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LSAT*

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LSAT

Curvebreakers™

2011 EDITION



*NEW YORK / CHICAGO / SAN FRANCISCO / LISBON / LONDON / MADRID / MEXICO CITY
MILAN / NEW DELHI / SAN JUAN / SEOUL / SINGAPORE / SYDNEY / TORONTO*

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ISBN: 978-0-07-174085-2

MHID: 0-07-174085-6

The material in this eBook also appears in the print version of this title: ISBN: 978-0-07-174084-5, MHID: 0-07-174084-8.

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PART I

GETTING STARTED

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE LSAT

In this chapter you will learn:

- When to take the LSAT and how to register for the test
- The format of a typical LSAT
- How the LSAT is scored
- The three main types of LSAT questions
- Why it makes sense to guess if you cannot answer a question

LSAT Basics

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is required for admission by more than 200 law schools in the United States and Canada that are members of the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). Many law schools that are not LSAC members also require applicants to take the LSAT.

According to the LSAC, the LSAT is designed to measure certain skills that are considered vital to success in law school. These include the ability to read and understand complicated text passages, to draw reasonable inferences and conclusions from them, to think critically, and to evaluate logical arguments.

When the LSAT Is Given. The LSAC administers the LSAT four times each year at designated test centers in the United States and Canada and throughout the world. The four test dates are typically on Saturdays in February, June, October, and December. Many law schools require that you take the LSAT by December if you are applying for admission

the following fall. However, applicants are often advised to take the test earlier than December, that is, in October or even June of the year before they expect to begin law school.

How to Register. You can register for the LSAT by mail, by telephone, or online. A registration fee is charged. Regular registration takes place until approximately 30 days before the test date. Late registration is allowed until about three weeks before the test date, but a higher fee is charged. You cannot register for the test on the day it is given.

To register, contact the Law School Admission Council at the following address:

Law School Admission Council
662 Penn Street
Box 2000
Newtown, PA 18940-0998
Tel. (215) 968-1001 (service representatives are available on weekdays only)
For online registration: www.LSAC.org

Registration forms are included in the *LSAT and LSDAS Registration/Information Book*, a booklet that is usually available in college and university guidance offices or by mail from the LSAC. If you are registering by mail, fill out the forms in the booklet and mail them in the enclosed, preaddressed return envelope. Faxed registration forms are not accepted.

When you register, you will have the opportunity to select a first-choice and second-choice test center located near you. If both centers you select are full or unavailable, the LSAC will assign you to another center located as near to you as possible.

Alternative Testing Arrangements. If you observe Saturday Sabbaths, you may take the LSAT on the Monday following the regular Saturday testing date. To do so, you must submit to the LSAC a letter from your rabbi or minister on official stationery confirming your religious affiliation.

Special testing accommodations are also available for test takers with documented disabilities. To request these arrangements, obtain an accommodations request packet by contacting the LSAC either by mail or online. The LSAC urges test takers who wish to request special testing accommodations to do so well in advance of the registration deadline.

Obtaining Your Score. If you have an online account with the LSAC, you will receive your LSAT score by email in about three weeks after taking the test. There is no charge for doing so, and this is the fastest way to obtain your score. You can also obtain your score by telephoning TelScore at (215) 968-1200 approximately three weeks after taking the test. You will be asked to pay a \$10 fee by credit card. Approximately four weeks after each test, the LSAC mails score reports to test takers. If you have an online LSAC account, you will be charged a \$25 fee for hardcopy mailings of the score information available to you online.

Taking the Test More Than Once. You may take the LSAT up to three times within any two-year period. However, the LSAC advises test takers to take the test again only if they believe that their first test score was negatively affected by a circumstance such as anxiety or illness. For most test takers, taking the test again does not result in a substantially different score, and test takers should keep in mind that their second or third score might actually be lower than their first. If you do take the test more than once, your score report will show all your scores. In addition, an average score is calculated and reported.

Reporting Scores to Law Schools. Nearly all American Bar Association–approved law schools require test takers to make use of the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS), a service provided by the LSAC. To take advantage of this service, you must provide the LSDAS with school transcripts and letters of recommendation. The LSDAS combines that information with LSAT scores and copies of your writing sample and creates a complete report that is provided to every law school to which you apply.

