

Atta Deep Bhav!

Mar 15th, 2002
USA

Dear Friends,
Jai Bheem.

“Atta Deep Bhav!” is a new monthly news article starting from May 15th 2001 and will come to you every 15th day of the month. As the name means, “Be Thy Own Light!” this is the article for Indian Buddhist students who are willing to follow the path of “Atta Deep Bhav!” in life. We are pleased and honored to start this article for the following objectives.

Objectives:

To encourage as many Indian Buddhist students as possible, to get a good job in the United States of America and overseas.

To give them an overview of the trends around and the coming opportunities.

To achieve these objectives, we have an earnest and sincere desire to give correct, complete and very useful information about the current career trends in any field, mainly focussing on Computer and Information Technology.

First few Lines from our Desk...

Wow! The response to our November issue about GRE and TOEFL was overwhelming. Thanks to everyone who wrote us back and let us know that they care for the information provided in “Atta Deep Bhav!” Lot of people missed this issue for different reasons and considering the higher demands we received for the information, we have decided to re-issue it again so that the information reaches to more number of people.

Once again, we would like to mention that Mr. Vivek Gade, who is doing his MS in USA, provided us with all the information about GRE and (The topic of this issue).

For any questions, he is reachable at (gadevivek@yahoo.com)

We thank Mr. Vivek Gade for his efforts and support.

(Get online source of Atta Deep Bhav! at: <http://www.ambedkar.org/adb/>)

With much Metta,
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Atta Deep Bhav!

Thus Spoke Ambedkar:

Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realize that our people have yet to learn it.

Democracy in India is only a top dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Graduate Record Examination (GRE):

In this issue we have very vital information about GRE. This is an examination for higher studies in USA. The Master of Science (MS) is a viable option for the graduates and even the postgraduates. It gives a lot of opportunity including the studying and taking job overseas for the aspirants. However it has been observed that our students are not willing to go for MS by appearing for the GRE. Whereas the students of the better part of the society are always willing to go for foreign studies. It has been also observed that the MS degree holders are getting the jobs fairly quickly in the United States after their study gets over. This option as such and particularly very attractive in today's scenario of difficulty in getting jobs in India. With the scholarships offered in every University in US and US Govt. allowing the students to work for 20 hours a week, one can earn very much to support himself and save if he wishes so, along with the studies. Students can get up to \$1200 p.m. as scholarship and up to \$6 per hour if he is working. The course is designed to help students do this with their studies.

The GRE test is nothing but learning by heart of couple of books and some general knowledge and qualifying Toefl Examination. The Graduate Record Examinations Program provides tests, which includes:

- the General Test, which measures developed verbal, quantitative, and analytical abilities,
- the Writing Assessment, which measures proficiency in critical reasoning and analytical writing, and
- the Subject Tests, which measure achievement in 8 different fields of study

Description of the General Test:

The General Test measures verbal, quantitative, and analytical skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study. The test consists of three scored sections.

Verbal: 30-minute section (30 questions) — The verbal measure tests your ability to analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it, analyze relationships among component parts of sentences, and recognize relationships between words and concepts. Because students have wide-ranging backgrounds, interests, and skills, the verbal sections of the General Test use questions from diverse areas of experience. The areas tested range from the activities of daily life to broad categories of academic interest such as the sciences, social studies, and the humanities.

Quantitative: 45-minute section (28 questions) — The quantitative measure tests your basic mathematical skills and your understanding of elementary mathematical concepts, as well as your ability to reason quantitatively and solve problems in a quantitative setting. The content areas included in the quantitative sections of the test are arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis. These are content areas usually studied in high school.

Analytical: 60-minute section (35 questions) — The analytical measure tests your ability to understand structured sets of relationships, deduce new information from sets of relationships, analyze and evaluate arguments, identify central issues and hypotheses, draw sound inferences, and identify plausible causal explanations. Questions in the analytical section measure reasoning skills developed in virtually all fields of study.

No formal training in logic or methods of analysis is needed to do well in these sections.

