



# **n<sup>th</sup> Degree Tutoring**

Math | Science | English | SAT | ACT | GRE | LSAT | GMAT | Admissions

**GRE Course Materials, or**

**Everything you need  
to become a**

**GRE**

**Genius**

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[www.nthDegreeTutoring.com](http://www.nthDegreeTutoring.com)

2931 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Upstairs Ste. I  
Los Angeles, CA, 90064

(310) 478-6146  
[info@NthDegreeTutoring.com](mailto:info@NthDegreeTutoring.com)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## GRE Class Questionnaire

1. How did you find out about Nth Degree Tutoring?

- (A) Yelp
- (B) Google Maps
- (C) Referred by former student \_\_\_\_\_
- (D) I'm a pre-existing Nth Degree student
- (E) Other (well, what then?!) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Tell me about your prior GRE experience

- (A) I am brand new to the GRE.
- (B) I have previously studied the GRE but have never taken a diagnostic test.
- (C) I took a GRE exam or diagnostic test more than six months ago.
- (D) I have taken a GRE exam or diagnostic test within the last six months.

If you answered (D), please provide the following details as well.

Month you took the test: \_\_\_\_\_

Format (circle)

Official GRE

GRE diagnostic provided by \_\_\_\_\_ (ETS, Magoosh, Kaplan, etc.)

Verbal score: \_\_\_\_\_

Math score: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay score (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you already scheduled a GRE date? If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

4. About how many hours per week do you commit to school and / or work? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you interested in taking the 6-week GRE-2 course (advanced math) after you finish GRE-1?

- (A) No, sorry
- (B) Maybe
- (C) Yes

6. Are you applying to law school or business school? If so, have you considered the LSAT or GMAT? Please explain.

7. Anything else? Is there anything else you want me to know about your GRE path? Particular objectives? Goals? Burning questions?

## History & Philosophy of the GRE

- The “Graduate Record Exam” is a standardized test for admission into almost all English language graduate and professional schools.
- Why do schools use standardized tests? What are they for?
  - It is fair for colleges and graduate schools to assess candidates for academic preparedness.
  - Standardized tests are necessary because your high school – undergrad experiences were all very different and hard to compare.
  - There is some “controversy” (mostly emotional) over the correlation between tested skills and student potential, but this is the system we have ... let’s learn the test as it is and write letters to Congress later.
  - Standardized tests are designed to measure some combination of content and

L \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_

- Kinds of standardized exam: Bars and competitions (curve). GRE = Some of each.
- GRE is written and administered by the Educational Testing Service, ETS. No affiliation with any university or test-prep service. [www.ETS.org](http://www.ETS.org)
- GRE created in 1930s. Historically for selective academic PhD programs, it still has a bias toward identifying *academic excellence* despite changing trends toward greater numbers and more mainstream students in vocational programs. Therefore, a high score is more meaningful than a low score.
- The ideal GRE test-taker is
  - Well-read.
  - Exceptionally good at handling large volumes of organized information.
  - Highly literate at written English.
  - A critical, evidentiary-based thinker.
- The ETS is aggressively expanding into new markets.
  - 2000’s decade: Business schools (now accepted by all!)
  - 2010’s: Now accepted by Harvard Law School, most other law schools will probably follow!

## What the Hell is Nth Degree?!

- Quality: A one-tutor company founded on my personal skills and experience.
- Price: much lower than agencies
- Class structure: The 6-week GRE-1 group class caters to the “impatient starving student” demographic; a follow-up GRE-2 class is highly recommended if it fits your schedule and budget.

Next GRE-2 registration deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

Next GRE-2 dates / times: \_\_\_\_\_

- I offer one-on-one tutoring in coursework and grad-school admissions as well as test prep.

### Qualifications and History (if you care) ...

- My GRE scores (posted to my website) were 170 math, 166 verbal, 5.5 writing
- I have also scored at the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile on the SAT, ACT (perfect score), LSAT, and GMAT
- I have been accepted to Caltech, Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, UCLA School of Law, Brown, UCSD, Berkeley, and Northwestern
- I have two decades of teaching experience, starting with community college math classes
- I got excellent “Rate My Professor” ratings and took my value where it was worth more in the private sector.
- Yelp profile attracted GRE inquiries more than any other, so I put group class together.
- My students have been accepted to Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Penn / Wharton, UCLA, UCSD, USC, U of AZ School of Law, UC Davis SOL, and other individual dream schools.



## GRE Subjects and Scoring

The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and 'Rithmetic

- Quantitative (Math): Graded from 130 – 170. Curved.
- Verbal (Reading): Graded from 130 – 170. Curved.
- (Composite score): Ranges from 260 – 340
- Most departments want to see an “upper half” composite score (about 300) perhaps with an “upper quarter” score (upper 150's) on one of Math or Verbal. The most selective schools will expect an “upper eighth” composite score (about 320).
- Essays: Graded from 0 – 6. A bar exam (grading rubric).

## Improvement Expectations

3 months of hard work is about the “half-life of the anti-percentile.”

