



MAJOR FIELD TESTS

Colleges and universities use the Major Field Tests to measure student academic achievement and growth and to assess the educational outcomes of their major programs. In addition, academic departments use the Major Field Tests to evaluate their curricula and to measure the progress of their students. The tests also provide students with an assessment of their own level of achievement within a field of study compared to that of students in their program and to national comparative data.

Background

Development of the Major Field Tests began in 1989, modeled on the development of the Graduate Record Examinations® (GRE®) Subject Tests. However, unlike the GRE Subject Tests, the Major Field Tests do not serve as a predictor of graduate school success, but are designed to measure the basic knowledge and understanding achieved by senior undergraduates in their major field of study. Each test is revised approximately every five years. Experienced teaching faculty members representing all the relevant areas of a discipline participate in determining test specifications, questions, and types of scores reported. ETS assessment experts subject each question to rigorous tests of sensitivity and reliability. In addition, every effort is made to include questions that assess the most common and most important topics and skills within each major field of study.

Test Content

The Major Field Tests are designed to assess mastery of concepts, principles, and knowledge expected of students at the conclusion of an academic major in specific subject areas. In addition to factual knowledge, the tests evaluate students' abilities to analyze and solve problems, understand relationships, and interpret material. The tests may contain questions that require interpretation of graphs, diagrams, and charts based on material related to the field. Academic departments may add up to 50 additional locally written questions to test areas of a discipline that may be unique to the department or institution.

Test Length

All Major Field Tests are multiple-choice exams lasting two hours (three hours for MBA), and administered in a proctored environment. However, the addition of optional locally developed questions may result in a longer testing period.

Test Administration

Departments or schools choose when and where to give the tests; however, the tests are normally administered during the senior year when students have completed the majority of courses in the major. Many institutions administer the tests as part of the requirements of a capstone course.

National Comparative Data

A Comparative Data Guide, published each year, contains tables of scale scores and percentiles for individual student scores, departmental mean scores, and any subscores or group assessment indicators that the tests may support. The tables of data are drawn from senior-level test takers at a large number of diverse institutions. More than 500 colleges and universities employ one or more of the Major Field Tests for student achievement and curriculum evaluation each year.

Scores

Major Field Test score reports are sent directly to the office within an institution that purchases them, such as a department chairperson, dean, or director of testing. Results of the tests are reported for the entire group of test takers, as well as for individual students. Overall student scores are reported on a scale of 120–200; subscores (which many of the tests include) are reported on a scale of 20–100. Another score reported for most of the tests is based on group-level achievement in subfields of the discipline. These “assessment indicators” report the average percent of a subset of test questions answered correctly by all students tested. On Major Field Tests, only correct answers are scored, so students are not penalized for omissions or guesses.

BUSINESS(4CMF)

(Released in August 2006)

The Major Field Test in Business contains 120 multiple-choice items, some of which are grouped in sets and based on such materials as diagrams, charts, and tables of data. The questions are designed to measure a student's knowledge and ability to apply significant facts, concepts, theories, and analytical methods. The questions represent a wide range of difficulty, and the test attempts to cover both depth and breadth in assessing students' levels of achievement.

Following the general guidelines of business school accrediting agencies, the Business Test covers areas outlined in statements of the "Common Body of Knowledge" for undergraduate business education. The test assumes that most institutions will offer a common core that includes accounting, economics, finance, law, management, marketing and quantitative analysis. In addition, it is assumed that the common core will address important social and international considerations of modern business operations.

The Business Test is intended to:

- Measure students' academic achievement in the multidisciplinary subject matter representative of undergraduate business education
- Provide information to students regarding their level of achievement
- Provide information to faculties regarding the achievement of their students; information that can be used by the institution to assess their performance relative to their specific mission and objectives.
- Provide information to facilitate development of appropriate goals and educational programs, and to enhance the accountability of undergraduate business education.

Test Content

Major areas covered by the tests are:

- I. **Accounting** (about 15 percent of the questions)
 - A. Financial accounting
 1. Conceptual foundations
 2. Income statement and Statement of Retained Earnings
 3. Balance sheet
 4. Statement of cash flows
 - B. Managerial accounting
 1. Cost concepts
 2. Product costing systems
 3. Activities-based costing
 4. Cost, volume, and profit analysis
 5. Budgeting (except capital budgeting covered under Finance)
 6. Standard costing
 7. Nonroutine decision-making
 - C. International accounting
- II. **Economics** (about 13 percent of the questions)
 - A. Basic Economic Concepts
 1. Scarcity and opportunity cost
 2. Production possibilities frontier
 3. Comparative advantage and specialization
 4. Economic systems
 - B. Microeconomics
 1. Supply and demand
 2. Models of consumer choice
 3. Production and costs
 4. Product market structures
 5. Resource markets
 6. Market failure and the role of government
 - C. Macroeconomics
 1. Measurement of economic performance
 2. Aggregate demand and aggregate supply
 3. Money and the banking system
 4. Monetary policy and fiscal policy
 5. Economic growth