Modified Versions of Questions:

The test you take may include questions that are modified versions of published questions or that of questions you have already seen on an earlier section of the test. Some modifications are substantial; others are less apparent. Thus even if a question appears to be similar to a question you have already seen, it may in fact be a different question and may also have a different correct answer. You can be assured of doing your best on the test you take by paying careful attention to the wording of each question as it appears in your test.

The GRE Program is currently investigating the feasibility of reusing questions that have been published in GRE practice materials. As part of that investigation, you may see questions from these materials on a test you take.

Useful Tips:

As far as study is concerned guys score poor in verbal and that affects their score. The quantitative and analytical are comparatively easy but it takes at least Four Months of serious study to attempt GRE. Nowadays you need to book for the date of exam some 6 months before especially TOEFL, as it is very difficult to get the exam dates.

Background for the Test:

There are plenty of books the best are: **Barrons**

You may find the names of books on (<http://www.gre.org>) also available are software's for taking trial exams before u go for the actual one.

Cost of the Exam:

The cost includes:

- The exam fee for both GRE and TOEFL.
- For sending your applications to universities which varies from \$20 to \$50 other cost long with this are the cost of score cards to be sent as through GREV you can send score cards to just 3 universities free of cost. The cost may vary. For other universities depending on the number of university you choose.
- Other costs are preparing documents of your financial status from CA and other small things.
- If u have total tuition waiver then u need not carry huge amt. Only \$1000 (Approximately RS 50000) to start would be sufficient or else u have to carry the first term fee.

Apparently they have come with a new rule for those coming from the next year and those who have not received assistantship that they pay there first term fee in the embassy in India itself. But this thing needs confirmation

In fact people who are in US without assistantship move door to door to see which professor has good funding and research work so that he can support him. Now a days the research funding is bad and you will have to struggle a lot when u come here without assistantship would suggest you to come if u are hopeful i.e. you had Contacted some Professor on the telephone and he has agreed to help in assistantship.

How Does the Computer-Based General Test Work?

At the start of the test, you are presented with test questions of middle difficulty. As you answer each question, the computer scores that question and uses that information, as well as your responses to any preceding questions and information about the test design, to determine which question is presented next. As long as you respond correctly to each question, questions of increased difficulty typically will be presented. When you respond incorrectly, the computer typically will present you with questions of lesser difficulty. Your next question will be the one that best reflects both your previous performance and the requirements of the test design. This means that different test takers will be given different questions. Because the computer scores each question before selecting the next one, you must answer each question when it is presented. For this reason, once you answer a question and move on to another, you cannot go back and change your answer. The computer has already incorporated both your answer and requirements of the test design into its selection of the next question for you.

Each computer-based test section meets pre-established specifications, including the types of questions asked and the subject matter presented. The statistical characteristics of the questions answered correctly and incorrectly, including the difficulty levels, are taken into account in the calculation of the score. Therefore, it is appropriate to compare scores of different test takers even though they received different questions.

ETS has conducted research studies indicating that computer-based General Test Scores are comparable to scores earned on the paper-based General Test.

GRE General Test questions are designed to measure skills and knowledge gained over a long period of time. Although you might increase your scores to some extent by preparing for a few weeks or months before the test, last minute cramming is unlikely to help. The following information will help guide you if you decide to devote some time to preparing for the test.

Beginning September 1, 2001, GRE POWERPREP software will be sent free of charge to each individual who registers for the GRE General Test. Use this software to familiarize yourself with questions used on the General Test. [Download for free NOW!](http://www.gre.org/refmats.html#priceprep1) At: (<http://www.gre.org/refmats.html#priceprep1>)

Become familiar with each type of question used in the test, paying special attention to the directions. If you thoroughly understand the directions for each question type before you take the test, you will have more time during the test to focus on the questions themselves. Research suggests that practicing unfamiliar question types results in improved performance and decreases the likelihood of inaccurately low scores. You should still read the directions for each group of questions carefully during the actual test administration. For additional practice, use official GRE test preparation publications (<http://www.gre.org/refmats.html>) and/or the GRE Diagnostic Service (<http://grediagnostic.ets.org:443/basic/gre.htm>) and/or Barrons guide.

