

What’s true for a population at large may or may not be true for a given individual within that population. You can use statistics to prove what is likely, but not what is certain. You can use an individual for proofs about what is possible / certain, but not what is likely.

Alternative explanations

To weaken a conclusion, you can find support for an alternative explanation.
Therefore, to strengthen a conclusion, you can weaken an alternative explanation!

Arnold's Argument

Observation: Traffic is jammed up ahead.

Conclusion: I'll bet there's an accident.

Alex's Alternative Explanation

Well, maybe there's a sports event nearby.

	<i>Alex's alternative</i>	<i>Arnold's argument</i>
(A) Most of the cars are decorated with Lakers colors		
(B) We are near the Staples Center		
(C) It is 3:00 am		
(D) We are in the middle of the desert		

Usually, the alternative explanation is not spelled out for you, but hinted at in the question or the answer choice.

Art's argument

Observation: I put my songs on Spotify, but nobody is buying them.

Conclusion: My music is too sophisticated for Spotify users.

Does each of the following strengthen or weaken Art's argument?

- (A) The median age of Spotify users is 14.
- (B) Arnold has priced his songs at \$4 each, which is 2 – 4 times as expensive as other songs on Spotify.
- (C) There are 400,000,000 songs on Spotify, and it is too expensive for independent artists to advertise
- (D) Arnold has priced his songs at \$.99 each, which is the standard price for Spotify songs.