

MCAT

Student Guide

General Schedule and Overview	3
Subject Specific Overview	6
Physics Syllabus and Homework Schedule	7
General Chemistry Syllabus and Homework Schedule.....	8
Verbal Reasoning Syllabus and Homework Schedule.....	9
Biology Syllabus and Homework Schedule.....	11
Organic Chemistry Syllabus and Homework Schedule.....	13
MCAT Computer Based Test (CBT) Information and Techniques.....	14



Welcome to The Princeton Review!

Get Started before the Course - Visit the MCAT Online Student Portal

Our state-of-the-art Online Student Portal has been designed to enhance your classroom experience. By now, you should have received a registration e-mail providing your username and password. To activate your account, go to PrincetonReview.com and click on the “Login” button at the top right-hand corner of the screen. If you have not received this e-mail, please call us at 866-TPR-PREP.

Once logged in, click on My Prep, then on “Launch Online Content”. When the new window opens, click on the blue link “Welcome to the Princeton Review MCAT Prep Course – START HERE!” This will open another new window with a lot of great information in it. Scroll down to read about General Information, what to do first, and what books and resources you have available to you. The Online Portal is an invaluable tool that can be used to explore your preparation program, research medical school admissions, and boost your MCAT scores, so it’s a good idea to familiarize yourself with it. Once the course begins, you will use your Online Portal to take your Diagnostic Exams and Practice Tests (make sure to click on the link “MCAT Core and Practice Test Information”), find complete explanations to our practice exams and other MCAT resources, and access additional MCAT practice questions. Details on diagnostic exam, practice tests, and practice questions can be found below, including a sample study schedule.

*amplifire*TM

Princeton Review MCAT students have access to a state-of-the-art online learning tool called *amplifire*TM. This program will help drill you in science content to help you master the fundamental concepts needed to excel on the MCAT.

Register for the Test

Signing up for The Princeton Review MCAT course **does not** register you for the actual MCAT. If you haven’t already, register now at www.aamc.org. The current fee is \$270.

We Love to Hear from You

While questions about course content should be directed towards your instructors, the office is available to help you as well. If at any time during the course you have concerns about any aspect of the program, please call us at 866-TPR-PREP. Your satisfaction is incredibly important to us, so don’t hesitate to let us know what we can do to improve your MCAT course experience.

We will also issue a post-course survey, “Would You Recommend The Princeton Review?” We hope your answers will reflect our efforts to deliver the type of program that has made The Princeton Review a leader in test prep and admissions services. We look forward to working with you.

—The Princeton Review Student Services Department

General Schedule and Overview

The general schedule shown below assumes your course starts 15 weeks before your actual MCAT and lasts 12 weeks, leaving you about three weeks for review. If this is not the case, expand or contract the schedule as necessary. Expanding is easy... just spread the final review weeks out over more weeks as needed. To contract the schedule, for maximum efficiency focus on your weakest areas, and plan on doing more work each day.

Overview:

By the end of Week 1:

- Read “MCAT Diagnostic Exam Information” in your online content
- Take Diagnostic Exam Set 1
- Review your score reports to determine which subject areas you are weak in
- Read “MCAT Core and Practice Test Information” in your online content
- Take AAMC Practice Test 10 to get a basic starting MCAT score

Weekly:

- Homework in each subject, emphasizing your weak areas
- End of Week 3: TPR Online Practice Test 1, review score report
- End of Week 5: TPR Online Practice Test 2, review score report
- End of Week 7: TPR Online Practice Test 3, review score report
- End of Week 9: Diagnostic Exam Set 2, review score reports
- End of Course: AAMC Self-Assessment Diagnostics, review score reports
- 1 week before your actual MCAT test date: AAMC Practice Test 11, review score report

About Diagnostic Exams:

You will have access to the online content 10 days before the start of your course, so you can start your prep before your lectures start. The first thing to do is to take the first set of Diagnostic Exams. Diagnostic Exams are NOT the same as Practice Tests. Practice Tests are mock MCATs, designed to look and feel like the actual test and are NOT content-comprehensive. There is simply no way to cover all areas of science content and all classes of Verbal Reasoning passages in only 7 passages and 52 questions (sciences) or 7 passages and 40 questions (Verbal Reasoning). The Diagnostic Exams are much longer in order to cover all MCAT content. For example, the Biology Diagnostic Exams are 130 questions long, the Physics exams are 118 questions, etc.

You have two full sets of Diagnostic Exams (Biology Diagnostic Exam 1, Physics Diagnostic Exam 1, etc. ...Biology Diagnostic Exam 2, Physics Diagnostic Exam 2, etc.). The two sets are written to be very similar, but not identical (they test the same concepts in different ways), so that you can gauge improvement from the first set to the second. The Princeton Review is proud to be the only test-prep company to offer this to students!

