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FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

ASK THE MAKERS OF THE GMAT EXAM ABOUT INTEGRATED REASONING

[LIVE WEBINARS TRANSCRIPTS] 9:30AM / 1PM / 8PM US EDT /April 18, 2012

On April 18, 2012, Ashok Sarathy, Vice President, GMAT Operations, and Betsy McIntyre, Director, Product Management, hosted three online webinars on the GMAT® exam with Integrated Reasoning and new study materials for this new section.

Questions Begin:

Start Time: 09:30:00 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)

How many questions will be asked in the INTEGRATED REASONING section?

ANSWER: 12

Two questions. Will IR scoring be 1 through 8 in integers? Or can you get, say, a 6.5? Also, I did the new GMATPrep and the IR section was identical for the two tests. Was that a bug?

Answer: IR will be scored between 1 and 8 using only integers. You cannot get a 6.5. The IR section is the same for both practice tests in GMATPrep.

Abhishek Asked: How do you expect B-Schools to use this new section during admissions?

Answer: While we can't say how individual schools will specifically use the IR section in their admissions process, nearly 740 faculty members have indicated that the skills measured by Integrated Reasoning are critical for success in a graduate management program. Admissions Directors at key business schools have also indicated the IR section will be valued addition to the admissions process. Admissions to leading business schools is competitive. Schools can use IR scores as an additional data point to evaluate a candidate's application.

Manasa Asked: How many questions will be asked in the INTEGRATED REASONING section?

Answer: 12

Arun Ravi Kumar M **Asked:** I need some help regarding selection of B schools. How do we get in touch with the schools with our GMAT scores?

Answer: You have the opportunity to send your scores to up to 5 schools on test day. If you want to send your scores to more than 5 schools, or if you want to send your scores after you've taken the exam, visit http://www.mba.com/the-gmat/gmat-scores-and-score-reports/sending-your-scores-to-schools.aspx.

Riccardo **Asked:** How will business schools be able to compare candidates who took the old GMAT with the ones who took the New Generation GMAT?

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Answer: What is important to consider with the new GMAT exam is that the Quantitative, Verbal, Total and AWA scores will remain exactly the same as the current GMAT exam, so schools will be able to compare the scores associated with these sections very easily for GMAT tests taken before or after the launch of Integrated Reasoning in June 2012. Integrated Reasoning offers schools an additional, highly relevant data point with which to evaluate applications to their program. However the best way to determine how a specific school will use IR scores is to ask that school to which you are applying directly.

adity sood Asked: details of IR

Answer: 12 questions, 30 minutes, score of 1-8.

Peter **Asked:** So if I get 9 out of 12 correct on IR, what does that translate to?

Answer: There isn't a directl translation. Since different students see different questions, even though we take great pains to make sure that the difficulty of the different forms of questions are similar across candidate, an equating process will convert a candidate's raw score (based on the number of questions answered correctly) to the scaled score (from 1-8). For more information about how the IR section is scored, please visit www.mba.com/nextgen.

Nilima Asked: out of how much is the integrated reasoning section out of?

Answer: The IR section is scored from 1-8.

Michael Magyar **Asked:** I heard that the IR section is not computer adaptive. Why is it that candidates cannot move backwards in the section? Also, does the IR section have a large penalty for leaving questions blank, as the Q and V sections supposedly have?

Answer: You are correct; the IR section is not computer adaptive. However, we've kept the form similar to the Quant and Verbal sections of the exam so that you cannot move backwards and forward. Questions left blank will be treated as though the candidate has answered those questions inaccurately.

John Fulmer Asked: Is each type of Integrated Reasoning question weighted the same?

Answer: Yes.

Akash Joshi Asked: Can I co-relate Data Interpretation as to the Integrated reasoning in GMAT?

Answer: You will need Data Interpretation skills to correctly answer Integrated Reasoning questions.

Madie **Asked:** Just to clarify, which is better for the end score: leaving questions blank or guessing on the last questions if you run out of time?

Answer: The best for your end score is for you to manage your time so that you can read and make an educated guess on all questions. Answering all questions to the best of your ability is better than leaving questions unanswered.

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Piyush Jalan **Asked:** Some question might be difficult for some which might be easier for others. Please explain how you judge the difficulty level of questions.