- D. International economics
 1. International trade and policy
 2. Exchange rates
 3. Balance of payments
- III. **Management** (about 15 percent of the questions)
- A. Management process
 1. History and theory
 2. Functions (organizing, leading, planning, and controlling)
 3. Group/team dynamics
 4. Total quality management
 - B. Organizational behavior
 1. Leadership and motivation
 2. Communication
 3. Managing diversity
 4. Human resource management
 - C. Strategy and policy
 1. Strategic analysis
 2. Policy determination
 - D. International/cross cultural management
 - E. Entrepreneurship
- IV. **Quantitative Business Analysis** (about 11 percent of the questions)
- A. Probability and statistics
 1. Measure of set operations
 2. Conditional/joint probabilities
 3. Counting rules
 4. Measures of central tendency and dispersion
 5. Distributions (including normal and binomial)
 6. Sampling and estimation
 7. Hypothesis testing
 8. Correlation and regression
 9. Time-series forecasting
 10. Statistical concepts in quality control
 - B. Management science
 1. Linear programming
 2. Project scheduling (including PERT and CPM)
 3. Inventory and production planning
 4. Managing continuous improvement
5. Special topics (including queuing theory, simulation, and decision analysis)
- V. **Information Systems** (about 10 percent of the questions)
- A. Information Systems in Business and Society
 1. Information management in a global society
 2. Security, Privacy, and Ethical Issues
 - B. Information Technology Concepts
 1. Hardware Technology
 2. Software Technology
 3. Database Management Systems
 4. Network and Internet Technology
 - C. Business Information Systems
 1. Automation and Support Systems
 2. Transaction Processing Systems
 3. Management Information Systems
 4. Decision Support and Expert Systems
 5. Strategic Information Systems
 - D. Systems Development
 1. Systems Investigation and Analysis
 2. Systems Planning Development and Implementation
- VI. **Finance** (about 13 percent of the questions)
- A. Corporate Finance
 1. Time value of money
 2. Capital budgeting
 3. Working capital management
 4. Financial statement analysis
 5. Cost of capital and capital structure
 - B. Investments
 1. Risk and Returns
 2. Valuation of securities
 3. Financial markets and environments
 - C. International Finance
- VII. **Marketing** (about 13 percent of the questions)
- A. Identifying attractive markets
 1. Strategic marketing planning
 2. Scanning marketing environment
 3. Marketing research and information technology tools
 4. Consumer and organizational buyer behavior

- B. Marketing institutions
 1. The marketing mix (Product, Price, Place, and Promotion)
 2. Segmenting consumer and organizational markets
 3. Marketing services
 4. Marketing for not-for-profit organizations
 5. Marketing of social causes
 - C. International marketing
- VIII. **Legal and Social Environment** (about 10 percent of the questions)
- A. Legal environment
 1. Courts and legal systems
 2. Constitution and business
 3. Administrative law
 4. Tort law
 5. Crimes
 - B. Regulatory environment
 1. Employment law
 2. Labor law
 3. Antitrust law
 4. Consumer protection
 5. Environmental and international law
 6. Security regulation
 - C. Business relationships
 1. Contract and sales law (UCC)
 2. Business organizations
 3. Law of agency
 4. Intellectual property
 - D. Ethics and Social Responsibility
 1. Ethics
 2. Social responsibility
- IX. **International Issues** (overlapping and drawn from Economics, Finance, Management and Marketing - Topics IC, IID, IIID, VIC, VIIC, and VIII B5)

Scores on the Business Test are reported as follows:

Total Score

Reported for each student and summarized for the group.

Assessment Indicators

Reported for the group* only.

- Accounting (18)
- Economics (16)
- Management (18)
- Quantitative Business Analysis (13)
- Information Systems (12)
- Finance (16)
- Marketing (16)
- Legal and Social Environment (12)
- International Issues (about 12 percent of the questions overlap and are drawn from accounting, economics, finance, management, marketing, and legal and regulatory environment)

Numbers in parentheses are approximate number of questions in each category

*A minimum of five students is required for assessment indicators to be reported.



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