Note that all of the diagnostic exams are untimed except for the Verbal Diagnostic Exam, since the ability to do well in the Verbal Reasoning section is very much dependent on your ability to effectively pace yourself. When reviewing the Verbal Diagnostic, make sure to take note of any question type or format that stands out as a weakness. When reviewing these questions work to figure out what it is about that particular question type or format that causes you problems. The Verbal Diagnostic Exam also includes a separate test of Reading Comprehension. The scores on these exams, given as a percent, will give you an idea of how strong your Reasoning or Comprehension skills are. Make sure to complete the MCAT Verbal Self-Evaluation Survey shortly after taking the Verbal Diagnostic Exam; this survey is designed to give you more information and strategies based on the results of your Diagnostic Exam. The survey is found in the same folder as the Diagnostic Exams and is launched separately from the exams.

Because the exams are long, you'll want to set aside a decent chunk of time to take them, and you DON'T want to take all of them in one day. Don't take more than two Diagnostic Exams in one day. If you are fatigued, you are less likely to answer accurately, and your scores will not reflect your true strengths and weaknesses.

About Score Reports:

Score reports are found by logging in at www.princetonreview.com, clicking on “My Prep”, clicking on “View Test Scores”, and finally, by clicking on the report you wish to view. Scores for the Diagnostic Exams are reported simply as a percent correct and *do not* correlate with MCAT scores. In the score report for the science diagnostics, you will find some General Feedback on your strengths/weaknesses in particular subtopics, as well as a breakdown of the number of questions you got right/wrong within a given subtopic (listed under “Categories”). **Note that the overall Diagnostic Exam score is less important than your performance in the individual subtopics. These subtopics correlate with lecture topics and knowing the subtopics in which you show weakness will be important in guiding your homework and study throughout the course. Make sure to take note of your weaker subtopics or Verbal Reasoning question types.** You’ll want to review the individual questions as well; to review a question, simply click on the blue question number in your score report. See above for more information on the Verbal Reasoning/Reading Comprehension Diagnostic Exam.

The AAMC Self-Assessment Diagnostics are also available to you; these are subject-specific exams composed of actual previous MCAT questions. You should take these at the end of your course for a final check on content comprehension. Score reports for these tests can be viewed by launching the AAMC test you wish to review from your student content, then clicking on the link under “Completed Tests – View Your Report”.

About Practice Tests:

At minimum, you should take and review five Practice Tests throughout your course, approximately one test every two weeks. The order in which you should take the tests is:

- AAMC Practice Test 10
- TPR Online Practice Test 1
- TPR Online Practice Test 2
- TPR Online Practice Test 3
- AAMC Practice Test 11

All of the above tests are in the “Core Tests” folder in your online content.

Feel free to take more practice tests (in the Practice Tests folder) as your time and schedule allow; see “MCAT Core and Practice Test Information” in your online content for scheduling suggestions. You can incorporate these into the General Schedule below on weeks where no Core Test is scheduled. Make sure to include review time; taking practice tests without reviewing the answers is not helpful. Also make sure to review with your instructors any questions that you are unsure about, or need guidance on.

Note that due to copyright reasons, we are not allowed to reproduce any AAMC content in our website; to review your AAMC Practice Tests you must view the AAMC score report for those tests. You can access that report by launching the AAMC test you wish to review from your student content, then clicking on the link under “Completed Tests – View Your Report”.

You might choose to review your tests using the Question Review Worksheet found in the MCAT Resources section (click on the blue link) of your online content, under “Miscellaneous Resources”. You can print out this PDF form and fill out a copy for each section of the practice test you are reviewing. Highlighting the questions you got wrong can help you see patterns and/or areas of weakness. For Verbal Reasoning, you should be filling out a Self-Evaluation Log for each practice test. You can either use the Test Assessment Log (*Verbal Reasoning Review* p. 24) for the whole Verbal section, or use one Individual Passage Log (*Verbal Reasoning Review* p. 23) for each passage that you did within the section (if you want to have more room to write comments). Copies of these logs can also be downloaded from your student portal (they are located under “Miscellaneous Resources”).

Note also that printed solutions to many of the Practice Tests and all of the Diagnostic Exams can be found in the MCAT Resources section of your online content.

About *amplifire*TM:

*amplifire*TM is a revolutionary new software tool to help you review and learn MCAT science content. All of the freestanding questions in the Science Workbook, plus over 200 brand new questions not found anywhere else in your content are included in the *amplifire*TM modules. There is at least one *amplifire*TM module, sometimes more than one, for each MCAT science lecture.

