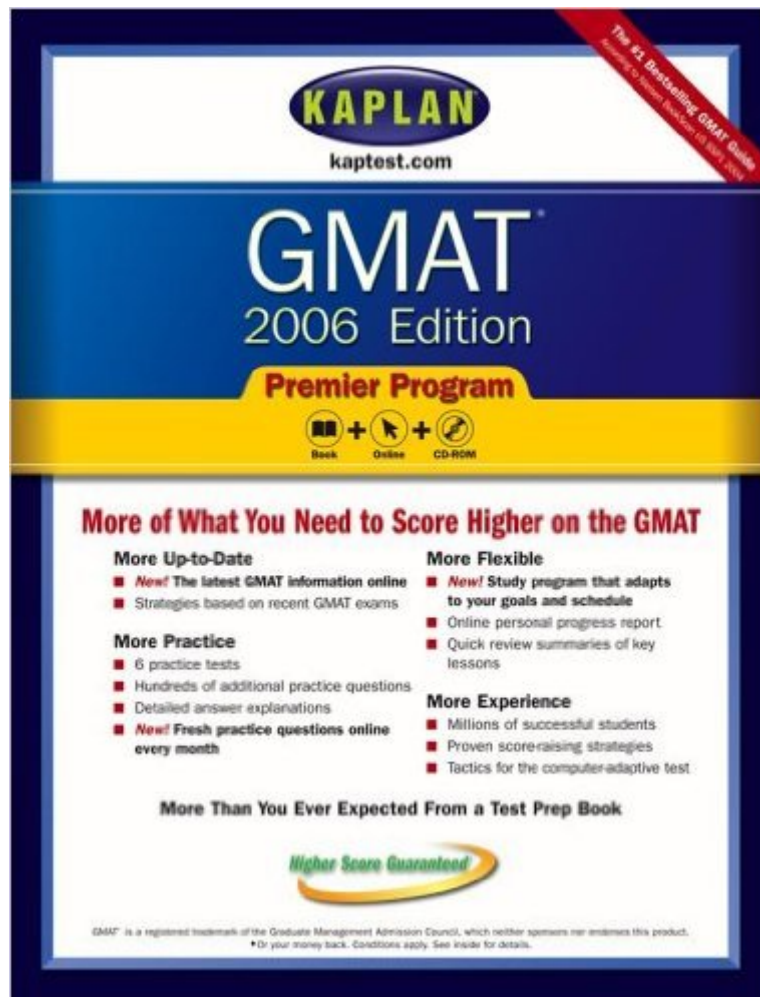


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Kaplan GMAT 2006, Premier Program (Kaplan GMAT Premier Program (w/CD))



Synopsis

Includes:

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- *Guidance throughout the program, directing students to additional resources within the program if they need it
- *A diagnostic experience to help students concentrate on the areas in which they need the most help
- *A progress report, so students can keep track of and analyze their performance as they make their way through the program
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- *Downloadable strategy and reference guides for easy prep on the go
- *Realistic practice experiences
- *Online question banks
- *6 full-length practice tests with detailed answer explanations

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Customer Reviews

I used this book along with the most recent Princeton publication and the three books put out by GMAC. I took the test yesterday morning and scored 750 -- 99th percentile, exceeding my expectations. I actually did not study this book in much depth, though I found some of the sections to be helpful. In general, I do not recommend relying solely on any one resource, and I appreciated the

advice in the Princeton book to purchase the GMAC books. (This is because GMAC is unwilling to license other publishers to use real GMAT questions, so the GMAC books give you a taste for what will really be on the test.) It seems that the Princeton folks actually want to help students do well instead of simply selling more books and applications to their training programs. Now, to the book under discussion: The KAPLAN publication. As almost all other reviewers have observed, the Kaplan practice tests are ridiculously difficult. Be aware, however, that you will still face a lot of hard questions on the GMAT; I almost started to panic on the Quantitative section, but I managed to keep my composure and conquer the test instead of letting it conquer me. That is the key -- approach the GMAT with the proper frame of mind. This comes through practice and preparation. I actually had fun with it, believe it or not, and now I look forward to seeing where it gets me with a graduate program. Do not let a 560 on a Kaplan practice test overcome your will to conquer the GMAT. Use it as motivation to study more and improve your skills. The highest score I received on any practice test was on the second official practice test -- a 700, far below my actual score. I recommend the KAPLAN resource, but use it with caution. I think Kaplan has a reputation for making their practice tests hard, as I found their Analyzing and Interpreting Literature CLEP practice tests to be quite difficult.