Answer: Difficulty is assigned to questions based on how they are answered as experimental questions. Experimental questions will be included on the Integrated Reasoning Section as well. The questions are assigned a difficulty level as a function of the number of accurate responses provided to the questions. Once the difficulty level is assigned to a question, it will be treated as operational and will be included on a test form.

John Fulmer **Asked:** Are any of the IR questions experimental like there are experimentals in the Quant and Verbal sections?

Answer: Yes.

Sunil **Asked:** If i have taken a GMAT before June, will the school ask me to take GMAT again if i am applying after June, because the old GMAT will not contain IR?

Answer: The best way to answer that question is for you to ask the schools to which you are applying. Their responses will vary.

Arun Asked: Will each test form present its questions in the same order to all test takers taking that particular form?

Answer: Questions on a form will be administered in a random order to candidates.

Madie **Changes Question To:** I scheduled my GMAT exam in two months to be able to meet a school's deadline. Is 2 months enough time to study for this exam?

Answer: It depends on how you study. If you have enough time to dedicate to studying in 2 months, then yes. However, if you are not able to dedicate the time to preparation, you might need more time.

Nilima Asked: the ir section, how is it scored?

Answer: Whole numbers, between 1 and 8.

Alhaji conteh **Asked:** when will the IR section begin?

Answer: June 5, 2012

Ori Snir **Changes Question To:** What's considered a "sufficient grade" in the "IR" section by MBA programs? for instance I know that 4.5 in the Analytical writing section is a sufficient score.

Answer: It depends on the school. You should ask the schools that you are considering applying to.

Rajat Sadana **Asked:** In your opinion, Is Kaplan's claim that people who take the GMAT after June 2 will be at a disadvantage true in your opinion.

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Answer: No. The Quant and Verbal sections have not changed. Additionally the IR section allows you to shine a spotlight on skills that you have honed in your current work environment or in your undergraduate program and that are considered relevant in business school as well as in the subsequent corporate environment.

Jeyur Patel Asked: If there was a high correlation then why were there 2 essays for so many years?

Answer: Business school faculty had originally identified a unique set of skills to be measured by each of the essasys. For example, an Analysis of an argument evaluates a candidate's ability to deconstruct a business scenario, critique a logical argument by examining the assumptions underlying the argument and provide an evidence based analysis. The Analysis of an Issue evaluates a candidate's ability to take a position on a debatable idea and to provide supporting examples.

However subsequent analysis of the scores on the individual essays revealed a high degree of correlation suggesting that one AWA essay does as a very good job of measuring a candidate's analytical writing skills. Once business school faculty identified a new set of skills to measure on the exam, we determined that we would drop one of the essays and introduce the new section.

Drew Asked: Do differences in difficulty mean that one question on a test might be worth more than another?

Answer: A candidate's score on the IR section depends largely on the number of questions he or she has answered correctly. GMAC takes great care to make sure that on average the difficulty of the questions presented to candidates are the same on the Integrated Reasoning Section. However there might be very minor differences in difficulty, and therefore we conduct an equating and scaling process to make sure that all candidates are evaluated on the same scale.

Polina Changes Question To: How many questions are there going to be in the integrated reasoning part?

Answer: 12

Barbara Asked: does each question have the same score

Answer:

A candidate's score on the IR section depends largely on the number of questions he or she has answered correctly. GMAC takes great care to make sure that on average the difficulty of the questions presented to candidates are the same on the Integrated Reasoning Section. However there might be very minor differences in difficulty, and therefore we conduct an equating and scaling process to make sure that all candidates are evaluated on the same scale.

Arindam Chakraborty **Asked:** How can a person get 8 in Integration Reasoning? If there are 12 questions, how will the score be given to first 8 answers if they are correct?

Answer:

A candidate's score on the IR section depends largely on the number of questions he or she has answered correctly. GMAC takes great care to make sure that on average the difficulty of the questions presented to candidates are the

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same on the Integrated Reasoning Section. However there might be very minor differences in difficulty, and therefore we conduct an equating and scaling process to make sure that all candidates are evaluated on the same scale. This process converts the number of questions that the candidate has answered correctly to the 1-8 scale.

