

WARM UP

1 Do you know where Harvard, Columbia and Stanford business schools are located? Quickly look at the texts to see if you were correct.

✦ The **Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)** is one of the main tests used by the world's leading business schools as part of their admissions procedure. The exam can be taken by computer in hundreds of locations around the world. Lasting 3 ½ hours, it consists of four main sections – Analytical Writing, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative and Verbal. International applicants must usually also do a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or similar exam.

First-class business schools in the US

Harvard Business School

‘For over 100 years our students and faculty have shaped business around the world.’

Situated in the heart of Boston, Harvard Business School is in a self-contained, residential campus with classic red-brick buildings and open grassy courtyards. About 80% of the students live on campus which helps increase the sense of community and potential for learning. It was the first business school to offer the MBA qualification and today the MBA is an intensive, two-year residential programme. Statistics for the MBA class of 2014 show that out of 8,963 applications, only 13% were admitted. Out of these 919 students, 40% were women and 34% international students. The average age was 27 and the average **GMAT*** score was 730.



www.hbs.edu

Columbia Business School

‘Columbia MBA graduates don’t just join the workforce – they influence it, shape it, and change it for the better.’

Columbia Business School is located in New York City, not far from Central Park. The campus gives the feel of a small college town, while at the same time all

of New York is instantly accessible. The school was established in 1916. In addition to the MBA, Columbia also offers PhD programmes and Executive Education programmes which are non-degree courses for business managers and company executives. There are 150 full-time faculty members. The average age of students on the full-time MBA is 28, with a GMAT score of 715 and 5 years’ work experience. 38% are international students. (2012 data)



www8.gsb.columbia.edu



Stanford Graduate School of Business

'At Stanford, we launch you into a career with impact and a life of meaning.'

Located in Silicon Valley, just 30 minutes south of San Francisco, Stanford Graduate School of Business offers Masters, PhD and Executive education programmes as well as a two year, full-time residential MBA. The school was founded in 1925 and currently has 115 members of faculty, including 3 Nobel Laureates. For the MBA class of 2014 there were just under 7,000 applicants, with 398 accepted on the programme. The students had an average of 4.2 years' work experience, with a GMAT score of 729. 42% were from overseas. Students can live on or off campus and take advantage of all the facilities, clubs and associations the school and Stanford University have to offer.



www.gsb.stanford.edu

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **BEC** Read the text and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F). If there is not enough information, choose 'doesn't say' (DS).

- 1 Harvard Business School offers the chance to study part-time for an MBA.
- 2 Students learn better if they live on campus at Harvard.
- 3 Columbia Business School does not accept international students.
- 4 Columbia Business School offers courses which do not lead to a degree qualification.
- 5 Stanford GBS is older than Columbia Business School.
- 6 The average GMAT score at Stanford was higher than at the other schools.

| | T | F | DS |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SPEAKING

3 Discuss these questions in small groups.

- 1 Had you already heard of these US business schools? Which do you think is the most prestigious? Why?
- 2 Are there any business schools in your country? What kind of courses do they offer?
- 3 Do you think an MBA is an important qualification?
- 4 What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying full-time and part-time for an MBA?
- 5 If you had the opportunity, would you study in the UK or the US? Which business school would you choose? Why?