Think of *amplifire*TM as electronic flashcards, but better because they are MCAT questions. Each module contains approximately 20 questions that are presented to you in groups of eight. You must answer each question correctly twice to consider the module “mastered”; if you get a question wrong, the program will continue to cycle that question and present it to you until you have answered it correctly twice.

*amplifire*TM is launched by expanding the folder titled “MCAT Science Workbook via Amplifire” and clicking on “amplifire modules”. You can also read more about *amplifire*TM by clicking on the blue link “MCAT Amplifire Information”.

General Schedule for Study, Review, Practice Tests, Etc.

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
0 (before course start)	Biology Diagnostic Exam 1	Gen. Chem. Diagnostic Exam 1	Physics Diagnostic Exam 1	O-Chem. Diagnostic Exam 1	Verbal Diagnostic Exam 1	Review Tests	Review Tests
1	Subject-specific homework and reading					AAMC Practice Test 10	Review Practice Test
2	Subject-specific homework and reading						
3	Subject-specific homework and reading					TPR Online Practice Test 1	Review Practice Test
4	Subject-specific homework and reading						
5	Subject-specific homework and reading					TPR Online Practice Test 2	Review Practice Test
6	Subject-specific homework and reading						
7	Subject-specific homework and reading					TPR Online Practice Test 3	Review Practice Test
8	Subject-specific homework and reading						
9	Biology Diagnostic Exam 2	Gen. Chem. Diagnostic Exam 2	Physics Diagnostic Exam 2	O-Chem. Diagnostic Exam 2	Verbal Diagnostic Exam 2	Review Tests	Review Tests
	Subject-specific homework and reading						
10	Subject-specific homework and reading						
11	Subject-specific homework and reading						
12	Subject-specific homework and reading, unfinished ICC passages, any incomplete or optional homework.						
13	AAMC Self-Assessment Biology	AAMC Self-Assessment Gen. Chem.	AAMC Self-Assessment Physics	AAMC Self-Assessment O-Chem.	AAMC Self-Assessment Verbal	Review Tests	Review Tests
14	Subject-specific review as necessary based on results of AAMC Self-Assessment tests.					AAMC Practice Test 11	Review Practice Test
15	Final review on any topics you are unsure of, email your teachers with questions, redo amplifire modules, etc.						
TAKE THE REAL MCAT!!							

Subject-Specific Syllabi and Homework Lists:

On the next several pages you will find syllabi for the different MCAT subjects. These will let you know the topic of the lecture, the reading you should do, and the homework associated with that lecture.

Sciences

Required Homework, All Students: all reading, all *amplifire*TM modules, and all freestanding question sets in the textbooks (*MCAT Review* series texts) are required. Some of the passages (printed or online) are required. (Note that the freestanding questions in the Science Workbook are all contained in *amplifire*TM.)

Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness: these are passages that tend to be more content-heavy than other passages, i.e., they tend to test more memory-based concepts, or the more basic concepts, in a particular subtopic. If you have a solid understanding of a particular subtopic (i.e., your Diagnostic Exam does not indicate this is an area of weakness), these passages are optional for you; note however, that the more practice passages you complete, the better you will be all around. Remember that you will determine your personal areas of weakness by taking the Diagnostic Exams periodically throughout the course (see “About Diagnostic Exams” above and the general schedule below).

Required Homework, Subtopic Strength: these are more advanced passages that tend to be less content-heavy than other passages, i.e., they tend to test more from the passage topic or experiment than from basic concepts. If you have a weakness in a particular subtopic (i.e., your Diagnostic Exam indicates this is an area of weakness), these passages are optional for you; note however, that the more practice passages you complete, the better you will be all around. You might choose to delay these passages until you have completed the course and are doing your final review before the MCAT. Remember that you will determine your personal areas of weakness by taking the Diagnostic Exams periodically throughout the course (see “About Diagnostic Exams” above and the general schedule below).

Optional Homework, All Students: additional passages you can complete as time allows or for final review before the MCAT. The passages are sorted into “Weakness” (more content-heavy passages) and “Strength” (less content-heavy passages)

Verbal

Required Homework, All Students: all reading and all passages/exercises from the *MCAT Verbal Reasoning Review* are required.

Required Homework, Low Diag/Practice Test Score: the first four assignments consist of passages that are, for the most part, at or below average difficulty level compared to other passages. These will help you improve your verbal skills before you attempt some of the harder passages. Once your practice test score rises to an 8 or above, switch to the High Diag/Practice Test Score assignments. Or, if it is after Class 4, you may wish to go back and complete those harder passages for extra practice. Note that a low diagnostic score is 60% or below; a low practice test score is a 7 or below. The assignments for weeks 5-9 are the same for all students.