Madhusudan **Asked:** Does that mean to say out of the four sample questions that you showed, assuming that they appear in the GMAT exam, if I manage to get one of the questions wrong in each of the 4 types, will i be awarded only 1 credit?

Answer: A question on the IR section may have multiple parts (multiple true/false or multiple statements to complete). A candidate has to answer all parts (or response options) to a question correctly in order to receive credit for that question. A candidate's score on the IR section depends on the number of questions that he or she has answered correctly.

Rishil Savani Asked: What would be the average score in IR?

Answer: Because it is not yet available for students to take, we do not know what the average score is. For more information about IR percentiles and how they will be calculated, please visit www.mba.com/nextgen

Vlad **Asked:** is IR adaptive?

Answer: No. IR is not adaptive. However a candidate can only proceed to the next question if she has responded to all parts of the question that she is currently answering. Additionally a candidate cannot return to a previously answered question to correct it.

Karthik Parvathaneni Asked: Will a percentile for IR section be provided? If so, how is it calculated?

Answer: Yes, a percentile will be provided for the IR section. For the first six months after the Integrated Reasoning section launches, percentiles for all Integrated Reasoning scores will be adjusted each month and then updated annually on the same schedule as the other GMAT percentiles. Your IR scaled score will not change, but as the pool of test takers with IR scores grows, IR percentiles will most likely change.

Marcela **Asked**: Hello all, regarding the score scale, how can a, exam of 12 questions have max score as 8 and the intervals are equal to 1? Thanks!

Answer:

A candidate's score on the IR section depends largely on the number of questions he or she has answered correctly. GMAC takes great care to make sure that on average the difficulty of the questions presented to candidates are the same on the Integrated Reasoning Section. However there might be very minor differences in difficulty, and therefore we conduct an equating and scaling process to make sure that all candidates are evaluated on the same scale. This process converts the number of questions that the candidate has answered correctly to the 1-8 scale. There is not a direct conversion from the number of questions you answer correctly to your score.

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Manasa Asked: Will the scaled scores be revealed at the end of the test? Manasa

Answer: You will receive your Quant, Verbal and Total scores at the testing center. You will receive your IR score with your official score report.

Barbara Changes Question To: will all schools be considering the IR rating?

Answer: Likely yes. Nearly 740 faculty members have indicated that the skills measured by Integrated Reasoning are critical for success in a graduate management program. Admissions Directors at key business schools have also indicated the IR section will be a valued addition to the admissions process. Admissions to leading business schools is competitive. Schools can use IR scores as an additional data point to evaluate a candidate's application. However, the best way to understand how schools are using the IR scores is to ask them directly.

rahman saruhan **Asked:** when would schools (either for mba or phd) start use IR section score in the application process, would it be ok to skip the IR section if we are making our applications next year?

Answer: The best way to understand how schools are using the IR scores is to ask them directly.

Manimatorr **Asked:** f i run out of time and i don't manage to answer all the questions in the stipulated amount of time. will i be penalized in my scoring?

Answer: Candidates will not receive any credit for leaving a question unanswered. We recommend candidates complete all questions within the stipulated time.

Barbara Changes Question To: can we order online to India today?

Answer: The Official Guide for GMAT Review is available in India today. To learn more, visit www.mba.com/india.

Arindam Chakraborty **Changes Question To:** Which is important for a B-School: Percentile or Score? Will always my score be the latest GMAT exam taken even if the latest score is less than the last exam taken in 5 years?

Answer: Your score is a reflection of your ability. The percentile ranking indicates the percentage of candidates who have scored below your score. Both variables are important to schools. However, each school considers scores and percentiles differently. The best way to understand how a specific school uses GMAT scores is to ask them directly.

Polina **Changes Question To:** What is the best way to practice the essay part? How many questions are there going to be in the integrated reasoning part? How much preparation time (in hours) do you recommend to plan for the test preparation, when not having taken the test before?

Answer: The best way to practice the essay section of the GMAT is to purchase GMAT Write from www.mba.com/store. It allows you 2 opportunities to write and score the essay. There will be 12 questions on the IR section. The amount of time required to prepare for the exam varies. Please refer to the blog article on mba.com here: http://www.mba.com/mbacommunity/mba_com/b/asktheexpert/archive/2011/02/07/how-long-should-i-prepare-study-for-the-gmat.aspx.

