

Scoring Guideline: GRE Issue

Score = 6

A 6 paper presents a cogent, well-articulated analysis of the complexities of the issue and conveys meaning skillfully.

A typical paper in this category:

- * presents an insightful position on the issue
- * develops the position with compelling reasons and/or persuasive examples
- * sustains a well-focused, well-organized analysis, connecting ideas logically
- * expresses ideas fluently and precisely, using effective vocabulary and sentence variety
- * demonstrates facility with the conventions (i.e., grammar, usage, and mechanics) of standard written English but may have minor errors

Score = 5

A 5 paper presents a generally thoughtful, well-developed analysis of the complexities of the issue and conveys meaning clearly.

A typical paper in this category:

- * presents a well-considered position on the issue
- * develops the position with logically sound reasons and/or well-chosen examples
- * is focused and generally well organized, connecting ideas appropriately
- * expresses ideas clearly and well, using appropriate vocabulary and sentence variety
- * demonstrates facility with the conventions of standard written English but may have minor errors

Score = 4

A 4 paper presents a competent analysis of the issue and conveys meaning adequately.

A typical paper in this category:

- * presents a clear position on the issue
- * develops the position on the issue with relevant reasons and/or examples
- * supports the main points of the critique
- * is adequately focused and organized
- * expresses ideas with reasonable clarity
- * generally demonstrates control of the conventions of standard written English but may have some errors

Score = 3

A 3 paper demonstrates some competence in its analysis of the issue and in conveying meaning but is obviously flawed.

A typical paper in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:

- * is vague or limited in presenting or developing a position on the issue
- * is weak in the use of relevant reasons or examples
- * is poorly focused and/or poorly organized
- * has problems in language and sentence structure that result in a lack of clarity
- * contains occasional major errors or frequent minor errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that can interfere with meaning

Score = 2

A 2 paper demonstrates serious weaknesses in analytical writing.

A typical paper in this category exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- * is unclear or seriously limited in presenting or developing a position on the issue
- * provides few, if any, relevant reasons or examples
- * is unfocused and/or disorganized
- * has serious problems in the use of language and sentence structure that frequently interfere with meaning
- * contains serious errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that frequently obscure meaning

Score = 1

A 1 paper demonstrates fundamental deficiencies in analytical writing.

A typical paper in this category exhibits MORE THAN ONE of the following characteristics:

- * provides little or no evidence of the ability to understand and analyze the issue
- * provides little or no evidence of the ability to develop an organized response
- * has severe problems in language and sentence structure that persistently interfere with meaning
- * contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that result in incoherence