Required Homework, High Diag/Practice Test Score: the first four assignments consist of passages that are, for the most part, at or above average difficulty compared to other passages. They will give you practice on what would be the harder passages on the test. However, there is still value in doing and perfecting your performance on easier passages; you may wish to complete both assignments for Classes 1-4. Note that a high diagnostic score is above 60%; a high practice test score is an 8 or above. The assignments for weeks 5-9 are the same for all students.

Optional Homework, All Students: additional passages you can complete as time allows. These passages range in difficulty from easy to killer, but the majority are of average or above average difficulty and include at least two Complex questions.

PHYSICS SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT Physics and Math Review* and should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See above for explanations/definitions of “Required Homework” and “Optional Homework”.

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength	Optional Homework, All Students
1	Kinematics; Chapters 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 1-3 PMR Ch. 2 questions and passage OL-REV-PP 1 SWB 1, 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Set 1 OL-REV-PP 2 OL-TPR-PP 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PP 8 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read PMR pp. 431-492, “Math for Physics” SWB 7
2	Mechanics I: Newton’s Laws; Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 4-6 PMR Ch. 3 questions and passage OL-REV-PP 3, 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Set 2 OL-TPR-PP 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 3 	n/a
3	Mechanics II: Uniform Circular Motion and Torque; Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 7-8 PMR Ch. 4 questions and passage OL-REV-PP 5, 6 SWB 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Set 3 	n/a	n/a
4	Mechanics III: Work, Energy, and Momentum; Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 9-11 PMR Ch. 5 questions and passage OL-REV-PP 7 SWB 8, 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Set 4 OL-REV-PP 8 OL-TPR-PP 9, 14 SWB 5, 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 9, 13 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 12
5	Fluids, Elasticity of Solids; Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 12-14 PMR Ch. 6 questions and passage OL-REV-PP 9, 10 OL-TPR-PP 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Set 5 SWB 14, 15, 17, 18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 6, 16, 20, 22 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PP 3, 5 SWB 19 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 21, 23
6	Electrostatics; Chapter 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 15 PMR Ch. 7 questions and passage OL-REV-PP 11, 12 SWB 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Set 6 SWB 25 	n/a	n/a
7	Electricity and Magnetism; Chap. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 16-17 PMR Ch. 8 questions and passage OL-REV-PP 13, 14 SWB 26, 28, 29 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Set 7 OL-TPR-PP 16 SWB 30, 32, 37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 35, 36, 38 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 27, 33, 34 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 31
8	Oscillations and Waves; Chapter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 18-20 PMR Ch. 9 questions and passage OL-REV-PP 15 SWB 39, 41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Set 8 OL-REV-PP 16 SWB 40, 43, 45, 47 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PP 15 SWB 42, 44, 50, 51 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PP 2, 13 SWB 46, 48 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PP 4, 10 SWB 49
9	Sound, Light, and Optics; Chps. 10, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 21-25 PMR Ch. 10 and 11 questions and psgs. OL-REV-PP 17,18,19 SWB 55 Unfinished ICC psgs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QP Sets 9-10 SWB 56 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PP 6 OL-REV-PP 20 SWB 52, 58, 59 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PP 5, 9 SWB 53, 54, 60, 61, 62 <i>Mixed Phys/G-Chem:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-QP Sets 1-8

AMP = *amplifire*TM

PMR = *MCAT Physics and Math Review* book

SWB = Science Workbook passages

ICC = In-Class Compendium

OL-TPR-PP = TPR Physics Practice Passages online

OL-REV-PP = MCAT Physics Review Series Practice Passages online

OL-TPR-QP = TPR Physical Sciences Practice Questions online

OL-REV-QP = MCAT Physics Review Series Practice Questions online

GENERAL CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT General Chemistry Review* and should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See above for explanations/definitions of “Required Homework” and “Optional Homework”.