Test-Taking Strategies:

We strongly urge you to carefully review the following information and the ETS Essential Guidelines for All Test Takers (<http://www.ets.org/cbt/cbtl2c.html>) as you prepare for your test and before you arrive at the test center. It could help improve your chances for success.

1) Understand how the test is scored

Computer-adaptive tests are scored differently than most paper and pencil tests. Your score on the computer-adaptive test depends on a combination of such factors as

- The **number** of questions you answered within the allotted time
- Your **performance** on questions answered throughout the test
- The **statistical characteristics** (including difficulty level) of questions answered throughout the test.

2) Don't panic if you don't know an answer

3) Don't spend too much time on any one question

The last thing you want to do is waste a lot of valuable time on any one question. If, after you've given it a reasonable amount of thought, you don't know the answer, **eliminate** as many answer choices as possible and then select and confirm the answer you think is best. Keep going and aim to complete the test.

4) If you are running out of time, make every effort to complete the test

Data indicate that most test takers get higher scores if they **finish** the test. In fact, based on analyses of test takers, a majority of test takers will score higher if they finish the test than if they do not attempt to answer all of the questions. There is a chance that guessing at the end of the test can seriously lower your score. The best strategy is to pace yourself so that you have time to consider each test question, and won't have to guess.

The Test Development Process:

The General Test is composed of questions formulated by specialists in various fields. Each question is reviewed by several independent critics and revised if necessary. New questions are pre-tested in actual tests under standard testing conditions.

Questions appearing in a test for the first time are analyzed for usefulness and potential weaknesses; they are not used in computing scores. Questions that perform satisfactorily become part of a pool from which new editions of the General Test are assembled at a future date. After questions for a new edition of a General Test have been assembled, they are reviewed by other subject matter experts and test specialists from inside and outside ETS. Individual test questions and the test as a whole are reviewed to eliminate material considered to be potentially offensive, inappropriate for major subgroups of the test-taking population, or serving to perpetuate any negative attitude concerning these subgroups.

The extensive procedure described above has been developed to ensure that every question in the General Test is appropriate and useful and that the combination of questions is satisfactory. Even so, the appraisal continues until after the new edition has been administered and subjected to a rigorous statistical analysis, before scores are reported, to see whether each question yields the expected statistical results.

This analysis could provide information that suggests that a particular question is ambiguous, requires knowledge beyond the scope of the test, or is inappropriate for the total group or for a particular subgroup of test takers. Answers to questions found to have such flaws are not used in computing scores.

Scoring Process for the Computer-based General Test:

Scores will be based on one section each of verbal, quantitative, and analytical questions. You will receive a test score on every section (except unidentified pretest sections and/or research sections), regardless of the number of questions answered, even if time expires before you answer all the questions. However, if you answer no questions at all in a section, that section will be reported as a No Score (NS).

Your score on each section of the test will depend on the number of questions answered in the time allotted, as well as on your performance on the questions given. The questions given are selected because they best reflect both your performance on previous questions and the test design. The test design factors that influence which questions will be presented to you include:

- The statistical characteristics of those questions already answered (including the difficulty level)
- Question types appropriate coverage of content
- A descent score is around 2000 or more. Based on the score you get the university and the assistantship. For a contender for an assistantship you must score more than this.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL Examination):

In addition to the GRE examination you will also have to qualify for the TOEFL exam. It checks your written and oral English as a way of communication in the way it is done in the respective country where you are going to study (Like US).

The Test of Written English (TWE) is part of the supplemental paper-based TOEFL test. This section measures your ability to compose an essay in response to an assigned topic. The TWE assesses your ability to generate, organize, and develop ideas and to support those ideas with examples of evidence.

The Test of Spoken English (TSE) is designed to gauge your oral communication skills in English. You will be required to respond orally to both written and oral questions.

It is important to note that the TSE is NOT administered as part of the TOEFL test. It is administered separately 12 times per year at various locations throughout the world. For more information about the TSE, please see the *TSE Information Bulletin* or visit the Web site at (<http://www.toefl.org/abtse.html>)

Test Description:

The computer-based TOEFL test, developed by **Educational Testing Service (ETS)**, includes important enhancements, such as the addition of an essay to every test administration and new types of questions in the **Listening** and **Reading** sections. The test features mostly multiple-choice questions and adds a few new question types. The computer-based test is given in individual testing stations that include volume-controlled headphones.

