

New Verbal Question Type Being Added to Computer-Based GRE General Test in November 2007

Text Completions with Two or Three Blanks

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Questions of this type include a short text with two or three numbered blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. You are asked to fill all the blanks in the way that best completes the text.

Question Structure

- Passage of one to five sentences in length
- Two to three blanks
- Three answer choices per blank
- The answer choices for different blanks function independently; that is, selecting one answer choice for one blank does not affect what answer choices you can select for another blank
- Single correct answer, consisting of one choice for each blank; no credit for partially correct answers

Strategies

Do not simply try to consider each possible combination of answers; doing so will take too long and is open to error. Instead, analyze the passage in the following way:

- Read through the passage to get an overall sense of it.
- Identify words or phrases that seem particularly significant, either because they emphasize the structure of the passage (words like *although* or *moreover*) or because they are central to understanding what the passage is about.
- Try to fill in the blanks with words or phrases that seem to you to fit and then see if similar words are offered among the answer choices.
- Do not assume that the first blank should be filled first; perhaps one of the other blanks is easier to fill first. Select your choice for that blank, and then see whether you can complete another blank. If none of the choices for the other blank seem to make sense, go back and reconsider your first selection.
- When you have made your selection for each blank, check to make sure that the passage is logically, grammatically and stylistically coherent.

Sample Questions

Directions: For each blank select one entry from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. The narratives that vanquished peoples have created of their defeat have, according to Schivelbusch, fallen into several identifiable types. In one of these, the vanquished manage to _____(i)_____ the victor's triumph as the result of some spurious advantage, the victors being truly inferior where it counts. Often the winners _____(ii)_____ this interpretation, worrying about the cultural or moral costs of their triumph and so giving some credence to the losers' story.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
anoint	take issue with
construe	disregard
acknowledge	collude in

2. That the President manages the economy is an assumption _____(i)_____ the prevailing wisdom that dominates electoral politics in the United States. As a result, presidential elections have become referenda on the business cycle, whose fortuitous turnings are _____(ii)_____ the President. Presidents are properly accountable for their executive and legislative performance, and certainly their actions may have profound effects on the economy. But these effects are _____(iii)_____. Unfortunately, modern political campaigns are fought on the untenable premise that Presidents can deliberately produce precise economic results.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
at odds with	justifiably personified in	usually long-lasting
peripheral to	erroneously attributed to	regrettably unnoticeable
central to	occasionally associated with	largely unpredictable

3. Of course anyone who has ever perused an unmodernized text of Captain Clark's journals knows that the Captain was one of the most _____(i)_____ spellers ever to write in English, but despite this _____(ii)_____ orthographical rules, Clark is never unclear.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
fastidious	disregard for
indefatigable	partiality toward
defiant	unpretentiousness about

4. Having displayed his art collection in a vast modernist white space in (i) former warehouse, Mr. Saatchi has chosen for his new site its polar opposite, a riverside monument to civic pomposity that once housed the local government. There is nothing (ii) about the new location: the building's design is bureaucratic baroque, (iii) style that is as declamatory as a task-force report and as self-regarding as a campaign speech.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
a decadent	atavistic	an ascetic
a claustrophobic	spare	a grandiose
an unprepossessing	pretentious	an understated

Answer Key:

Sample Questions	Correct Answer
1	Blank (i) construe Blank (ii) collude in
2	Blank (i) central to Blank (ii) erroneously attributed to Blank (iii) largely unpredictable
3	Blank (i) defiant Blank (ii) disregard for
4	Blank (i) an unprepossessing Blank (ii) spare Blank (iii) a grandiose