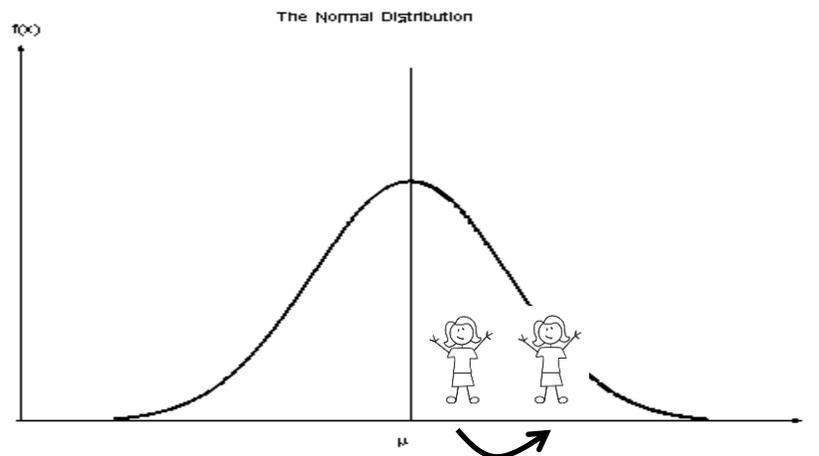
Stella Student's entrance score placed her at the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Stella's anti-percentile is \_\_\_\_\_

Stella is an average improver. Her “improvement score” is 50, meaning that she will pull ahead of 50% of her competitors. Therefore, hard work in GRE-1 and GRE-2 will cut her anti-percentile in half.

New anti-percentile: \_\_\_\_\_

New percentile: \_\_\_\_\_



(What might Stella expect with *another* three months of hard work?)

# Scores and Improvement\*

*Our goal is always to IMPROVE!*

	Percentile	Verbal	Math	Composite	Essay	
Upper 1/8	99	169	170	333	5.5	Upper 1/16
	95	165	169	326		
	90	162	166	321	5.0	Upper 1/4
	85	160	164	318		
80	158	162	315	4.5		
75	157	160	312			
Upper 1/2	70	155	159	310		
	65	154	157	308		
	60	153	156	306	4.0	
	55	152	154	304		
Lower 1/2	50	151	153	302		
	45	150	152	301		
	40	149	151	299	3.5	← This is your goal ...
	35	147	149	297		← ... if you are here
	30	146	148	295		
	25	145	147	292		
	20	143	145	290		
	15	141	144	287	3.0	
	10	140	141	284		
	5	137	139	279	2.5	

An “average improver” should be able to move up one band on this chart with hard work in GRE-1 and GRE-2.

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\* Verbal, Math, and Essay data is taken from a 2017 ETS publication. Composite conversions are taken from statistical analysis of 2013 ETS data performed by a Reddit user, assuming some correlation between math and verbal scores.

## GRE Fear Factors



Regarding	Fear factor	It's important to
Sections of the exam	Math	Study verbal and essays too
Verbal	Vocabulary	Read carefully and know the exam
Math	Hard problems	Master easy – medium problems first
Minutes	Hurry, hurry, hurry!	Work at your own best pace
Months	Hurry, hurry, hurry!	Give yourself time for best progress

## Easy, Medium, and Hard Questions

The questions do not carry equal weight. The ETS ranks them “Easy, Medium, Hard” according to how many students get them right. (Average = as low as 45%! Few questions are truly “easy”)

We don't know their actual formula for scoring, but it probably looks something like this:

	Easy	Medium	Hard
Right answer	+1	+2	+3
Wrong (or blank) answer	-3	-2	-1

Since you are penalized more heavily for missing easy questions than hard questions, your focus had better be on getting “easy” questions right!! That is especially true if your entrance score is low.

## Let's have the right attitude



Why do they have to test us on MATH?!?!?!?

*I'm on your side*

*It's a test, not a "trick"*

*Clear your plate*

*A good score is worth waiting for*



## Administrative Info

Every week's homework is at [www.NthDegreeTutoring.com/GREhomework](http://www.NthDegreeTutoring.com/GREhomework) . Select the correct class format (GRE-1 or GRE-2; 6 weeks or 9 weeks). After you finish the first lecture, you will do the homework for Weeks 1 – 2, and this numbering continues through the course.

If you are paying for this course in two installments, the second payment is due BEFORE the week 4 class. Bring cash / check in week 3, or pay online at least 24 hours before 4<sup>th</sup> class.

If you must be absent, please contact my assistant, Tiffany, at [NthDegreeAssistant@gmail.com](mailto:NthDegreeAssistant@gmail.com). She will email you an unlisted web page with your makeup materials, something with a codeword like [www.NthDegreeTutoring.com/blue](http://www.NthDegreeTutoring.com/blue) . This does not affect your course cost.

All lectures are available on video for \$4 per hour of content. Email Tiffany and let her know which lesson(s) you would like to buy. (There is no charge when you are making up an absence).

I'm sorry, but ...

1. There are no refunds for absences
2. There is no free makeup opportunity for missed homework Q&A or essay feedback
3. No partial refund is available after the week 4 lecture.



My contact info:

Desk 310-478-6146. You can call if you are running late, though I do not wait for late students after Week 1. Otherwise, I only answer this phone on Mondays or by appointment.

Email [scot@NthDegreeTutoring.com](mailto:scot@NthDegreeTutoring.com) . Deliver your written essays here in weeks 2 – 3.

## Class Calendar

<b>Week</b>	<b>Hour 1</b>	<b>Hour 2</b>	<b>Hour 3</b>	<b>Homework</b>
1	Course intro.	Entrance diagnostic	Verbal lecture	Verbal
2	Verbal Q&A	Intro math lecture	AAA essay lecture	Intro math, AAA essay 1
3	AAA essay feedback / Math teamwork	Proportions / percents	AAI essay lecture	Proportions / percents, AAI essay 1
4	AAI essay feedback / Math teamwork	Arithmetic power hour	Algebra power hour	Arithmetic and algebra AAA essay 2
5	Math Q&A	Geometry power hour	Data power hour	Geometry and data AAI essay 2
6	Math Q&A	Test logistics	Exit diagnostic	ETS website and CBT format

p. 342, 15 minutes

1.

3.

6.

10.

12.

17.

19.

21.

23.

25.

p. 354, 17:30 minutes. Calculator permissible.

10.

12.

13.

14.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

24.