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength	Optional Homework, All Students
1	Stoichiometry and Atomic Structure; Chapters 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 1 GCR Ch. 3 questions and passage OL-REV-PG 1 SWB 7, 9, 10, 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QG Set 1 OL-REV-PG 2 SWB 1, 2, 3, 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PG 18 SWB 5, 6, 16, 17 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 8 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 11, 13, 14, 15
2	Periodic Trends and Bonding; Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 2 GCR Ch. 4 questions and passage OL-REV-PG 3, 4 SWB 21, 22, 28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QG Set 2 OL-TPR-PG 16 SWB 20, 23, 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 18, 19, 29, 30 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 25 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 26, 27, 31, 32 OL-TPR-PG 5, 14
3	Phases and Gases; Chapters 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 3 GCR Chps. 5 and 6 questions and passgs. OL-REV-PG 5, 7 SWB 35, 39, 43 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QG Sets 3, 4 OL-REV-PG 6, 8 SWB 36, 37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 41, 42, 46 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PG 6, 9, 10, 20
4	Solutions, Colligative Properties, Kinetics; Chapters 7 and 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 4 GCR Chps. 7 and 8 questions and passgs. OL-REV-PG 9, 11 SWB 40, 48, 49 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QG Sets 5, 6 SWB 33, 34, 44, 45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PG 4, 8 OL-REV-PG 10 SWB 47, 50 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-PG 12 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PG 2
5	Equilibrium, Acids and Bases (I); Chapter 9 and Chapter 10, sections 10.1-10.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 5 GCR Ch. 9 questions and passage OL-REV-PG 13, 14 SWB 52, 54, 58 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QG Set 7 SWB 55, 56, 59 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 51, 57, 60 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PG 13 SWB 61 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 53
6	Acids and Bases (II); Chapter 10, sections 10.6-10.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 6 GCR Ch. 10 questions and passage OL-REV-PG 15 SWB 62, 63, 67, 68 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QG Set 8 OL-TPR-PG 1, 7 SWB 66, 69 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-PG 16 OL-TPR-PG 15 SWB 64, 70 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PG 3, 12, 17 SWB 65
7	Thermodynamics; Chapter 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 7 GCR Ch. 11 questions and passage OL-REV-PG 17 SWB 71, 72, 74, 75 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QG Set 9 OL-REV-PG 18 SWB 76 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 73, 77, 78 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PG 11
8	Redox and Electrochemistry; Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 8 GCR Ch. 12 questions and passage OL-REV-PG 19, 20 SWB 82, 84, 87, 88 Unfinished ICC psgs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QG Set 10 SWB 85, 90, 93 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 79, 80, 81, 92 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 83 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PG 19 SWB 86, 89, 91 <i>Mixed Phys/G-Chem:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-QP Sets 1-8

AMP = *amplifire*TM

GCR = *MCAT General Chemistry Review* book

SWB = Science Workbook passages

ICC = In-Class Compendium

OL-TPR-PG = TPR General Chemistry Practice Passages online

OL-REV-PG = MCAT Gen. Chemistry Review Series Practice Passages online

OL-TPR-QP = TPR Physical Sciences Practice Questions online

OL-REV-QG = MCAT Gen. Chemistry Review Series Practice Questions online

VERBAL REASONING SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading and exercises should be completed AFTER the designated class and BEFORE the next class (or the real MCAT). Complete only the exercises and drills that are listed here or assigned by your teacher. When completing practice passages in the *MCAT Verbal Reasoning Review*, make sure to follow the instructions that introduce that drill.

Class	Topics	Required Homework: All Students	Required Homework: Low Scores	Required Homework: High Scores	All Students: Optional Homework
1	Introduction to MCAT Verbal Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read VRR Chps. 1-3 • VRR Ch. 2 passages • VRR “Active Reading” exercises 1 (p. 43) and 3 (p. 51) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 2, 5, 15, 16, 25 • OL-TPR 1, 4, 19, 28, 29 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 4, 8, 11, 19, 23 • OL-TPR 7, 8, 10, 12, 13 	n/a
2	Active Reading and MAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRR Ch. 3 passages • VRR “Identifying Question Types” exercise (p. 97) • Read VRR Chapter 4 • Read VRR Appendix pp. 265-272 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 6, 12, 24, 26, 29 • OL-TPR 3, 5, 22, 23, 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 1, 13, 20, 37, 41 • OL-TPR: 9, 15, 20, 27, 31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 7 • OL-TPR 2, 11
FROM THIS POINT ON, DO AT LEAST TWO PASSAGES AT A TIME BEFORE CHECKING ANSWERS.					
3	Question Types and Strategies for Specific and General Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read VRR Appendix pp. 273-287 • Review VRR Chap. 4 • VR-Supp. passages I, II, and IV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 9, 14, 30, 32, 39 • OL-REV 3, 16, 20, 22, 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 22, 28, 34, 36, 42 • OL-REV 4, 5, 17, 21, 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 31 • OL-TPR 14, 21
4	Question Types and Strategies for Complex Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRR Ch. 4 passages • VR-Supp. passages III, V, and VI • Read VR-Supp. pp. 56-62, “Variations on a Theme: Refining Your Strategy” • Read VRR Chapter 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 10, 21, 27, 38, 40 • OL-REV 2, 8, 10, 11, 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 3, 17, 18, 33, 35 • OL-REV 6, 7, 15, 18, 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB 43 • OL-TPR 33, 34, 35
5	Process of Elimination (POE) and Attractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRR Ch. 5 passages • VRR “Evaluate Your Ranking” exercise (p. 146) • Read VRR Chapter 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB MCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 1 (timed) • Complete VR-Supp. Self-Evaluation Survey • Fill out Test Assessment Log (VRR p. 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB MCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 1 (timed) • Complete VR-Supp. Self-Evaluation Survey • Fill out Test Assessment Log (VRR p. 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV 1, 12, 14
6	Ranking and Ordering Passages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRR Ch. 6 passages • VRR exercises: “MAPS” (p. 166), “Dealing With Stress” (p. 179), and “Pacing and Self-Evaluation” (p. 200) • Read VRR Chps. 7-8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB MCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 2 (timed) • Complete VR-Supp. Self-Evaluation Survey • Fill out Test Assessment Log (VRR p. 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB MCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 2 (timed) • Complete VR-Supp. Self-Evaluation Survey • Fill out Test Assessment Log (VRR p. 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR 6, 16, 17, 18

