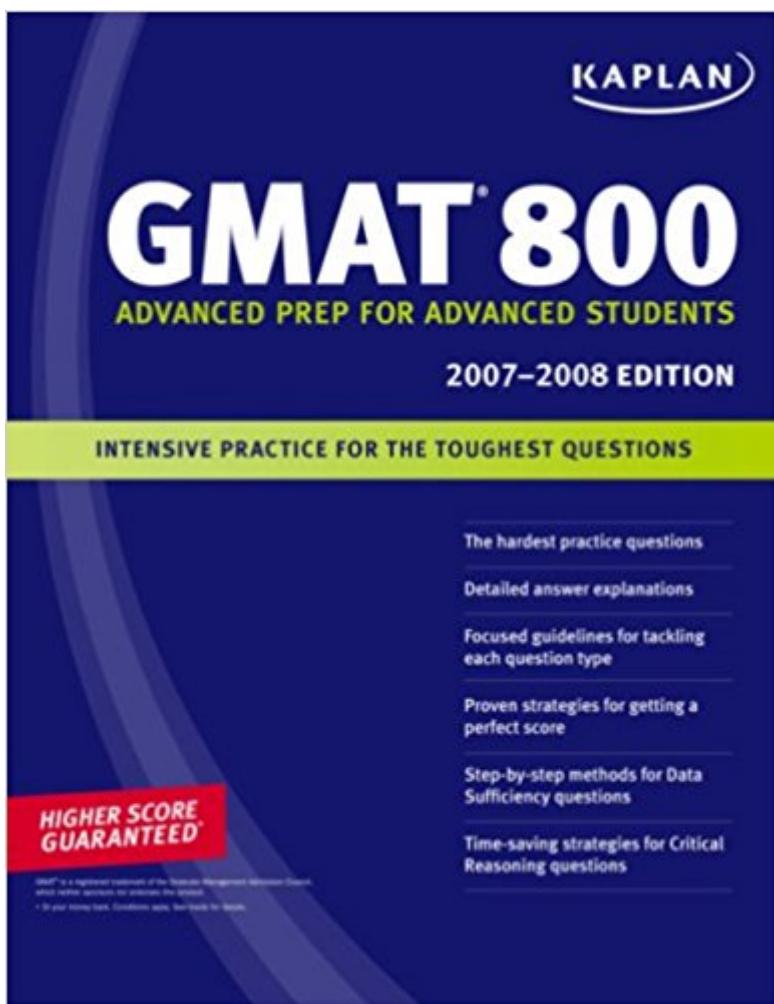


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Kaplan GMAT 800, 2007-2008 Edition (Kaplan GMAT Advanced)



Synopsis

"Kaplan GMAT 800 2006-2007" features: hundreds of the toughest practice questions with strategic answer explanations, plus tips and techniques for answering them quickly and accurately; powerful strategies for every question type on the GMAT; and focused approaches to the hardest math concepts on the GMAT.

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"Kaplan GMAT 800 2006-2007" features: hundreds of the toughest practice questions with strategic answer explanations, plus tips and techniques for answering them quickly and accurately; powerful strategies for every question type on the GMAT; and focused approaches to the hardest math concepts on the GMAT.

I am not blasting this book - I am giving you a rating based on the expectation that the description of this book sets. It does not live up and you are bound to be disappointed. However, it is actually a valuable book but you need to be aware of what you are buying and probably how to use it best when you buy it:
As a pure guidebook - 1 star
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What You Will Find Inside:
28 Critical reasoning questions
31 Reading comprehension questions
110 Sentence correction questions
107 Problem solving questions (only 7 of which cover combinations and probability)
37 Data Sufficiency questions
100 + questions in the online question bank***** CONS ***** No review

