

16 Tendencies

Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:46 AM

Test Takers' Vulnerable Tendencies & GMAC's Attack Vectors

Tendency	Description	GMAC attack vectors	Comments						
T1	Read the passage not carefully enough		☐ Trust myself and execute ☐ Read only once!						
T2	Skim answer choices and miss key modifiers on scope or concepts	GMAC usually adds seemingly benign modifiers that totally change the meaning of answer choices. These choices with confusing wording can be correct or incorrect answers - Extreme: <i>No, all, only</i> - <i>Kinds of conclusions that can be drawn from X</i> - <i>Unlikely to provide any indication of what inferences about X</i>	☐ Examine each answer choice carefully						
T2.1	Test takers tend to eliminate answer choices with confusing wording. "These choices don't sound right"	GMAC masks correct choices by using: - More generic terms - Synonyms of terms in a passage - Confusing wording (above)	☐ Don't eliminate a choice only because it has confusing wording ☐ Be precise about my understanding of an answer choice >> See what is truly there						
T3	Get scared of strange topics Test takers tend to get confused when there are multiple filters: • Time • Location • Reality vs fictional world • Actions	Example: With 4 filters, each with 2 potential outcomes, there are $2^4 = 16$ different (but related) entities. The key argument usually is about relationships between 2/16 entities. GMAC creates wrong choices out of the remaining 14/16 entities. These 14 entities are out of scope but related to in-scope entities	Steps ☐ Pause and take a deep breath ☐ Imagine a dragon and read on with awe, curiosity, and respect ☐ Write down EXACT scope and filters ☐ If don't understand, skip						
		20200501 GMAC creates wrong answers by messing up perception with reality. For example: <table><tr><th>Content</th><th>Meaning</th></tr><tr><td><u>Passage:</u> A study shows that for lower-priced restaurants, customers perceive service guarantees as a sign that these restaurants are worried about their service</td><td>>> Customers perceive the worry</td></tr><tr><td><u>Wrong answer choice:</u> Service guarantees show that restaurants are worried</td><td>>> Restaurants actually worry</td></tr></table>	Content	Meaning	<u>Passage:</u> A study shows that for lower-priced restaurants, customers perceive service guarantees as a sign that these restaurants are worried about their service	>> Customers perceive the worry	<u>Wrong answer choice:</u> Service guarantees show that restaurants are worried	>> Restaurants actually worry	
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<u>Passage:</u> A study shows that for lower-priced restaurants, customers perceive service guarantees as a sign that these restaurants are worried about their service	>> Customers perceive the worry								
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T4	Mix up entities and their attributes • Time: hypothesis in year 1992, revised opinion in 1995, etc.		☐ Approach each passage like a dragon: read with care, curiosity, and respect ☐ Mentally draw an ERD						
T5	Fill in incorrect assumptions when reading passages and questions Test takers tend to (1) not pay attention to EXACT scope of an argument and (2) fill in their own assumptions about a specific entity	Create wrong choices out of a hidden segment E.g., Context: Allergies to chemicals (mostly at school but can be anywhere). When an argument mentions that children could be more exposed to certain chemicals, a test taker is usually lazy and doesn't think much. GMAC: Create a wrong choice out saying that exposure happens at home is also required as an assumption	[x2] If the passage compares A to B, I assume that a question will compare A to B. In fact, a question can compare B to A to mess up my thinking ☐ Remind myself to internalize the EXACT scope of an argument. A choice has to directly affect the EXACT scope ☐ Remind myself: A seemingly						

			relevant choice can be wrong. A seemingly irrelevant choice can be right ☐ Ask myself: Is the scope mentioned in a choice too narrow (just a subset) or too broad?
T6	When a hypothesis is introduced, test takers tend to apply that hypothesis to other situations. This happens even when the passage does not bring up any evidence to support those specific situations	Attack spots: Inference questions	
T7	Ignore the level of importance or extent of an action / opinion (mild, medium, extreme)		
T8	Have a bias towards choice E once I eliminate choices A, B, C, and D		☐ Pay extra attention to choice E once I eliminated the first 4 choices 20201030 20201031 ☐ Principle: Evaluate each choice with equal care
T9	Choose an opposite answer to what is asked Confusion point: double negative. How can we weaken the argument to not increase taxes?	- Reverse direction of a relationship	☐ Internalize the EXACT scope, filters, and attitudes
T10	Have a bias towards choices with exact wording from a passage When test takers are confused, they tend to latch onto answer choices with exact wording from a passage (both CR and RC) <i>"This choice sounds right"</i>	GMAC uses exact words from a passage in wrong answer choices	☐ Pause when I was about to pick a contender choice with exact wording ☐ Internalize the EXACT scope, filters, and attitudes
T11	CR: Test takers tend to believe that a conclusion is at the end of a passage	For 700-level CR passages, GMAC avoids putting conclusions at the end	
T13	Test takers tend to confuse a specific link with somewhat related links (different entities, different processes, different time, etc.)	Create wrong choices by introducing different (but related) entities, processes, or impacts	☐ Internalize the EXACT scope, filters, and attitudes
T14	When a question asks for a new detail (e.g., which of the following, if true) and 2 answer choices mention a similar (potentially new) detail, test takers may start to believe that this new detail is part of the right answer	Create 2 wrong choices that mention the same topic	☐ CR: If there are 2 choices that mention exactly the same (new) topic, stay away from rushing towards them ☐ Internalize the EXACT scope, filters, and attitudes 20201226: Q - Weaken an argument: 3 choices mentioned a wrong new detail
T15	Forget the context (who, how many people, where, when)		☐ If an answer choice mentions a time period that is not mentioned at all in a passage, eliminate it
T16	On a few occasions, I've selected a choice about an example or a description of an	A description or an example of an argument neither explains, confirms, strengthens, nor	20201127, 20201230

argument as an answer for strengthening, weakening, or impacting an argument	weakens an argument.
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