Verbal: text completion and sentence equivalence

GRE General Test

Scope and task

Original classroom practice within the reviewed shorter-test task types. This does not simulate an adaptive test or predict a scaled or writing score.

- Complete one-, two- and three-blank passages using context
- Select two sentence-equivalence choices yielding coherent equivalent meanings
- Use logical cues rather than vocabulary similarity alone

arduous : Requiring much effort.

equivalence : Matching meaning in the completed sentence.

Read the evidence and choose a method

For text completion, predict each blank from the passage. Support for a later blank may appear earlier.

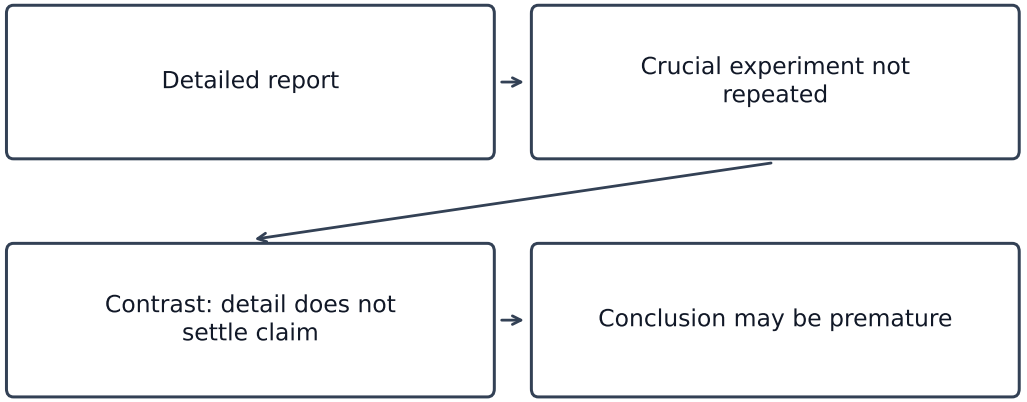
A two- or three-blank item requires all blanks correct; do not treat choices as independent mini-scores.

Sentence equivalence requires two choices that both fit and produce equivalent sentence meanings.

A pair of synonyms can both fail the sentence. Check grammar, tone and logic as well as word meaning.

Worked reasoning

Although the design looked simple, building it was arduous. Although signals a contrast between appearance and effort. For equivalence, difficult and demanding could both fit this sentence; easy and effortless would reverse the needed contrast.



A detailed report does not settle a claim whose crucial experiment was never repeated

Conditions and common errors

Do not search only for dictionary synonyms. The completed sentence controls equivalence.

Original application

Complete the original sentence: “Although the reviewer admired the report’s detail, she found its conclusion _____ because its crucial experiment had not been repeated.” A. conclusive B. premature C. exhaustive D. irrelevant E. inevitable

Model and reasoning

B, premature. The unreplicated crucial experiment makes a settled conclusion too early. Although contrasts admiration for detail with criticism of the conclusion. Conclusive and inevitable oppose the criticism; exhaustive describes completeness, not unsupported timing; irrelevant would require evidence that the conclusion concerns the wrong issue. Predict “too early” before consulting the choices.

Independent transfer

Sentence Equivalence: select exactly two of six choices. “Far from endorsing the proposal without reservation, the committee offered only _____ support.” A. qualified B. unconditional C. cautious D. unanimous E. enthusiastic F. immediate

■ **Check after attempting**

A and C. Both produce support limited by reservations. Unconditional contradicts the explicit contrast. Unanimous concerns how many members agree; immediate concerns timing. Enthusiastic concerns intensity and does not preserve the required limited-support meaning. Contextual fit and equivalent whole-sentence meaning are both necessary; two pleasant-sounding words are insufficient.