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Vlad Asked: is IR adaptive?

Answer: No, it is not adaptive. However a candidate can only proceed to the next question if she has responded to all parts of the question that she is currently answering. Additionally a candidate cannot return to a previously answered question to correct it.

Courtney Asked: Can you purchase only the IR section? As opposed to having to purchase the entire book?

Answer: If you already have a copy of the 12th edition of the Guide and only want to purchase the online IR section, you may do so at mba.com/store.

Matthew Bogusz Asked: Why do people take the GMAT?

Answer: For admission to a graduate business program.

Rajat Sadana Asked: Do easy, medium, hard correspond to a particular difficulty?

Answer: Yes.

Sanjay **Asked:** I have started preparing for GMAT using 12th Edition. Do I need to redo preparation for Verbal and Quant from scratch and preparation that I have done so far will not be useful? Can I not continue preparing for Verbal and Quant from 12th Edition and use 13th Edition only for IR?

Answer: If you already have a copy of the 12th edition of the Guide and only want to purchase the online IR section, you may do so at mba.com/store.

Manasa **Changes Question To:** In the IR section, is it possible for test takers to go back to a question and correct it (before finishing the section of course)?

Answer: No. You may not go back to a question after you have submitted your answer.

Courtney Asked: How much prep time should you dedicate to studying for the IR section?

Answer: There are some answers to this question in a blog post on mba.com: http://www.mba.com/mbacommunity/mba_com/b/asktheexpert/archive/2011/02/07/how-long-should-i-prepare-study-for-the-gmat.aspx.

Jeet Thakkar Asked: What kind of questions are going to be asked in the Integrated Reasoning section of GMAT?

Answer: For more information about the IR question types, go here: http://www.mba.com/the-gmat/nex-gen/integrated-reasoning-question-formats.aspx.

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Mohit Bhargava **Asked:** If i Give One test Before IR Section Availability and One After IR Section, how will these two scores be compared?

Answer: Your Quant, Verbal and Total scores will be compared one to one, as the IR scores will not be included in the your Total score. Schools will have an additional data point on highly relevant skills with which to evaluate your application as a result of the Integrated Reasoning score.

Karthik Parvathaneni Asked: Will there be a break between Argument AWA prompt and IR section?

Answer: No.

Subhashini Sriramalu Asked: Will there be a break between the essay and the IR session? If so how long?

Answer: No.

Jeet Thakkar Changes Question To: Are the quant and Verbal section formats changing in any way?

Answer: No.

Alhaji conteh Asked: can i see my score in the IR after the exams

Answer: You will receive your IR score with your official score report. The unofficial score report will not contain an IR score.

Jeet Thakkar **Asked:** Where can I find study material for the IR section?

Answer: IR questions are available in the new version of GMATPrep (free downloadable software available at www.mba.com/gmatprep) as well as in the 13th edition of the Official Guide. if you already have a copy of the 12th edition of the Guide and only want to purchase the online IR section, you may do so at mba.com/store.

omotade **Asked:** In a case of the two-part questions, are the answers going to be graded separately, if you answered one correctly and the other wrongly?

Answer: The whole answer will be considered wrong. You will only receive credit for the question if you answer both parts correctly.

Priyank Ajmera **Asked**: Can you explain what kind of questions could we expect in the Integrated Reasoning section? And being the first year with this added section what would the level of difficulty be?

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Answer: For more information about the IR questions types, visit: http://www.mba.com/the-gmat/nex-gen/integrated-reasoning-question-formats.aspx

Mark **Asked**: How will the integrated reasoning section be scored?

Answer: Whole numbers, 1-8.

Mark **Asked**: When will universities start using the integrated reasoning score in an official mode, as opposed to "for analysis only"?

Answer: It depends on the school. Nearly 740 faculty members have indicated that the skills measured by Integrated Reasoning are critical for success in a graduate management program. Admissions Directors at key business schools have also indicated the IR section will be a valued addition to the admissions process. Admissions to leading business schools is competitive. Schools can use IR scores as an additional data point to evaluate a candidate's application. For a specific answer we recommend you contact the school that you are applying to directly.

