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The PowerScore GMAT Critical Reasoning Bible

From the Nation's Leader in GMAT Preparation

PowerScore

GMAT CRITICAL REASONING BIBLE
A Comprehensive System for Attacking GMAT Critical Reasoning Questions!

David M. Killoran

2016 EDITION

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The PowerScore GMAT Critical Reasoning Bible will teach you how to break down GMAT argumentation, how to recognize GMAT question types, and how to separate correct answers from incorrect answers. You will improve your accuracy in answering questions and your speed as well. If you are shooting for the highest score possible, the Critical Reasoning Bible will help you maximize your performance. The approaches discussed in the Critical Reasoning Bible are also useful when attacking Reading Comprehension questions. The Critical Reasoning Bible is supplemented by an exclusive website that provides additional material for the book, including suggested study plans and answers to frequently asked student questions. About the Author Dave Killoran, a graduate of Duke University, is an expert in test preparation with over 20 years of experience teaching classes for graduate school admissions tests. In addition to having written PowerScore’s legendary LSAT Bible Series, and many other popular publications, Dave has overseen the preparation of thousands of students and founded two national test preparation companies. Read the acclaim for some of PowerScore’s other publications: The PowerScore LSAT Logic Games Bible, The PowerScore GMAT Sentence Correction Bible, and The PowerScore GMAT Verbal Bible.

Definitely deserves the title and what'smore, this book can be a very quick reference, making it very practical and helpful. Don't be afraid to buy a whole book for this question type. All the other books (Princeton, Kaplan, Official Guide, etc...) do not cover this GMAT speciality topic in depth. This book
will clear all your doubts about how to solve and how to think about CR questions. It also provides a
quick reference. For example, if you think you need to review how to best think about "Weaken"
questions, you can very easily in five minutes read the section summary and be confident again.
Tomorrow is my exam and in 1/2 an hour I reviewed the whole book! This book clearly divides the CR
question types into ten and not eight like most of the other question types and believe me knowing
the question type is a fundamental that you need to master. Even more, it gives you innovative
specific techniques for each question type, example, Fact Test, Variance Test, Assumption
Negation Techniques. All these techniques are simplifying techniques that allow you to intelligently
tackle CR questions. The book also discusses why its techniques are different from and better than
those of other books. Eg: This book unlike Princeton (I am not against Princeton, in fact I think it is
much better than Kaplan) teaches you and convinces you to read the Argument first and then
question. By exactly knowing what you should do for each question type you can become an expert in
solving CR questions. The thinking process becomes "automatic" one, that is you don’t have to think
really hard because the strategies that you learned become natural. I recommend this book to
anyone seriously preparing for the GMAT.

==== 2015 UPDATE ==== Powerscore released a new 2015 edition of the book. It has had some
updates - several chapters have been completely updated with new overview, examples and new
problem sets. Navigation has also been improved. It has grown too by about 70 pages (in part due
to having more white space and in part due to content). Not a light book at 370 pages but definitely
very very comprehensive overview of pretty much everything. Don’t expect to see too much fluff, the
book gets right to it. Though after MGMAT has improved their CR book (currently in its 6th edition), I
would have given this book 3-4 stars, the latest revision seems to provide a good alternative to the
Veritas Prep/MGMAT books.

==== 2009 Review ==== Though pretty similar to Manhattan GMAT
book, it offers more practice questions in the book and has a slightly better overview of the Critical
Reasoning questions.

~~~ Strengths: ~~~
1. In-depth overview of the Critical Reasoning strategies
and approaches to questions
2. Clearly divides the CR question types and provides specific strategy
for each type as well as the pitfalls and common errors. You will also get to know how the CR
questions are made.
3. Good quality GMAT-like practice questions
4. Created by the authors of the
best LSAT books (LSAT logic section is much harder than CR on the GMAT; there is actually a
decent amount of overlap in this book with the LSAT book). Speaking of which, for extra hardcore
(and absolutely not necessary but still), you can get the PowerScore LR book (comes with quite a
few LSAT questions).

~~~ Weaknesses: ~~~
1. Could use more practice questions (more than mgmat
though); you will need to find another source of CR questions such as GMAT Official guide 12 or the
verbal supplement to the Official Guide (though the verbal OG has questions on the easier side).
Some explanations are too convoluted. No tests or online exercises/additional content.

Suggestions:
- Read explanations to every question. Even if you got a question right, it does
  not mean, you solved it correctly (that is you used the correct approach or found all the shortcuts).
- You will be surprised sometimes and will pick up helpful tips even from explanations of questions you
  answered correctly.
- Follow the actual strategies (DUH). This is probably the most common mistake
  people make - they start inventing their own approaches. Don’t do it until you have a high verbal
  score. If you don’t, just follow! If you don’t have any Manhattan GMAT books, you want to get at
  least one, as each comes with access to 6 online CAT tests (these tests are worth the purchase).
- There is not a whole lot of value to get both Powerscore CR and MGMAT CR; the content is by
  large the same. Good luck on your GMAT!

Good luck!

BB, Founder of GMAT Club

GMAT 750 (q49, v42)

I took my first GMAT and scored 670 (Q44 V38). After evaluating my performance, I realized that CR
was definitely a weak spot, so I browsed [...] and found many recommendations for
PowerScore’s CR Bible. I purchased the book just two weeks before my GMAT re-take and studied
the book religiously. After a basic understanding of the principles (identifying premise and
conclusion, etc...), I re-took the GMAT and scored 750 (Q49 V44). As you can see, my verbal score
jumped six points - I attribute much of that improvement to the principles I learned in this book.

So, get this book early in your GMAT preparation and understand these fundamentals before tackling
the OG problems. Good luck!

To improve your score across the board in the verbal section, you need to first improve your critical
reasoning skills. It not improved my critical reasoning section score but also had a direct impact on
my comprehensive reading section score. I would recommend this book to anyone that wants to
improve the verbal score to beyond the 90th percentile.

I took Powerscore’s LSAT prep class 2 years ago. If any of you have taken the LSAT before, you’ll
know that the LSAT critical reasoning questions are slightly more comprehensive than the GMAT
questions. Regardless, I thought that Powerscore’s LSAT classroom materials were very well
organized and had a straight-forward methodology. Imagine my surprise when I opened this book
and found the materials to be very similar, if not the same! (I did find several instances in the book
where "LSAT" appeared instead of "GMAT") If you find the Critical Reasoning questions of the
GMAT to be challenging, and you actually want to understand the approach to answering these questions, as opposed to memorizing "short cuts", then I would recommend this book to you. If you belong to the other camp, then you might not want to consider it at all.

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