of math principles or grammar rules. This book assumes that you have gone through the Kaplan's main GMAT book. If you need help with basics look into getting the Math or Verbal Workbooks before getting this one.* Illogical structure. Instead of the typical approach of providing a rule and then questions to practice that rule on, this book just lists questions in each of the sections. All of the valuable information and tips are scattered around the explanations section. The book assumes you will read/review explanations for every question. In defense, the main point is often emphasized, so they are not too hard to find.* Question difficulty. Fewer than 50 people per year score 800 on the GMAT, and most of the lucky guys get past 700. To appeal to a broad audience, Kaplan designed this book at a 650/700-level* Math section is fairly easy and lacks meaningful practice in advanced subjects such as probability, combinations, or coordinate geometry, statistics. If these are your weak areas, you should look elsewhere* No Integrated Reasoning***** PROS ***** The book does what it was supposed to do - provide advanced selection of questions, giving the necessary practice with relevant questions. Though Kaplan's questions are not one-for-one official GMAT questions, I found them fairly close overall. I also liked the explanations - they were very detailed* Good verbal section with valuable RC practice; huge selection of SC's* Good quality publishing and paper; good layout* Price - I thought it was worth every penny :)Bottom Line: This is not a guidebook or a book to start with - if you need to get better in a certain question type, then get it but don't expect it to be sufficient to give you the background often needed to score 700+. [+++] Here is the list of the hardest questions in the book (if this is all you are looking for).CR tough questions: Chapter 2: Prob # 3, 7Chapter 3: #9,10,11Chapter 4: #1,2,4,7,9,10,13,16,20,21,27RC tough questions: Chapter 5: Has no questionsChapter 6: Passage 1: #1, #4, Passage 2: #1, #3, Passage 3: #4, Passage 4: #3Chapter 7: Passage 1: #2, Passage 2: None, Passage 3: #3, #4, Passage 4: #1, #2.Sentence CorrectionChapter 8- no questionsChapter 9: Ques #:
8,10,13,15,16,19,20,25,27,29,32,35,36,37Chapter 10: Ques #:
44,45,46,49,57,58,59,60,62,63,64,66,67,68,72Chapter 11: Ques #:
2,6,11,14,16,23,25,27,29,34,35,36,37,39QUANT/MATHChapter 12: no questionsChapter 13: #14Chapter 14: #3Chapter 15: #13Chapter 16: no questionsChapter 17:
#3,16,17,27,28,29,36Chapter 18: #9Chapter 19: #1,3,7Chapter 20: No questionsChapter 21: #7Chapter 22: #4,8,16,17,18FYI: This book is the re-branded edition of a book previously called Kaplan GMAT AdvancedThe two books are identical in terms of content (very minor changes); for exact changes see:CHANGES IN THIS EDITION: * No changes have been spotted in the book from the 8th edition* Online question bank access was added with 100 or so questions

It is fine, nothing amazing, but I found for a guidebook that is supposed to showcase the most difficult questions you will encounter that the questions are actually quite easy. The GMAC Official Guide provided more explanation/review, as well as more difficult questions. Most troubling, however, is that the guidebook is riddled with errors. One problem-solving question, for example, shows you two ways to solve a problem and gives two different answers as the correct choice. Other answer explanations seem to ignore the basic set-up of the problem (ie, saying x and y must be equal and then suggesting that you make $x=2$ and $y=3$ to solve). I have found at least one mistake in every section so far, which I find unacceptable. It covers a lot of ground and I appreciate that it highlights common categories and mistakes, but it's hard to trust the explanations and the format of 2-4 questions followed by explanation and answers followed by more questions makes it hard to get into the test-taking mode of needing to answer many questions in a row.

The math section of this book is really quite good. I think I improved as a result of using this book. In particular, the math questions near the end are much harder than those up front. In my opinion the questions aren't 800 level questions but more of challenging ones that are good to learn from. The verbal section is quite good as well. The best part of this book is that the explanations are right after each question so don't have to flip thirty something pages to see the solution and explanation unlike in other books.

I have been been really busy with work and neither did I have too much time to study for GMATs, nor an extra grand to spend on a prep course. I needed above a 700 and I know from SAT practice that the prep courses are geared for students aiming for the mid 600s as the goal. At least for me, I used the Princeton Review Cracking the GMAT (2006 edition) as a starter to familiarize myself with the test. I think the 10th edition official guide by GMAC is a great transition. Honestly, though, the CD was much more useful since it familiarized me with the actual computer format of the exam (although the CAT part of it is questionable - and be careful about doing too many practice questions from the book or the CD since you might see some recycle on your 2 practice exams). However, the best preparation is the GMAT 800 from Kaplan - it's not too great on the strategies, but if you learn by example like me, it's perfect since the examples are challenging and written for somebody aiming for above 93 percentile. I can't speak too much on the quant section, but the verbal section is awesome. It has a great section on sentence correction which I found to be incredibly useful in improving my score. I really feel that by going through all the verbal questions, I learned the fundamental grammar that GMAT requires for a good score. I was scoring on the

practice in the mid 600s, and taking two days off work to completely go through the verbal section of this book was the key to getting me a 750 on the examGood luck with your exam and MBA application

People studying for the GMAT need to know that they can't do it without buying the GMAC official guide. Just don't do it. The Kaplan questions are good but they're not the same as the official guide. The official guide is the prime source of good questions and practice. **HOWEVER**, the role of Kaplan books like this is to harvest the strategies from them and use them on the practice question from the official guide. Also, if you are breaking down a math skill, some of the simpler questions may be helpful. I honestly haven't used this book much since I have a Kaplan premier book, but I don't think there's tons of new stuff. Heck, I haven't really looked at it so I don't know. Read the other reviews. But my previous point stands.

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