

9-7 Let the GMAT teach you science

The GMAT doesn't want you (or anyone else) to have an advantage because of prior knowledge. Passages are factually true, but they will rarely coincide with your experience or reading. Especially on the hardest material, one way the test-makers ensure unfamiliarity is to bombard you with science topics. Most would-be MBA students do not have extensive science backgrounds.

You can't become a science expert between now and test day. (Nor would that be a good use of your time.) Instead, practice dissecting arguments on unfamiliar topics. Remember that nearly everyone else taking the test is as clueless as you are about, say, mitochondria. The GMAT doesn't expect you to know anything that isn't on the page, so use the skills you've read about in previous chapters, looking for causal relationships and staying carefully within the scope. These methods work regardless of subject matter.