



THE ARGUMENT TASK

→ FALLACIES

→ MISTAKEN CAUSE & EFFECT

- ✓ There could be many causes for the occurrence of a favorable/unfavorable event other than the one(s) mentioned.
- ✓ The one(s) mentioned might not even be one of the cause(s).

→ CONFUSING NUMBER & PERCENT

- ✓ Number → absolute
- Percent → relative

→ THINGS CHANGE (SHORT-TERM VS LONG-TERM)

- ✓ What was successful in one time period might not be in another time period.

→ VAGUE LANGUAGE

- ✓ Point out wherever things have been too generalized.
- e.g. 'better shape', 'normal diet'.

→ COMPARING APPLES & ORANGES

→ SURVEYS

- ✓ Look for nature of sample & for sample size.
- ✓ Look for whether there was a control group if talking about an intervention.

causing (or not) (observable) and
 But not based on strong proof.



→ SKILL & Will

- ✓ The argument assumes that people have the ability or motivation to do something when this ~~is~~ has not been proven to be the case.

→ PREDICTING THE FUTURE

- ✓ Predicting the future automatically introduces ~~under~~ uncertainty in the argument.

→ WHAT'S THEIR MOTIVATION?

- ✓ Look for all possible motivations of the speaker when dealing with a proposal or advertisement.

→ CORRELATION Vs CAUSATION

- ✓ Both are not the same

→ NOTHING IS QUANTIFIED

- ✓ Look for situations where the author tries to compare two things that can be quantified but aren't.

→ ALIKE DOESN'T MEAN IDENTICAL

→ COMPLAINTS

- ✓ Don't assume 'complaints received' as significant unless mentioned.

READING COMPREHENSION

> OVERVIEW

- ✓ 80-450 words long
- ✓ 10 RC questions, and 10 TC/ST questions.
- ✓ Order - always same

> FORMAT

- ✓ Short passage 80-120 words, (2-3 questions) ^{Variable}
- ✓ Medium passage 150-300 words, (2-4 questions)
- ✓ Long passage 300-450 words, (4 questions) _{fixed}
- ✓ Paragraph argument (1 question) _{fixed}

> QUESTION TYPE

- ✓ Multiple choice (5 choices, 1 correct)
- ✓ Multiple answer (3 choices, any correct)
- ✓ Select-the-sentence (sentence in passage that provides support for an answer to a question in the passage).

> LAYOUT

✓ Q. 1-6 → Text Completion

✓ Q. 7-11 → Reading Comp.
(1 long passage and 1 paragraph argument)
OR
2 short passages

✓ Q. 12-15 → Sentence Equivalence

✓ Q. 16-20 → Reading Comp.
(Medium passages and paragraph argument).

> INGREDIENTS OF THE GRE PASSAGE

✓ Old theory challenged by a new one (usually science).

✓ Debate on an issue (social science).

✓ Author presents own opinion (literary passages).

✓ Something very esoteric which the reader won't have any knowledge about.

→ STRUCTURE

✓ 1st Sentence introduces the topic/debate.

✓ 2nd Sentence → New angle / theory / explanation to mystery.

→ Pivot words or phrases - 'however', 'yet', 'new theory has emerged'.

✓ Evidence for the new theory (search for it).

✓ More (alternative) theories/opinions.

• Many questions asked from here.

ACTIVE READING

- ✓ Make intelligent ~~to~~ connections b/w ideas in text by pausing frequently to reflect.
- ✓ Helps know the structure and anticipate flow of ideas.
- ✓ 'Mental snapshots' of big ideas in each paragraph.
- ✓ Don't absorb every word, especially heavy-sounding proper nouns. Create mental acronyms for them.
- ✓ Big picture
- ✓ Focus of pivot words
 - however, nonetheless, although, yet
 - furthermore, additionally
 - therefore, thus, because
 - for instance
- ✓ Be excited about learning something new, even if it is for a short span like this.

> How To ANSWER QUESTIONS (RIPHAM)

- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ IGNORE THE ANSWERS!!!
- ✓ Paraphrase the question, if required.
- ✓ Hunt ~~so~~ for supporting text in passage
- ✓ Answer question in your own words.
- ✓ Match with choices.

> ANSWER TRAPS

✓ An answer choice is a trap if it @

- Uses words from the passage but twists the meaning
- True, but in a different part of the passage
- True/ Commonsensical in the real world but not found in the passage
- Everything is right except for that one fishy thing.

> PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE PASSAGE

- ✓ Can be found in the 1st & last paragraphs.
- ✓ Create your own answer first
- ✓ Match with choices.
- ✓ None of the choices would be 'perfect'. Choose the one that fits best.
- ✓ Be careful. This one contains many traps.

> INFERENCE QUESTIONS

- ✓ An inference is a statement that can be made based on the info. in the text.
- It is valid only if it is something that must be true, not one that could be or might be true.

> DETAIL QUESTION

- ✓ Might give a
 - specific line reference
 - specific word or words
- ✓ Look for words in the passage.
- ✓ After spotting the detail, re-read the question.
- ✓ Form answer in your own words.
- ✓ Match with choices.

> VOCAB - IN - CONTEXT QUESTION

- ✓ Word picked up from passage, asked for meaning in context.
- ✓ Come up with your own word.
- ✓ Don't plug answer choices.
- ✓ Be careful, because dictionary definitions won't work most of the times.

> SELECT THE SENTENCE QUESTION

- ✓ Need to understand the structure.
- ✓ Most of the times, only 2 sentences that could possibly be the answer.
- ✓ Distinguish b/w the sentence that mentions the topic from the one that answers the question.

➤ MULTIPLE ANSWER QUESTION

- ✓ Any one, or two, or all three choices can be correct.
- ✓ These choices are less obviously wrong, take more time.
- ✓ Carefully go through each choice.

➤ INFERENCE MULTIPLE ANSWER QUESTION

- ✓ Inference should be airtight
- ✓ If something is too extreme, it is hard to back it up and is thus not a good candidate for an inference.

➤ STRUCTURE QUESTION

- ✓ Asks about the 'function' of specific sentences or paragraphs from the passage.
- ✓ Read the reference and then describe it in your own words.
- ✓ Read the sentence before the reference sentence and make sure you are right.

→ undermine/Negate
➤ IF/THEN (STRENGTHEN/WEAKEN) QUESTION.

- ✓ If true, which of the following would undermine/bolster the theory ?
- ✓ Spot the theory in the passage and describe it in your own words.
- ✓ Anticipate the answer by changing conditions in the step above.
- ✓ Match with choices.

TEXT COMPLETION

➤ ELIMINATION METHOD

- ✓ Look for clues
- ✓ Match keywords.
- ✓ Eliminate
- ✓ Don't be afraid to pick the unknown word.

➤ UNDERSTANDING THE SENTENCE

- ✓ Break down long sentence in your own words
- ✓ Look for 'scattered clues'.
- ✓ Fit your own word.
- ✓ Match with options.

➤ DIFFICULT WORDS.

- ✓ Break down sentence into pieces.
- ✓ Focus on words you know, ignore the ones you don't.
- ✓ Think of overall tone - Positive or Negative?
- ✓ Come up with your own word
- ✓ Eliminate + Guess.

⇒ SIMPLIFYING COMPLEX SENTENCES

- ✓ Ignore Names, Facts, Figures → Verbage
- ✓ Have in on the Clue, break down the sentence.
- ✓ Come up with your own word.
- ✓ Match with choices.