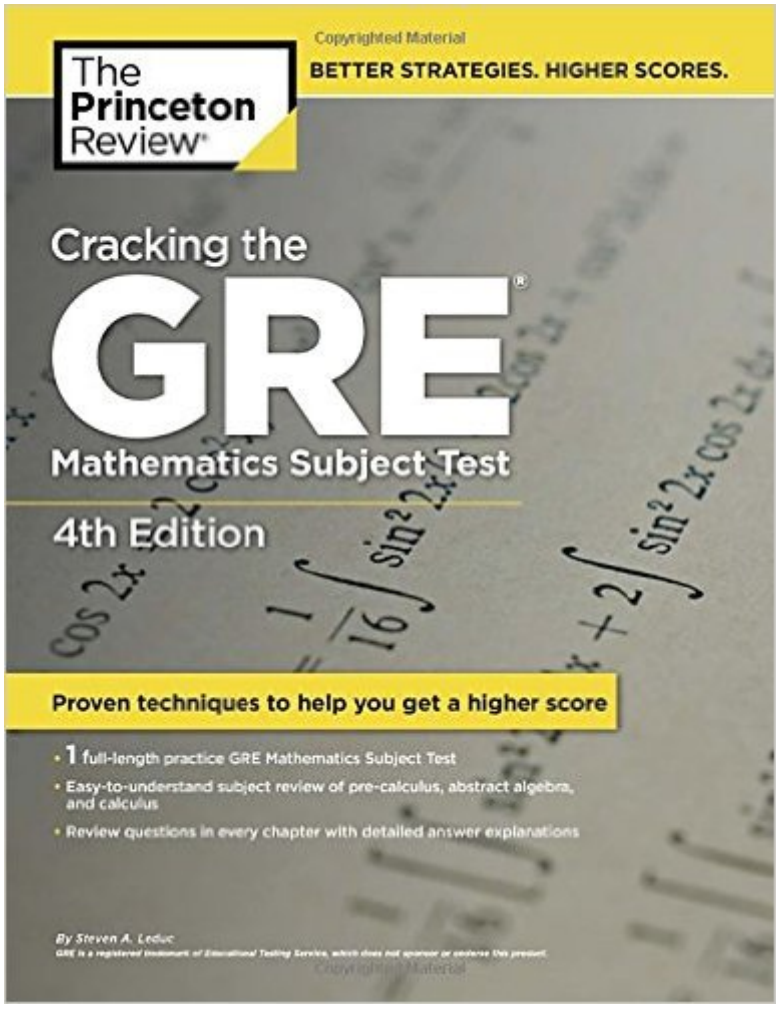
Cracking The GRE Mathematics Subject Test, 4th Edition



Synopsis

THE PRINCETON REVIEW GETS RESULTS.Â Getting a high score on the GRE Mathematics Subject Test isnâ ™t about memorizing everything there is to know about mathâ “itâ ™s about targeting your test preparation. We teach you only the information youâ ™ll need along with the best strategies for the test day.Â Within this book, youâ ™ll find practical information on the what, when, where, and how of the exam, as well as subject reviews for all potential topics, including precalculus, calculus I and II, differential equations, linear algebra, number theory, and more. Techniques That Actually Work. â ¢ Preparation strategies and test-taking techniques to help you reach your top score â ¢ Shortcuts and strategies to speed up pacing and increase accuracy â ¢ Clear diagrams to acclimate you to three-dimensional coordinate problems Practice Your Way to Excellence. â ¢ 1 full-length practice test to familiarize you with the quirks and patterns of the GRE Mathematics Subject Test â ¢ Over 150 guided practice problems that directly demonstrate key strategies for dealing with tricky topics from trigonometric functions to double integrals, homomorphisms, and complex logarithms â ¢ Over 200 drill questions for independent practice, with thorough explanations to help provide total content mastery

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Customer Reviews

I have to say this is really a wonderful book for GRE math subject test. Based on my experiences, I think it covers nearly all the topics in the real test. I cannot find anything better than this book in my preparation. Of course you need the office sample from ETS but we all know it’s far from enough.

