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Key Traits of High Scorers on the GMAT

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Key Traits of High Scorers on the GMAT



At e-GMAT, we study both “success” and “failure” and try to establish causality for both. We have numerous students who have scored above 760. At the same time, we have had a few students who have not done as well. In this article, I will try to outline the causes for both. In addition, I would urge you to go through my article – [3 reasons why you may not score as high on GMAT verbal](#).

Recent Successes



e-GMAT student Bhagawat improved a massive 13 points (V28 to V41) on Verbal to score a 750. His email after the exam was extremely heartfelt. [Here](#) is a snippet (25%) of the email. Click [here](#) to read his complete debrief.

e-GMAT student Rishi similarly improved from V28 (50 percentile) to V40 (90 percentile) in less than 30 days. Click [here](#) to read his debrief. Rishi also sent us a very touching email.

[Ayesha](#), who was appearing for the GMAT for a third time, showed an even better improvement. Ayesha improved from V20 (21 percentile) to V34 (70 percentile) in just 14 days. Ayesha not only got admitted to 2 colleges of her choice but also received \$18K scholarship in the fourth round. Ayesha will be joining school next month. Click [here](#) to read her debrief.

Attributes that lead to these Successes



1. Unperturbed by adversity: In the first 10 questions [Bhagawat](#) (750) got 2 RC passages, 4 CR questions, and 1 SC question. Most students would be thrown off their game by the same, but Bhagawat wasn't. He remained focused on the question at hand and came through with flying colors.

2. Focus on mastering concepts: e-GMAT student [Manish Mehta](#) (740) says that conceptual clarity is the key to success. Similarly, even though Bhagawat initially took as much as 4 minutes to pre-think

assumptions, with relentless effort he built his pre-thinking muscle to such an extent that he took a mere 4 seconds to pre-think on the GMAT.

3. Never tired of learning: [Ayesha](#) had prepared for the GMAT twice before opting for e-GMAT. However, she put in the same vigor and energy in her third attempt as she did in her first. She did all the OG questions again and focused on building the core skills "again" with e-GMAT, even though she had already put in 200+ hours studying for the GMAT previously.

4. Make good choices: During his second attempt, when Rishi discovered that Meaning and Sentence Structure combined with a few key concepts could help him solve 95 % of the SC questions correctly, he made sure he mastered the same – an excellent choice on an exam such as the GMAT where you do not need to answer every question correctly.

5. Seek continuous improvement: In the Verbal workshop, Bhagawat scored a mere 65/100 (or 70 percentile). Rather than getting disheartened, he focused on his areas of improvement and in 20 days he improved to 90 percentile.

The above is not a comprehensive list. However, it contains a few important pointers that you should keep in mind, regardless of the stage of preparation that you are in.

Key Causes of Failure

Studying failure is as important as studying success. Here are three key reasons why we have seen students fail:

1. **Pay too much emphasis on the first 10/20 questions**: Doing well on the first 10 questions can help you get a good score. However, you should not use this as a tool to game the system. I have seen some students spend as much as 25 minutes on the first 10 questions. Doing so ends up hurting their score. Bottom line – if you take more than 20 minutes on the first 10 question, you might end up doing more harm than good.
2. **Focus on timing as a skill**: Timing is an outcome of your proficiency in applying the process. However, a number of students associate timing with tricks and hence do not focus on learning the process. By doing so, they do more harm than good.
3. **Consider GMAT as a chore rather than a friend**: Some people get too nervous while taking the GMAT and are not able to focus on the questions in the exam. As a result, they end up doing poorly. Taking the GMAT is beginning of your journey as a manager and a decision maker. Your post MBA journey will contain many more challenges. Think of preparing and appearing for GMAT as a stepping stone in this journey and enjoy the same as [Anup](#) did.