7	Strategy and Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRR Ch. 7 passages • VRR “Refining Your Skills” exercise (p. 221) • Read VRR Chapter 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB MCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 3 (timed) • Complete VR-Supp. Self-Evaluation Survey • Fill out Test Assessment Log (VRR p. 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB MCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 3 (timed) • Complete VR-Supp. Self-Evaluation Survey • Fill out Test Assessment Log (VRR p. 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR 24, 30, 32, 36
8	Refining Your Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRR Ch. 8 passages • VRR Ch. 9 passages • Read VRR Chapter 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB MCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 4 (timed) • Complete VR-Supp. Self-Evaluation Survey • Fill out Test Assessment Log (VRR p. 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWB MCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 4 (timed) • Complete VR-Supp. Self-Evaluation Survey • Fill out Test Assessment Log (VRR p. 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV 9, 13, 24, 27
9	Final Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRR Ch. 10 passages • ICC: any passages not finished in class 			

VRR = *MCAT Verbal Reasoning Review* book
 VR-Supp. = Verbal Reasoning Supplement
 VWB = Verbal Workbook

ICC = In-Class Compendium
 OL-TPR = TPR Practice Passages online
 OL-REV = MCAT Review Series Practice Passages online

BIOLOGY SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT Biology Review* and should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See above for explanations/definitions of “Required Homework” and “Optional Homework”.

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength	Optional Homework, All Students
1	Biochemistry; Chapters 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 1 • BR Ch. 2 questions and passage • OL-REV-PB 1, 2 • SWB 1, 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 1 • SWB 3, 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 1 • SWB 4, 6 	n/a
2	Biological Macromolecules, Molecular Biology; Chapter 3, (skim <i>MCAT O-Chem Review</i> Ch. 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 2 • BR Ch. 3 questions and passage • OL-REV-PB 4 • SWB 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 2 • SWB 8, 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-PB 3 • SWB 7, 9, 12 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 11
3	Microbiology; Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 3 • BR Ch. 4 questions and passage • OL-REV-PB 5, 6 • SWB 13, 14, 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 3 • SWB 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 3, 4, 21, 22 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 18, 20 • OL-TPR-PB 4, 20
4	Cell Biology; Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 4 • BR Ch. 5 questions and passage • OL-REV-PB 7, 8 • SWB 23, 24, 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 4 • SWB 26, 28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 27, 29 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 16
5	Genetics; Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 5 • BR Ch. 6 questions and passage • OL-REV-PB 9 • SWB 30, 33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 5 • OL-TPR-PB 2, 17 • SWB 32, 34 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-PB 10 • SWB 31, 35 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 36
6	The Nervous System; Chapter 7, sections 7.1-7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 6 • BR Ch. 7 questions and passage • OL-REV-PB 11, 12 • SWB 37, 43, 44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 6 • OL-TPR-PB 10 • SWB 38, 43, 45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 39, 46 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 40, 41
7	The Endocrine, Circulatory, Lymphatic, and Immune Systems ; Chapter 7 section 7.6, Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 7 • BR Ch. 8 questions and passage • OL-REV-PB 14, 15, 17, 18 • SWB 51 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 7 • OL-REV-PB 13, 16 • OL-TPR-PB 18 • SWB 47, 58, 62 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 49, 50, 55, 57, 60, 64 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 7,12,13 • SWB 48, 52, 53, 63 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 7, 8 • SWB 54, 56, 59, 61
8	The Excretory and Digestive Systems; Chapter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 8 • BR Ch. 9 questions and passage • OL-REV-PB 19, 20, 21 • SWB 67, 69 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 8 • SWB 65, 68 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWB 66 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 15

