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Kaplan GRE Exam 2009 Premier Program (w/ CD-ROM) (Kaplan GRE Premier Program (W/CD))



Synopsis

The Education Testing Service continues to make gradual changes to the content of the GRE. But with this unique multi-format preparation program, students will receive the most accurate, timely details on the GRE test change. This customized study program includes: The latest information on the November 2007 updates, including samples of the two new question types with detailed answer explanations. Full-length practice test Hundreds of additional practice questions Detailed answer explanations Diagnostic test to target areas for score improvement Kaplan-exclusive score-raising strategies Essential tactics for the computer-adaptive test (CAT) format

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Customer Reviews

I got this GRE guide as well as "Cracking the GRE" by the Princeton Review... and preferred the latter. Not that this isn't a good study book; you'd probably do fine on the GRE with either one. I found the PR book more easy to follow with print that's easy to read and even some tongue-in-cheek humor (studying doesn't have to be boring?). What it basically comes down to is that Kaplan is content based whereas PR is more technique based, walking you through how to solve problems easily. The "Hit Parade" vocab lists in the PR was also super helpful--Kaplan has nothing near the number of need-to-know vocabulary words. Bottom Line: at least check out the Princeton Review's "Cracking the GRE" before you buy this.

I got this CD book in the expectation that the book would be similar to the actual computerized GRE. I use it primarily for its practice tests. Unfortunately, the CD is a HUGE disappointment. It does not appear to adjust the questions based on performance like the actual test. It does not scale to your monitor, so if you have a widescreen monitor, it is hard to read. However, what is much more disappointing is that the questions, particularly the quantitative questions, are of poor quality and often incorrect. For example: The drawings are horrendous. Some questions assume that things are drawn to scale without stating it, while others say that an answer must be "not enough information" because the drawing does not say it is drawn to scale. On Q Test 4, one diagram was a closed shape according to the answer explanation, but it was clearly open in the drawing so a number of degrees could be fit inside. One of the chart questions on test 5 has two charts but both are labeled "sales" - one is supposed to be net profits. If you are getting this to teach you how to take the GRE or for the paper tests, it may be a fine buy, but the software is horrendous and riddled with errors.

I have only had this product for a few weeks, but I have already discovered some criticisms. One major criticism is the CD-ROM seems dated. The disc lists "version 1.0" and you can tell that the disc is 1.0. The copyright on the program is 2004! While the sample tests appear to simulate the test environment very well they don't contain any of the fill in the blank questions that have been added to the GRE. While they aren't a big part of the exam you would figure that if this is the "2009" edition of this book that the CD would fully prepare you for the test that students taking the exam in 2008 might take. Needless to say this disc doesn't seem to work properly under Windows Vista much like the feedback I read on last year's edition. I bought the 2009 edition figuring that they would have updated the CD for this year's book, but apparently not. Having neither a Mac version nor a Windows version that works in Vista seems pretty pathetic. I have been using the inside of a virtual machine (VMware) and it seems to run OK. I will give an update if I discover any means by which the software will run under Vista properly. After you remove the background information on the GRE, and the chapter on applying to grad school, and the advertising for Kaplan's courses the number of pages of actual prep drops below 400 pages, albeit most competing books are approximately the same length. There are entire books written on applying to grad school if I really wanted a book for that, but nevertheless I will admit that the book seems incredibly informative. As far as I can tell there is no compelling improvements in this book over the previous edition. The book could obviously have more problem sets, but so far I haven't seen any obvious mistakes in the book like I have seen in test prep books for the SAT or other exams. The book could be better, but I don't see any clear flaws in the book so far.

I bought this edition primarily because I wanted the online options and the cd-rom extras. However, both of those have fallen short of my expectations. The internet site isn't as "personalized" as they make it out to be. The "guided study plan" is just a generic "syllabus" that isn't very helpful, and some of the links to study guides don't even work. I thought the diagnostic test would give me specific areas to work on but instead it's just the same as a practice test that gives you a score and reviews the answers but nothing more. It's also not plainly stated the the cd rom DOES NOT WORK ON A MAC. In 2008 this seems like an unacceptable format for a book like this that makes you pay extra for the cd features. The study guide itself is pretty good, with good tips and techniques for getting through the test, and the verbal and math workbooks have also been useful for more specific areas of review, but you can get the same thing from the non-premier edition.

I have used Kaplan study products for many different exams, and I like their approach and the fact that they have a CD-ROM with extra features. But it doesn't work with either my PC (which has Vista) or my Mac laptop!! This seems ridiculous for a 2009 version. I am very sorry I paid the extra money for the CD-ROM.

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