



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

GMAT VOCABULARY

GMAT Vocabulary: Science, Technology & Operations

55 focused words in Science, Technology & Operations

55

UNIQUE WORDS

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CATEGORIES

GMAT

EXAM FOCUS



About this study guide

This vocabulary guide was prepared and published by Test Ninjas as an independent study resource. It is designed to help students build the precise word knowledge needed for demanding academic reading and reasoning.

How to use this guide

Study in short, repeated sessions. Read each definition, say the word aloud, and use the example to understand how the word functions in context. Return to unfamiliar words until you can explain them without looking at the definition.

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001 anatomical *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Relating to the physical structure of a body or organism

Leonardo da Vinci's **anatomical** drawings reveal a scientific curiosity far ahead of his time.

MEMORY CUE: An anatomical chart maps the structures and parts of a body.

002 archaeological *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Relating to the scientific study of material remains from past human cultures

Archaeological evidence suggests that the site was continuously inhabited for over six thousand years.

MEMORY CUE: Archaeological work reads past cultures through the material remains they left.

003 artifacts *noun (plural)*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Objects made by humans, typically of historical or cultural interest

The **artifacts** recovered from the shipwreck provided an invaluable window into medieval maritime trade.

MEMORY CUE: Artifacts are human-made objects carrying evidence from another time or culture.

004 biodiversity *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat or in the world generally

The coral reef's extraordinary **biodiversity** makes it one of the most scientifically valuable ecosystems on the planet.

MEMORY CUE: Biodiversity fills one habitat with a broad variety of living species.

005 brine *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Water saturated or strongly impregnated with salt

Life in the deep ocean **brine** pools has adapted to salinity levels that would kill most organisms.

MEMORY CUE: Brine is water so saturated with salt that crystals nearly form.

006 catalyst *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

A person or thing that precipitates an event or change

The economic downturn served as a **catalyst** for sweeping regulatory reform.

MEMORY CUE: A catalyst is the spark that starts change without becoming the final product.

007 congested *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Overcrowded; blocked or clogged with traffic

Congested urban highways have prompted city planners to invest heavily in public transit alternatives.

MEMORY CUE: A congested road is clogged until movement nearly stops.

008 consolidation *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The process of making something stronger or more solid; stabilization of memories

The **consolidation** of several small school districts into one large system promised efficiency but sacrificed community identity.

MEMORY CUE: Consolidation presses scattered pieces together into one stronger, stable unit.

009 converge *verb*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

To come together from different directions so as to meet; to tend toward a common result

Several lines of evidence **converge** to support the evolutionary hypothesis.

MEMORY CUE: Separate paths converge when they approach and meet at one point.

010 distilled *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Purified by the process of evaporation and condensation

The author **distilled** decades of research into a slim volume accessible to any educated reader.

MEMORY CUE: Distilled liquid emerges purified after evaporation and condensation.

011 eradicate *verb*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

To destroy completely; to put an end to

The global campaign to **eradicate** polio has been one of public health's greatest successes.

MEMORY CUE: To eradicate weeds, pull out every root so none survives.

012 excavated *verb (past participle)*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Systematically dug up for archaeological study

The team **excavated** a burial chamber containing jewelry, pottery, and tools dating to the third millennium BCE.

MEMORY CUE: Archaeologists excavated the site by carefully digging buried remains upward.

013 exotic *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

(Of a species) introduced from another country or region; non-native

Exotic species introduced by trading ships have displaced native plants throughout the island's coastal ecosystems.

MEMORY CUE: An exotic species arrives from a foreign region rather than growing natively.

014 expedite *verb*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

To make an action or process happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly

The new software was designed to **expedite** the processing of insurance claims.

MEMORY CUE: An express lane expedites the process and brings the finish sooner.

015 fauna *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The animals of a particular region, habitat, or geological period

The island's **fauna** includes several species found nowhere else on Earth, making it a priority for conservation.

MEMORY CUE: Fauna means the animal life found in a region or period.

016 feasible *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Possible and practical to do easily or conveniently

The engineers determined that the bridge design was technically **feasible** but would require an unprecedented span.

MEMORY CUE: A feasible plan crosses both bridges marked POSSIBLE and PRACTICAL.

017 flotation *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The action of floating on or in a liquid; an experiment testing buoyancy

The engineers tested the raft's **flotation** capacity before allowing passengers aboard for the river crossing.

MEMORY CUE: Flotation tests whether an object can stay floating on liquid.

018 fragments *noun (plural)*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Broken pieces; incomplete remnants of a larger object

Only **fragments** of the original manuscript survive, but they are enough to reconstruct the author's central argument.

MEMORY CUE: Fragments are broken pieces left after a larger whole shatters.