The test begins with a user-friendly computerized tutorial that shows students how to take the test on a computer and how to execute basic computer commands. Each section likewise begins with a tutorial, which demonstrates how to answer questions in that section. The tutorials are required, but not timed.

The computer-based test has four sections, all of which are required:

Listening - tests your ability to understand English as it is spoken in North America. This section includes listening materials such as dialogues, short conversations, academic discussions, and talks (also called mini-lectures). In addition, it also measures your comprehension of main ideas, the order of a process, supporting ideas, and important details, as well as your ability to make inferences and categorize topics and objects. All listening material relates to academic topics and situations.

In order to set the scene, illustrate topics, and provide clues about the speaker's roles, visual aids and illustrations accompany the listening materials. After the listening material is played, you both see and hear each question before you see the answer choices.

Structure - measures your ability to recognize language used in standard written English. You are therefore being tested in your knowledge of formal rather than conversational language. The types of questions in this section are the same as those used in the paper-based TOEFL test.

Reading - measures your ability to understand short passages similar in topic and style to academic texts used in North American colleges and universities. This section tests your comprehension of main ideas, factual information, inferences, and vocabulary (direct meaning, synonym, and antonym). It also assesses your ability to understand the organization of a passage, including elements of coherence and cohesion. You will read a variety of passages on academic subjects and answer several questions about each item.

Writing - measures your ability to generate, organize, and develop ideas, and to support those ideas with examples of evidence. This section evaluates your command of written English, and complements the information obtained from the Structure section. The computer will choose an essay topic from a pool of topics, all of which may be viewed beforehand in the TOEFL

Information Bulletin or on the TOEFL Web site. (<http://www.toefl.org>)

You can either hand write your essay or type it on the computer. Please note that your scores will be delayed if you choose to hand write your essay.

Level of Difficulty:

Both the **Listening** and **Structure** sections are computer-adaptive. The computer chooses each question based upon your response to previous questions. The first question is of average difficulty, and the questions that follow will adapt to your performance level. The **Reading** section is not adaptive. Similar in format to the paper-based test, this section contains passages and accompanying questions, which cover the full range of difficulty.

Prepare with Materials from TOEFL. As mentioned previously, the *TOEFL Bulletins* provide sample test questions to help you familiarize yourself with the format of the test.

The *CD-ROM TOEFL Sampler* contains the computerized tutorials, which precede the actual test. Animated lessons will show you how to use a mouse, scroll, and use the testing tools. At the beginning of each section, interactive test tutorials also provide instructions for answering the questions.

The *TOEFL Sampler* will help familiarize you with the directions, formats, and question types in each section of the test. You can get the Sampler from your local ETS representative office, or purchase it from the ETS Web site at (www.ets.org/store.html). You can also view portions for free, or download them for a small fee, from the TOEFL Web site at (www.toefl.org) **POWERPREP®** Software - *Test Preparation for the Computer-based TOEFL test* is also available for purchase from your local representative or the ETS Web site at (www.ets.org/store.html).

This CD-ROM contains two computer-based TOEFL practice tests with real TOEFL questions. It also features writing practice with actual essays and scoring explanations. For an indication of your performance, you will be able to view your unofficial score ranges at the end of each practice test.

Recap of TOEFL:

Toefl exam carries some 660 marks and a score of 600 plus is decent while 620 plus is good. It has three sections

- 1) Listening comprehension which is crucial for which it is good if u listen to us news like CNN or else practice on the tape u can get from stores.
- 2) (Optional) and it is test of written English where they grade u on a scale of 1 to 6.
- 3) The other test is test of spoken English. This test is not that important unless the University you are applying has teaching assistantships. One-month preparation is sufficient for Toefl and if your basics are very clear during your school days then it is lot more easy.

Reference Material:

Books like Barons and Galgotia can be found in India. Others you can find it on the web for GRE. The following web sites can be referred to get more information.

<http://www.gre.org>

<http://www.ets.org>

<http://www.toefl.org>