

GAT (General Achievement Test) — Practice Study Guide (Sampler)

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Part I — Essay-Style Drills & Model Answers (20)

Essay 1: Argument Analysis — Claim vs. Evidence

A columnist argues that 'phone-free classrooms will boost grades' and cites a single school that improved after a ban. Identify a flaw and suggest better evidence.

Model answer: Flaw: hasty generalization; improvement may be due to confounds (teaching changes). Better evidence: multi-school controlled studies or difference-in-differences.

Essay 2: Writing Task — Counterargument

Prompt: 'Sports stars are overpaid.' Craft a 2-3 sentence counterargument.

Model answer: Earnings reflect scarce talent and global demand; careers are short and risky. Much of the revenue funds community programs and non-playing staff.

Essay 3: Reasoning — Causation vs. Correlation

Data show towns with more bike lanes have fewer traffic injuries. Can we conclude lanes caused the reduction?

Model answer: Not necessarily; safer-driving cultures or enforcement may co-vary. A causal claim needs controls or natural experiments.

Essay 4: Reading — Inference

Passage: 'Despite budget cuts, the museum extended opening hours.' What can be inferred about priorities?

Model answer: The museum prioritized accessibility/attendance, possibly reallocating funds from elsewhere.

Essay 5: Data Reasoning — Percentages

A chart shows renewable energy rising from 20% to 28% over four years. State the absolute and relative change.

Model answer: Absolute +8 percentage points; relative +40%.

Essay 6: Science Reasoning — Hypothesis

A lab sees plant growth slow at very high fertilizer levels. Propose a hypothesis.

Model answer: Osmotic stress or nutrient toxicity at high concentrations impairs water uptake.

Essay 7: Ethics — Privacy vs. Safety

Is it acceptable for a school to use CCTV in hallways? Provide a balanced view.

Model answer: May deter bullying and improve safety, but requires clear policy, minimal retention, and limited access to protect privacy.

Essay 8: Logic — Syllogism

All debate team members practice weekly. Some students who practice weekly win awards. What follows?

Model answer: It does not follow that debate members win awards; only 'some weekly practicers win awards' is known.

Essay 9: Graph Reading — Slope

A line graph of daily steps slopes downward after exams start. What does slope indicate?

Model answer: Negative slope indicates average steps decreasing over time.

Essay 10: Statistics — Average vs. Median

Median house price rose while average fell. What distributional change could explain this?

Model answer: A few very high-priced sales dropped out, lowering the mean; the median rose due to mid-market strength.

Essay 11: Writing — Tone and Audience

Rewrite a warning sign for teenagers to be more persuasive than 'No phones allowed.'

Model answer: 'Phones off during class = higher focus, faster finish. Keep them in your bag — thanks!'

Essay 12: Humanities — Figurative Language

Identify the device: 'The city is a sleepless giant.'

Model answer: Metaphor (personification of the city).

Essay 13: Planning — Time Management

You have 30 minutes for an essay. Outline a time plan.

Model answer: 3–4 min plan; 22–24 min write; 3–4 min revise (structure, transitions, errors).

Essay 14: Quant — Proportions

School A has 40% of 900 students in clubs; School B has 30% of 1,200. Which has more participants?

Model answer: A: 360; B: 360. Equal participation.

Essay 15: Critical Reading — Assumption

An article claims 'organic food is healthier' because it 'contains fewer pesticides.' What assumption is needed?

Model answer: That lower pesticide residue meaningfully improves health outcomes.

Essay 16: Experiment Design

Test whether a new study app improves test scores.

Model answer: Randomly assign students to app vs. control; pre/post-test; hold instructor and content constant; analyze effect size.

Essay 17: Logic — Necessary vs. Sufficient

Having a ticket is ____ for entering the cinema.

Model answer: Necessary but not sufficient (you also need a seat/time and compliance).

Essay 18: Data Interpretation — Ratios

A pie chart shows 3:2:1 split among A:B:C with 600 total. How many in B?

Model answer: Total parts 6 $\rightarrow B = \frac{2}{6} \times 600 = 200$.

Essay 19: Science — Control Variables

In testing fertilizer effect, why keep light and water constant?

Model answer: To isolate fertilizer's impact and reduce confounding.

Essay 20: Writing — Coherence

Improve coherence: 'The policy is expensive. It might work. Voters disagree.'

Model answer: 'Although the policy is costly, proponents argue the benefits justify it; however, many voters remain unconvinced.'

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Part II — Multiple-Choice Questions with Explanations (20)

MCQ 1. Verbal — Main Idea: A passage argues that libraries thrive when they become community hubs. The main idea is:

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|---|
| A) Libraries should charge more fees |
| B) Libraries succeed by expanding services beyond books |
| C) Libraries should ban phones |
| D) Libraries are obsolete |

Explanation: The thesis is about thriving via broader community services.