9	The Muscular, Skeletal, and Respiratory Systems, Skin; Chapters 10-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP modules 9-10 • BR Chps. 10-11 questions and passages • OL-REV-PB 23, 25, 27 • SWB 70, 73, 77 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Sets 9-10 • SWB 72, 74, 79 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-PB 22, 24, 26 • SWB 80 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 9, 14 • SWB 75, 76 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 3, 19 • SWB 71, 78
10	The Reproductive Systems, and Development; Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMP module 10 • BR Ch. 12 questions and passages • OL-REV-PB 28, 29 • SWB 81, 83, 85 • Unfinished ICC psgs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-REV-QB Set 11 • SWB 82, 84 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 5 • SWB 86, 87 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-PB 21 <i>Mixed Bio/O-Chem:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OL-TPR-QB Sets 1-6

AMP = *amplifire*TM

BR = *MCAT Biology Review* book

SWB = Science Workbook passages

ICC = In-Class Compendium

OL-TPR-PB = TPR Biology Practice Passages online

OL-REV-PB = MCAT Biology Review Series Practice Passages online

OL-TPR-QB= TPR Biological Sciences Practice Questions online

OL-REV-QB = MCAT Biology Review Series Practice Questions online

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS AND HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Note: All reading comes from the *MCAT Organic Chemistry Review* and should be completed PRIOR TO the designated class; all questions and passages should be completed AFTER the designated class. See above for explanations/definitions of "Required Homework" and "Optional Homework".

Class	Topics and Reading	Required Homework, All Students	Required Homework, Subtopic Weakness	Required Homework, Subtopic Strength	Optional Homework, All Students
1	Structure, Bonding, and Stability; Chapters 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 1, 2 OCR Ch. 3 questions and passage OL-REV-PO 1, 2 SWB 1, 2, 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QO Set 1 SWB 4 	n/a	n/a
2	Substitution and Elimination Reactions; Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP modules 3, 4 OCR Ch. 4 questions and passage OL-REV-PO 3, 4 SWB 6, 7, 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QO Set 2 OL-TPR-PO 4, 5 SWB 5, 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 10 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PO 4, 5
3	Electrophilic Addition Reactions and Aromaticity; Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 5 OCR Ch. 5 questions and passage OL-REV-PO 5 SWB 11, 16, 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QO Set 3 OL-TPR-PO 3 SWB 12, 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PO 1 SWB 13, 14 	<i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 18
4	Nucleophilic Addition and Carboxylic Acid Derivatives; Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 6 OCR Ch. 6 questions and passage SWB 19, 23, 25, 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QO Set 4 OL-REV-PO 6, 7 SWB 20, 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-PO 8 SWB 24, 26, 30 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PO 7 SWB 22 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PO 8 SWB 28, 29
5	Separation Techniques and Spectroscopy; Chapter 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 7 OCR Ch. 7 questions and passage OL-REV-PO 9 SWB 32, 33, 34 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QO Set 5 OL-REV-PO 10 OL-TPR-PO 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 31, 35 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PO 6
6	Biologically Important Organic Chemistry; Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMP module 8 OCR Ch. 8 questions and passage OL-REV-PO 11, 12 SWB 38, 42, 43 Unfinished ICC pgs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-REV-QO Set 6 OL-TPR-PO 10 SWB 37, 44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 36, 39 	<i>Weakness:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWB 41, 45 <i>Strength:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-PO 9 SWB 40 <i>Mixed Biol/O-Chem:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OL-TPR-QB Sets 1-6

AMP = *amplifire*TM

OCR = *MCAT Organic Chemistry Review* book

SWB = Science Workbook passages

ICC = In-Class Compendium

OL-TPR-PO = TPR Organic Chemistry Practice Passages online

OL-REV-PO = MCAT Org. Chemistry Review Series Practice Passages online

OL-TPR-QB= TPR Biological Sciences Practice Questions online

OL-REV-QO = MCAT Org. Chemistry Review Series Practice Questions online

MCAT COMPUTER BASED TEST (CBT) INFORMATION AND TECHNIQUES

The section provides an overview of the CBT MCAT, as well as some general techniques you can use on the test. For all the information you would ever need about the MCAT, go to www.AAMC.org or PrincetonReview.com/MCAT.