I took the GMAT yesterday 11/7/2005. The Kaplan practice tests (on the CD) are one of the primary reasons that I scored well. Besides the two PowerPrep tests, I did not use any materials to supplement the Kaplan book and cd, so I can't judge how it compares to other publishers' prep books. The Kaplan book itself is average: good strategies for attacking the quant questions, but no earth-shattering revelations. The math concept/formula review section was particularly helpful. The practice CAT tests are worth the price of the book. As most reviewers note, the practice tests are MUCH more difficult than the actual exam. If you can stomach the low scores, the practice tests will give you insight into how to solve systematically even the most difficult, complex GMAT questions. The practice tests are only beneficial, however, if you review your mistakes and apply the information in the explanations. For what it's worth, here are my scores in chronological order: PowerPrep Test 1: 660 Kaplan CAT 1: 590 Kaplan CAT 2: 560 Kaplan CAT 3: 580 Kaplan CAT 4: 570 PowerPrep Test 2: 720 GMAT Score: 760 As you can see, my CAT scores did not vary significantly, but they helped to improve my second PP practice and actual score. One word of wisdom: Remain calm and relaxed during the test, because your mood during the test can have as much impact on the test's outcome as your preparation has.

Alright, before I get to the Kaplan (which is the last book I cover if you want to skip to that part of the review), I am going to mention a few other books I used (as well as scores I received on the CAT practice tests). The first book I used was ARCO's "Master the GMAT 2006." I studied for about 6 hours and then worked through 3 of the book's paper-version practice tests. I scored 660, 690, 740. I then took the three practice test's on the cd and scored 630, 720, and 690. I found the math review in this book particularly helpful. The next book I tried was Princeton Review's 2006 Gmat prep book. The strategies were helpful but I wouldn't pay much attention to the "Joe Bloggs" guessing strategy. Before going further, I downloaded the PowerPrep from mba.com and took the two practice tests (which are set up and scored exactly like the real GMAT). I scored a 710 and a 730. I took these before getting the mba.com's "Official Guide for the GMAT" so that I wouldn't be familiar with any of the questions. Next, I went through the official guide (11th Edition). This is ESSENTIAL for preparing for the GMAT as it is the only book with actual test questions. I found the sentence correction questions (a section I struggled with at the beginning) to be very useful and the explanations gave me an insight into how the test makers view correct/incorrect sentences. Finally, after reading online reviews and wanting to compare CAT practice scores, I purchased the Kaplan's "GMAT: 2006 Edition." I skipped the test strategies and went right for the four CAT's on the cd. I scored: 600, 620, 690, 650 As you probably know, Kaplan's test are a bit harder (and scored much harder) than the actual GMAT. I went through a bit of Kaplan's strategies and found them helpful, though not much different from Princeton Review's and ARCO's. I took the GMAT yesterday and scored a 760, which is higher than I made on any practice test. I scored 48 on the math (lower than I was hoping, 86th percentile) and 47 on the Verbal (well into the 99th percentile, the key here was focused reading and much practice on sentence correction questions). My main tip for folks preparing for the GMAT is this: You can get a high score! I am no genius; the only reason I got a 760 is because I used my entire Christmas Break to prepare for this thing. I treated it like work, I went for 8 hours a day, Mon-Fri., for about four weeks. Also, when reading my scores on practice tests above, keep in mind how much I was studying each day before actually taking them- that way they will seem more attainable. Good Luck!!

I took the GMAT this week and found that the book was helpful, but the practice tests on the CD were not representative of my real score. These tests are great practice because they are way harder than the actual thing, but don't get discouraged because of bad scores. Download the Powerprep software from mba.com for a more representative score. The following are my scores: Kaplan CD Test 1: 560 Kaplan CD Test 2: 550 Powerprep Test 1: 680 Powerprep Test 2:

680Actual GMAT: 730

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