GRE Quantitative Reasoning: Core Strategy Cheat Sheet

1. Quantitative Comparison (QC) Strategy

QC questions demand a systemic evaluation of relationships rather than laborious arithmetic.

The FROGS Test for Numbers: Always test expressions using Fraction, Radical, Zero, One, Negative, or Same numbers to see if the relationship switches between Quantity A and Quantity B. If it switches, select (D).

Strategy Element	When to Apply	Core Execution
Back- solving	Multiple choice with simple numeric options.	Plug in option (C) first. If too small, try larger choices; if too large, try smaller ones.
Picking Numbers	Abstract variables in choices/question.	Substitute variables with small, easily workable numbers (e.g., x=2, y=3). Avoid 0 and 1 unless testing bounds.

2. High-Yield Data Interpretation Trap Checkpoints

Unit Discrepancies: Check if charts use thousands ($1000s) or percentages while options ask for raw integers.

Percent Change vs. Absolute Change: A steep line graph means high growth rate, but not necessarily the largest total count.