019 glaciers *noun (plural)*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Massive, slow-moving bodies of ice formed from compacted snow on land

As **glaciers** retreat due to rising temperatures, they expose landscapes that have been buried under ice for millennia.

MEMORY CUE: Glaciers are immense rivers of compacted ice moving slowly across land.

020 gravitational *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Relating to the force of attraction between masses

The **gravitational** pull of Jupiter shields the inner planets from many asteroids that might otherwise strike Earth.

MEMORY CUE: Gravitational force pulls masses toward one another across space.

021 hearth *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The floor of a fireplace; a structure for containing fire

The ancient **hearth** at the center of the dwelling contained charcoal that could be radiocarbon dated.

MEMORY CUE: The hearth is the fire-holding floor at the heart of a home.

022 heterogeneous *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Diverse in character or content; composed of different or dissimilar elements

The city's **heterogeneous** population, drawn from dozens of countries, made it a vibrant center of cultural exchange.

MEMORY CUE: A heterogeneous mixture visibly contains many different kinds of pieces.

023 inert *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Lacking the power to move or act; having no effect

Noble gases are chemically **inert**, rarely reacting with other elements under normal conditions.

MEMORY CUE: An inert object remains still because it lacks the strength to move.

024 infrared *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Relating to electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths longer than visible light, perceived as heat

Infrared telescopes can detect heat signatures from celestial objects invisible to optical instruments.

MEMORY CUE: Infrared lies just beyond visible red and is commonly sensed as heat.

025 interchangeable *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Able to be exchanged with each other; essentially identical

The parts were designed to be **interchangeable**, so that a broken component could be replaced without custom fabrication.

MEMORY CUE: Interchangeable parts trade places while the machine continues working the same way.

026 inventory *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Goods and materials a business holds for sale or for use in production.

Excess **inventory** tied up cash when seasonal products remained in the warehouse after demand had fallen.

MEMORY CUE: Inventory is everything counted inside the warehouse before it is sold or used.

027 inverse *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Opposite in position, direction, order, or effect

The study revealed an **inverse** relationship between screen time and academic performance among adolescents.

MEMORY CUE: An inverse relationship points one arrow up as the other goes down.

028 inversion *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

A reversal of the normal order or arrangement

The temperature **inversion** trapped pollutants close to the ground, creating a thick smog over the city.

MEMORY CUE: Inversion flips the normal order upside down.

029 logistics *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The planning and coordination required to move and store goods, information, or resources.

Improved **logistics** shortened the route from factory to retailer and reduced damage during transportation.

MEMORY CUE: Logistics is the route map coordinating every truck, warehouse, package, and deadline.

030 mediator *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

A person who attempts to resolve a dispute between two or more parties

The retired judge served as a **mediator** between the two factions, earning the trust of both sides.

MEMORY CUE: A mediator stands between disputing parties and helps them find agreement.

031 metaphysics *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The branch of philosophy that deals with the fundamental nature of reality

The seminar on **metaphysics** explored questions about the nature of existence that science alone cannot answer.

MEMORY CUE: Metaphysics asks what reality ultimately is beneath physical appearances.

032 meteorology *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The scientific study of the atmosphere and weather

Advances in **meteorology** have dramatically improved the accuracy of weather forecasts over the past fifty years.

MEMORY CUE: Meteorology studies the atmosphere's weather, winds, clouds, and storms.

033 mitigate *verb*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

To make less severe, serious, or painful

The government introduced new regulations to **mitigate** the environmental impact of industrial waste.

MEMORY CUE: Turn the severity dial downward to mitigate pain or seriousness.

034 offspring *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The young produced by an organism

The biologist tracked the **offspring** of the tagged wolves to study how behavioral traits are passed between generations.

MEMORY CUE: Offspring spring from their parents as the next generation.

035 orbiting *verb (present participle)*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Moving in a curved path around a celestial body

The satellite **orbiting** Mars has transmitted images that reveal ancient river channels on the planet's surface.

MEMORY CUE: An orbiting moon follows a curved path around its planet.

036 overhead *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Ongoing operating expenses that cannot be assigned directly to one product or service.

Rent and administrative salaries remained part of **overhead** even when the factory produced fewer units.

MEMORY CUE: Overhead costs hang above the whole operation rather than attaching to one product.

037 perforated *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Having a hole or holes pierced through it

The **perforated** limestone allowed groundwater to seep through, creating the network of caves beneath the hillside.

MEMORY CUE: Perforated paper contains a line of holes pierced through it.

040 precarious *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Not securely held or in position; dependent on chance; dangerously likely to fall

The company's **precarious** financial position left it vulnerable to even minor market fluctuations.