Aaron Lundberg **Asked**: Why was the AWA Issue essay dropped?

Answer: After much statistical analysis, we determined the two essay scores were very highly correlated. As such, one essay score demonstrates your analytical writing skills.

Junior Asked: did you say that integrated reasoning will be scored separately from everything else?

Answer: Yes.

Aaron Lundberg **Changes Question To**: Is partial credit given for a question if less than all of the response opportunities are answered correctly?

Answer: There is no partial credit in the IR section.

Aaron Lundberg Changes Question To: Is it possible to answer every question correctly and not get 8 points?

Answer: No. All forms of IR questions have approximately the same level of difficulty. The scaling process adjusts for minor differences in difficulty. However if a candidate were to answer all questions correctly they would receive an 8.

Linda Edwards-Shea **Asked**: How have the Integrated Reasoning questions been tested for the first batch of tests following 5th June?

Answer: We conducted three separate pilot tests of GMAT test takers with the IR questions to calibrate the questions.

Kimberly Kruzynski **Asked**: Is it assumed that the more people that take the new Integrated Reasoning section (i.e. as more time passes), the more competitive the percentile will get?

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Answer: It depends on the people that take the exam. For the first six months after the Integrated Reasoning section launches, percentiles for all Integrated Reasoning scores will be adjusted each month and then updated annually on the same schedule as the other GMAT percentiles. Your IR scaled score will not change, but as the pool of test takers with IR scores grows, IR percentiles will most likely change.

Aaron Lundberg Changes Question To: How many experimental IR questions will there be?

Answer: For test security and fairness issues, we cannot reveal the number of experimental questions on the IR section.

MBR Asked: How are you going to determine percentiles for students taking the new GMAT during the first month?

Answer: For the first month, the percentiles will be calculated based on candidates who have taken the GMAT test during the first few weeks in June. For the first six months after the Integrated Reasoning section launches, percentiles for all Integrated Reasoning scores will be adjusted each month and then updated annually on the same schedule as the other GMAT percentiles. Your IR scaled score will not change, but as the pool of test takers with IR scores grows, IR percentiles will most likely change.

Gillian Wong Asked: How would you advise we best prepare for the new Integrated Reasoning section? Answer: We suggest that you practice! You can see IR questions in the free GMATPrep software (available at www.mba.com/gmatprep) or in the Official Guide for GMAT Review, 13th edition.

Shivali Agarwal **Asked**: How will the candidates who take the test after June 5 be evaluated against the ones who have taken the test before. Esp. if the person has a stellar Quant/Verbal score and not so good integrated reasoning score.

Answer: Since the Quantitative, Verbal, AWA and Total scores will not change, schools will be able to compare candidates who have taken the GMAT before June 5th with those who have taken it after June 5th, based on these measures. Integrated Reasoning gives schools an additional data point with which to evaluate a highly competitive applicant pool. The way that schools evaluate GMAT scores vary. The best way to understand how schools will use IR scores is to ask the schools to which you are applying directly.

Junior **Asked**: are practice tests available on mba.com now that include the integrated reasoning sections?

Answer: yes, a full practice test with Integrated Reasoning is available in the new version of GMATPrep (free downloadable software available at www.mba.com/gmatprep)

rawn Asked: awa issues or argument related question actually drop for new version?

Answer: The AWA section will now only include an Analysis of an Argument prompt.

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Junior Changes Question To: Is this software now compatible with Mac

Answer: Yes, GMATPrep is now compatible with the MAC.

Siying **Asked**: questions about the timing in IR: How did GMAC gauge the time required for answering each IR question? I would like to see some statistical data showing, for example, for the regular verbal/quant, % of test-takers who leave questions unanswered at the end, compared with % of test-takers who leave question unanswered in IR during the previous trial period (early this year). Is IR session has higher time constraint than verbal/quant? For an average test-taker, a quant question takes 2min. So, is it true that this average test-taker would, on average, answer an IR question in around 2.5 min? Thanks.