MCQ 2. Logic — Syllogism: All poets are writers. Some writers are scientists. Which must be true?

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|------------------------------|
| A) Some poets are scientists |
| B) Some scientists are poets |
| C) Some writers are poets |
| D) All writers are poets |

Explanation: All poets are writers, so at least some writers are poets (assuming at least one poet exists).

MCQ 3. Quant — Percent: A score increases from 64 to 80. The percentage increase is:

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| A) 20% |
| B) 25% |
| C) 30% |
| D) 33.3% |

Explanation: $(80-64)/64 = 16/64 = 25\%$.

MCQ 4. Data — Averages: The mean of 5 numbers is 12. If one number is 2, the mean of the remaining four is:

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| A) 12 |
| B) 13.5 |
| C) 14.5 |
| D) 15 |

Explanation: Total is 60; removing 2 leaves 58; $58/4 = 14.5$.

MCQ 5. Quant — Ratio: If $x:y = 3:5$ and $y:z = 10:3$, then $x:z =$

A) 2:1
B) 3:2
C) 5:3
D) 1:2

Explanation: Scale $x:y$ to $6:10$; with $y:z = 10:3$, $x:z = 6:3 = 2:1$.

MCQ 6. Verbal — Inference: 'Many commuters cycle; some take trains; few walk.' Which is certain?

A) No one drives
B) Some commute by train
C) Everyone cycles
D) All walkers also cycle

Explanation: The text explicitly says some take trains.

MCQ 7. Logic — Contrapositive: If 'If it rains, the game is canceled' is true, which is logically equivalent?

A) If the game is canceled, it rained
B) If it did not rain, the game was not canceled
C) If the game was not canceled, it did not rain
D) The game is canceled iff it rains

Explanation: Contrapositive: not canceled implies not rained.

MCQ 8. Quant — Speed: A runner completes 12 km in 1 h 20 min. Average speed:

A) 8 km/h
B) 9 km/h
C) 10 km/h
D) 12 km/h

Explanation: 1.333 h total; $12/1.333 \approx 9$ km/h.

MCQ 9. Data — Median: Numbers 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 20. Median is:

A) 7

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| B) 9 |
| C) 10 |
| D) 12 |

Explanation: The middle (4th) number is 9.

MCQ 10. Quant — Simple Interest: Principal 1,200 at 5% simple interest for 3 years equals interest of:

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| A) 150 |
| B) 180 |
| C) 200 |
| D) 300 |

Explanation: $I = P r t = 1200 \times 0.05 \times 3 = 180$.

MCQ 11. Verbal — Analogy: 'Branch : Tree :: Finger : ?'

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| A) Hand |
| B) Toe |
| C) Leaf |
| D) Trunk |

Explanation: Part-to-whole: finger to hand.

MCQ 12. Logic — Set Relations: If all A are B and all B are C, which must be true?

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| A) All A are C |
| B) Some C are A |
| C) All B are A |
| D) No A are C |

Explanation: Transitive inclusion: all A are C.

MCQ 13. Quant — Algebra: Solve $4x - 7 = 17$.

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| A) 4 |
| B) 6 |
| C) 8 |
| D) 10 |

Explanation: $4x = 24$; $x = 6$.

MCQ 14. Data — Range: Range of 4, 7, 9, 12, 17 is:

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| A) 9 |
| B) 10 |
| C) 11 |
| D) 13 |

Explanation: $17 - 4 = 13$.

MCQ 15. Verbal — Word in Context: 'The judge delivered a measured response.' 'Measured' most nearly means:

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| A) Quantified |
| B) Careful and restrained |
| C) Hasty |
| D) Emotional |

Explanation: In context it means deliberate/restraint.

MCQ 16. Logic — Truth Table: 'P or Q' is false when:

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| A) P and Q both true |
| B) P true, Q false |
| C) P false, Q false |
| D) P false, Q true |

Explanation: OR is false only if both are false.

MCQ 17. Quant — Proportion: If 15% of a number is 45, the number is:

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| A) 200 |
| B) 250 |
| C) 300 |
| D) 350 |

Explanation: $0.15 * N = 45 \Rightarrow N = 300$.

MCQ 18. Data — Mean: If bars show 40, 55, 50, 65 over four weeks, the average is:

A) 50
B) 52.5
C) 55
D) 57.5

Explanation: Sum 210; average 52.5.

MCQ 19. Quant — Area: Rectangle 8 by 5 has area:

A) 13
B) 20
C) 30
D) 40

Explanation: Area = $8 \times 5 = 40$.

MCQ 20. Verbal — Assumption: 'Introducing uniforms will improve discipline.'
Hidden assumption?

A) Uniforms are expensive
B) Dress affects behavior
C) Students dislike uniforms
D) Teachers prefer casual wear

Explanation: Assumes dress influences behavior.

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