MEMORY CUE: A cup balanced on an edge occupies a precarious position.

038 pervasive *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Spreading widely throughout an area or group; prevalent

The **pervasive** influence of social media has fundamentally altered how people communicate.

MEMORY CUE: A pervasive scent spreads until it is present throughout the room.

041 procurement *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The organized process by which an organization obtains supplies, services, or equipment.

Centralizing **procurement** allowed the hospital network to negotiate lower prices for commonly used medical supplies.

MEMORY CUE: Procurement is the professional shopping system that gets an organization what it needs.

039 pigment *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

A substance used for coloring; the natural coloring matter of animal or plant tissue

The ancient Egyptians extracted blue **pigment** from lapis lazuli, a stone so rare it was valued more highly than gold.

MEMORY CUE: Pigment supplies the coloring matter in paint, skin, leaves, or fabric.

042 quadrant *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

A section or quarter (here: a region of space)

The telescope was pointed toward a **quadrant** of the sky where astronomers expected to find the newly predicted comet.

MEMORY CUE: A quadrant is one quarter of a circle, plane, or region.

043 rugged *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Having a rough, uneven surface; wild and inhospitable

The **rugged** terrain of the Scottish Highlands has inspired poets and painters for centuries.

MEMORY CUE: Rugged land rises in rough, uneven ground difficult to cross.

044 sedimentary *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Relating to or formed from sediment (material deposited by water, wind, or glaciers)

Fossils are most commonly found in **sedimentary** rock, where layers of sand and mud preserved organisms over millennia.

MEMORY CUE: Sedimentary rock forms as deposited layers of sediment press together.

045 steeped *adjective / past participle*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Deeply immersed in or thoroughly familiar with a subject or activity

The professor, **steeped** in the classical tradition, could quote Virgil and Horace from memory.

MEMORY CUE: A scholar steeped in history is immersed in it like tea in water.

046 sulfur compounds *noun phrase*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Chemical substances containing sulfur combined with other elements

Volcanic emissions rich in **sulfur compounds** can lower global temperatures by reflecting sunlight back into space.

MEMORY CUE: Sulfur compounds join sulfur atoms chemically with other elements.

047 susceptible *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Open or receptive to; capable of being affected by

Coral reefs are especially **susceptible** to changes in ocean temperature, which can trigger widespread bleaching events.

MEMORY CUE: A susceptible plant has a thin shield and is easily affected by frost.

048 temperate *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Relating to moderate climatic regions between the tropics and the poles

The **temperate** forests of the Pacific Northwest support some of the tallest trees and most diverse fungal communities on Earth.

MEMORY CUE: Temperate climates occupy the moderate zones between tropics and poles.

049 **tempo** *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The speed at which a passage of music is played

The conductor gradually increased the **tempo**, building the audience's anticipation toward the symphony's explosive finale.

MEMORY CUE: Tempo is the speedometer showing how quickly music moves.

050 **turnover** *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The rate at which employees leave or inventory is sold and replaced during a period.

High employee **turnover** forced the retailer to spend repeatedly on recruiting and training new workers.

MEMORY CUE: A revolving door captures turnover: people or goods keep leaving and being replaced.

051 **unearthed** *verb (past participle)*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Dug up from the ground; discovered through excavation

Construction workers accidentally **unearthed** a cache of Roman coins buried beneath the foundation of a medieval church.

MEMORY CUE: Archaeologists unearthed the artifact by digging it out of the ground.

052 **unsustainable** *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Not able to be maintained or defended; not supportable

Current rates of groundwater extraction are **unsustainable** and will deplete the aquifer within two decades.

MEMORY CUE: An unsustainable pace exhausts the resources needed to keep it going.

053 **valuation** *noun*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

The process of estimating the monetary worth of something

An independent **valuation** of the company placed its worth at considerably less than the asking price.

MEMORY CUE: Valuation attaches an estimated monetary price to an asset.

054 **vigorous** *adjective*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

Strong, active, and full of energy; characterized by forceful action

A **vigorous** debate erupted on the Senate floor as legislators clashed over the proposed tax reform.

MEMORY CUE: A vigorous body lifts a heavy weight with a full health battery.

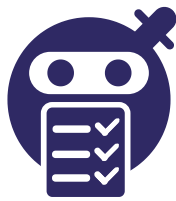
055 warp *verb*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

To become or make bent or twisted out of shape

Extreme heat can **warp** metal rails, creating dangerous gaps that derail trains traveling at high speed.

MEMORY CUE: Heat can warp a board, bending it out of true shape.



GMAT VOCABULARY

Keep building your edge.

Vocabulary grows through repeated exposure and deliberate use.
Revisit this list, write with the words, and practice recognizing their
meaning in context.

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