Format	Exclusively computer-based. NOT an adaptive test.
Number of Questions and Timing	52 Physical Sciences, 70 minutes 40 Verbal Reasoning, 60 minutes 52 Biological Sciences, 70 minutes 32 Optional (psychology, sociology, biochemistry), 45 min.
Scoring	Test is scaled. Several forms per administration. PS, VR, and BS receive scaled scores of 1–15,
Frequency of Test	28 times per year on 25 testing dates.
Length of Test Day	5½ hours
Breaks	Optional 10-minute breaks between sections. No lunch hour.
Registration	Online via www.aamc.org . Begins as early as six months prior to test date; available up until week of test.
Security	Photo ID with signature Electronic fingerprint Electronic signature verification Assigned seat
Testing Centers	Administered at Thomson Prometric testing sites; smaller, climate-controlled computer testing rooms with standardized proctoring
Proctoring	Test administrator checks examinee in and assigns seat at computer. All testing instructions are given on the computer.
Allowed/Not allowed	No timers. Earplugs in a new, unopened container, or you can use the noise reduction headphones provided to you. Scratch paper and pencils given at start of test and taken at end of test. Locker provided for personal items.
Results: Timing and Delivery	Approximately 30 days. Electronic scores only. Examinees can print official score reports.
Maximum Number of Retakes	Can be taken a maximum of three times per year, but an examinee can only be registered for one date at a time. No “special permission” or documentation is required.

On-Screen Tools

The Computer Based Test (CBT) approach to the MCAT requires that students be able to adapt to the limitations of the on-screen tools that are provided. Because scratch paper is also provided, it can be used to supplement the tools. Your Princeton Review Instructors will give you more specific information on the best way to adapt usage of the tools and the scratch paper for the specific subjects on the MCAT. The on-screen tools are as follows:

- 1) **Highlighting:** This is done in passage text (including equations and table entries, but excluding figures) by clicking and dragging the cursor over the desired text. To remove the highlighted portion, just click over the highlighted text. Note that highlights DO NOT persist once you leave the passage.
- 2) **Strike-out:** This is done on the various answer choices by clicking over the answer choice that you wish to eliminate. As a result, the entire set of text associated with that answer choice is crossed out. The strike-out can be removed by clicking again. Note that strike-outs DO persist after leaving the passage.
- 3) **Mark button:** This is available for each question and allows you to flag the question as one you would like to review later if time permits. When clicked, the “Mark” button turns red and says “Marked.”
- 4) **Review:** Button near the bottom. Clicking this button brings up a new screen showing all questions and their status (either “answered”, “unanswered”, or “marked”). You can then choose one of three options: “review all,” “review unanswered,” or “review marked.” This button can be clicked at any time during the allotted time for that section of the MCAT; you do NOT have to wait until the end of the section to click it.
- 5) **Previous/Next:** Buttons near the bottom. These allow movement from passage to passage. (NOTE: Highlights will be lost when moving from passage to passage. See above under “Highlighting”.)
- 6) **Periodic Table:** This can be brought up by clicking a button marked “Exhibit” near the bottom. Note that the periodic table is large and covers most of the screen. It is not possible to see the questions and the periodic table at the same time.

General Techniques

A. Mapping the Passage

1. Time is of the essence! Do not spend more than 1-1.5 minutes mapping a science passage, or 3-5 minutes mapping a Verbal passage. The MCAT gives points for answering questions correctly, not for reading thoroughly.
2. Read the first sentence of the passage! The topic of science passages are usually found within the first few words (Verbal passages are different; your Verbal teachers will give you more information on this during class). On the two science sections of the test, many students find it more efficient to tackle all of the passages from their stronger subject first, leaving the remaining time to work on all passages from their weaker subject. Remember, the MCAT gives points for answering questions correctly, regardless of their difficulty level or subject association.
3. Highlighting—use this tool sparingly otherwise you will end up with a passage that is completely covered in yellow highlighter.
4. Scratch Paper—scratch paper is only useful if it is kept organized! This will be very useful when/if you wish to review a question.
 - Do not give in to the tendency to write on the first available open space.
 - Indicate which passage you are working on in a box near the top of your scratch work, and indicate which question you are working on in a circle to the left of the notes for that question.
 - Draw a line under your scratch work when you change passages to keep the work separate.
 - Do not erase or scribble over any previous work. If you do not think it is correct, draw one line through the work and start again. You may have already done some useful work without realizing it.

B. Tackling the Questions

1. Do the questions in order from easiest to most difficult.
2. Do not leave any questions blank. Use the Review button to make sure you have answered all questions.
3. Process of Elimination is paramount! Use your Strike-out tool to help you.
4. Use the “Mark” button to flag a question for later review. Make sure to click on an answer so that the question is not left blank.
5. Keep an eye on the timer. You get about 1 minute 20 seconds per question.

C. Miscellaneous

1. Relax. The Princeton Review Online Diagnostics, the AAMC Practice Tests, your awesome instructors, and your studying will give you the confidence you need to do well on the computer-based MCAT.
2. Take your 10-minute breaks. Get up, stretch, breathe deeply, eat something, go to the bathroom, etc. The breaks help to ease the transition between sections and moving around will stimulate blood flow to the brain.
3. Use the noise-reduction headphones or earplugs (see “Allowed/Not Allowed” in the table on page 14) to help eliminate distraction.