This book provides a quite detailed overview of all the topics you need to know.I didn't give this book 5 star because there is a serious problem of this book you must be cautious of. It is that the problems in the actual test are far more difficult than the problems in this book. It indeed covers all the topics but not deep enough for the real test. For the calculus, probability, complex analysis, number theory part, it probably provides all you need but you still need to do more difficult exercises besides this book. For the linear algebra part, I think it should emphasize more on the theories of linear transformation and vector space. There wouldn't be any calculation problems of linear algebra in the test: nearly all the problems in this part are theoretical. For topics like abstract algebra, topology, real analysis, if you want to have a good score, say over 80%, you definitely need to read Rudin' "Principles of mathematical analysis"(chapter 1-8), Munkres' "Topology"(first 3 or 4 chapters) and an abstract algebra text book (I would recommend "Abstract Algebra: A First Course" by Dan Saracino). There are more problems in these 3 branches in the real test than in the sample posted by ETS. (But I don't think you need to know much about Lebesgue's theory although this book discussed about it).

The 4th edition adds about 50 or so more problems in the Additional Topics section. There are a brief couple pages added regarding Graph Theory and Algorithms but nothing substantial. However, there are a few typos in the newly added material. One notable example is that Contraposition is mislabled as Contradiction. The 4th edition is not significantly different from the 3rd edition other than the aforementioned changes.The main complaint regarding Leduc's guide is a lack of exercises. Having taken the Mathematics Subject GRE just yesterday as of the writing of this review, I can honestly say that the major pitful encountered by most, including me, on the exam was the time constraint - an absurd 2 hours 50 minutes for 66 somewhat tricky to somewhat impossible to solve in 2.5 minutes mathematics questions.The best use of this guide is to serve as a nexus for your studies, and augment your studies with a lot of other books and exercises. Nonetheless , since this guide is not terribly expensive, I recommend the purchase if you don't already have the 3rd edition.

I took the GRE subject test twice. The first time I studied using this book alone, and that was just not enough. There simply aren't enough problems in the book. The second time I took the test, I did much better -- make no mistake, the Princeton Review book helped, but what really made the difference was digging up my old calculus textbook and just doing large quantities of problems as quickly as possible. Without more problems, you really just don't acquire the kind of pacing

necessary to succeed on the actual subject exam.

This book is overall helpful, thoough it does not explain everything in great details.By the way, there are too many errors in the Review problems for chapter 7.

If you are thinking about buying this book , then most likely you are about to take the GRE SUBJECT TEST IN MATH.The high ranked and better graduate programs in the U.S require it, with a lot of low ranked and intermediate graduate programs not requiring it.The main problem with this book is that the actual problems that are solved and discussed are much simpler than than actual GRE SUBJECT TEST IN MATH.This is a major flaw that cannot be overlooked.On the ETS website there is an actual test that was administered in 2005.A comparison of this test and a practise test at the end of this book shows great differences in the actual difficulty level.Needless to say the real ETS test is much harder.Another problem with this book is that many advanced topics do not get realistic treatment.Most notable are Real Analysis,Topology,Number Theory, and Abstract Algebra .Therefore it would be naive on the part of prospective test takers to think that this book represents an actual MATH SUBJECT TEST.The only worth this book has is that it makes the reader get used to multiple choice Math questions, and this is why it is perhaps better than nothing.As far as the actual MATH SUBJECT TEST is concerened,the people who score high on this test are mainly foreigners who are graduates of overseas Universities. In the United States in the great majority of undergraduate math programs it is a known fact that the stress is not on the most difficult problems.Ironically the GRE SUBJECT TEST IN MATH does stress the most difficult problems.As just one example supporting this fact look at question #51 on test available on the ETS website where it has the integral of the greatest integer function multiplied by the exponential function.Now realistically when was the last time you saw the integral of the greatest integer function on a calculus test?? Likewise the Actual MATH GRE SUBJECT TEST is full of very tricky questions.If you are about to graduate (or have graduated) from a U.S mathematics undergraduate program , you will need a major attitude adjustment to score high on this test.My advice to you would be to seek out the more difficult problems in undergraduate mathematics and solve as many of them as you can.It is perhaps after that stage that you could think about buying this book in order to get used to the multiple choice format.

Nice review, especially in linear algebra and calculus.Three things that could be possibly improved in the future:1. Maybe there should be more practice tests.2. There should be more materials in

abstract algebra, especially theory of rings. Also, group theory is not limited to classification and numbering finite Abel groups as the book might indicate. Be careful.3. Also, the real analysis part...Lebesgue integration is nice, while you still have to know things in a typical one-year undergrad analysis sequence.

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