Answer: GMAC has piloted the IR section 3 times over the past 2 years. During that time, our testing experts have determined the timing and the number of questions. There is some data we do not share, including data about our pilot tests. Per question, you have 2 minutes and 30 seconds to answer (30 minutes divided by 12 questions) – which is more time per question than either Verbal or Quant.

vatoya **Asked**: Hello, I have a q on the GmatPrep. If I already downloaded the software and have been using it so far, can I download this new version and start from scratch?

Answer: The questions in the IR section are new. All other questions are the same as from the old version of GMATPrep.

Lou Asked: I bought the 12th edition of the GMAT prep guide, is there a guide only for integrated reasoning?

Answer: You can purchase the online IR section separate from the 13th edition until June 5, 2012 here: http://www.mba.com/store/product-info.aspx?ProductID=5032

Karine Pelletier **Asked**: what is the delivery delay for the 13th prep guide?

Answer: The 13th edition of the Guide is now available in Canada.

Laurence **Changes Question To**: Three questions: Will the IR percentile rankings be updated on the 1st of every month, or will they be updated during the middle / end of every month? The statement claims that the IR percentile rankings are updated every month. If I take the exam on June 5th, will my score report show a percentile ranking for the IR section? Score reports are mailed within 20 days after the exam, so even if the score report is mailed to me on June 25th, the month of June isn't over yet, so will the score report show a blank percentile ranking for the IR section? If that is true, will schools see a blank percentile ranking for the IR section? Also, if I take the exam on July 15th or July 29th, the IR percentile ranking will reflect my performance against the pool of test takers for the entire month of June, correct? The scores of July test takers aren't added to the pool until August 1st, correct?

Answer: The first months' percentile rankings will be calculated based on the performance of those testing during the first few weeks in June. Thereafter, for the first six months, the percentile rankings will be updated at the beginning of the month to cumulatively include data from the prior months.

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vatoya **Changes Question To**: Hello, this is a question on their personal opinion about when to take the exam. I have not booked my exam yet; would they recommend I try to take it before June 2nd or after and have the exam with the IR section?

Answer: The IR section gives you an opportunity to spotlight your skills in a way that the Quant and Verbal sections don't. When you take the exam is entirely up to you, but don't miss out the opportunity to show your abilities!

URIEL Asked: Are these particular questions computer adaptive questions too?

Answer: No, the IR section is not computer adaptive. However a candidate can only proceed to the next question if she has responded to all parts of the question that she is currently answering. Additionally a candidate cannot return to a previously answered question to correct it.

Tania Asked: As more GMAT test takers take the test will the percentile of your score decrease?

Answer: Your percentile will likely change, but not necessarily decrease.

Z Asked: How many schools you can send your score to without paying additional fee?

Answer: Before you take the test while you are in the testing center, you will have the ability to send your scores to up to 5 programs for free. If you choose to send your scores to more than 5 programs, or if you want to send your scores after you see your score, you may do so at www.mba.com. The cost to do so is US\$28 per score report.

Tahmina **Asked**: What is the purpose of the experimental question? Does that mean there will be 13 questions instead of 12?

Answer: Experimental questions are used to replenish the question bank of IR question, to enable us to test future test takers. We are able to gather empirical information about an experimental question – such as difficulty and time taken to respond to the question. Once this data has been gathered, we are able to administer such questions within the operational pool. Experimental questions are included within the 12 questions on the IR section.

Jordan D **Asked**: What share of IR questions can test takers expect to be multipart? Is there a maximum number or general range (3-4) that we can expect to see on multi-part IR Questions?

Answer: All IR questions are multi-part. For more information about what the questions look like, visit: http://www.mba.com/the-gmat/nex-gen/integrated-reasoning-question-formats.aspx.

sree Asked: To what extent does Quant and Verbal preparation help me in IR section?

Answer: The foundational skills (high-school verbal and quantitative skills) needed to succeed on the IR section are similar to those needed to succeed on the Quant and Verbal sections. While the IR combines some of these verbal and quantitative skills, it expands on these skills by measuring a candidate's ability to synthesize information from different sources in order to evaluate the likelihood of certain outcomes. For more information about the types of

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restions asked in the IR section, visit http://www.mba.com/the-gmat/nex-gen/integrated-reasoning-question-rmats.aspx.								
■ Visit m	mba.com/nex							