What's on the LSAT

The LSAT is one of the most demanding standardized tests in existence. It tests your ability to answer questions that involve difficult logical transitions, syllogisms, and inductive reasoning—and to answer them quickly. The funny thing is that if given enough time, most people would be able to work through the questions and get most of them right. However, the LSAT gives you nowhere near enough time to do this. Instead, you are forced to operate under severe time pressure. Most test sections have between 24 and 27 questions that you are required to answer in a 35-minute time span. This is an average of about 1 minute 25 seconds per question. This is not a lot of time, and it is not surprising that most people do not finish many sections of the test. One main purpose of this book is to teach you how to answer LSAT problems quickly and accurately despite their difficulty.

Format of the Test. The LSAT includes five sections of multiple-choice questions. Of these, only four are scored: two Logical Reasoning sections, one Logic Games section, and one Reading Comprehension section. There will also be a fifth section, which is experimental. You are not told which section this one will be, but it can be any one of the three question types and it will not count toward your score. The experimental section is used only to test questions for future versions of the test.

Another part of the test that is not scored is the writing sample. In this test section, you have 30 minutes in which to write a short essay based on a given scenario. The writing sample is given at the very end of the LSAT, after you have completed all the other sections. It does not contribute to your LSAT score, but it is sometimes read by the admission committees at the schools to which you apply. The writing sample gives committee members an idea of how well you write and take sides in an argument.

The following chart summarizes the format of a typical LSAT.

Typical LSAT Format

Section*	Number of Questions	Time Allowed, Minutes
1 Logic Games	22–24	35
2 Logical Reasoning	24–26	35
3 Reading Comprehension	25–27	35
4 Logical Reasoning	24–26	35
5 Writing Sample	—	30
Total	100–101	170

*Graded sections only.

Note: All sections except the Writing Sample may appear in any order. An ungraded experimental section is also included in each test form.

LSAT Scores

There are typically about 101 questions that are graded on the LSAT. There are usually about 50 in the two Logical Reasoning sections, 23 in the Logic Games section, and 26 in the Reading Comprehension section. If you add up the total number that you get correct on these sections, you will have your **raw score**. No points are deducted for wrong answers, and all questions count the same.

Some LSATs are easier than others, and some are more difficult. To account for this variation, a statistical procedure is used to convert your raw score to a **scaled score**. Scaled scores range from **120 to 180**.

LSAT scores also include a percentile rank. This rank indicates the percentage of test takers who scored below your reported test score.

LSAT Question Types

The three types of multiple-choice questions on the LSAT are logic games, logical reasoning, and reading comprehension.

Logic Games. The Logic Games section of the LSAT consists of a series of “games,” each of which specifies certain relationships among a group of variables. The questions ask you to deduce additional relationships based on the given facts. Generally, math majors and others who are good at analytical reasoning do well on this section.

Here is a sample of a logic game:

Anna, Bill, Claire, Dale, Emily, and Fanny are flying in an airplane. They sit in six seats that are aligned in two columns of three:

1	2
3	4
5	6

Their seating order is determined by the following constraints:

- Anna sits in a lower-numbered seat than Bill.
- Claire sits immediately behind Fanny.
- Dale does not sit in the same row as Fanny or Emily.
- Bill sits in the same column as Emily.

Following this setup there will be five to eight questions, each of which will ask you to make a logical deduction based on the information and the rules (“constraints”) of the game. Here is a typical question:

1. If Dale sits in seat 2, then which of the following must not be true?

- (A) Fanny sits in seat 1.
- (B) Anna does not sit in seat 3.
- (C) Claire sits in seat 5.
- (D) Bill sits in seat 4.
- (E) Emily sits in seat 6.

Correct answer: **A**.

Test takers who prepare carefully for the Logic Games section can significantly improve their scores. Certain diagramming techniques and ways of setting up the games can greatly increase both speed and accuracy in this test section. Chapter 3 of this book will provide examples and solution techniques for the following five types of LSAT logic games:

1. Formal Logic
2. Sequencing
3. Linear and Complex Linear
4. Grouping
5. Mapping

Logical Reasoning. In the Logical Reasoning sections of the LSAT, each question starts with a short passage (the “squib”) that discusses a given issue or presents a particular argument. The question then asks you something about the reasoning behind the

issue or the argument. Here is a sample logical reasoning question:

Forest Ranger: Bigfoot is an abominable creature that is larger than any bear and certainly larger than any human being. We are pleased to announce that Bigfoot was spotted yesterday in the park's canyon near the waterfall. Several campers were out eating their lunch on a picnic table near the top of the waterfall when they heard growling and strange noises coming from the base of the waterfall. They looked over the edge to the base of the waterfall and saw a big hairy mammal jump into the pool of water about 200 yards away. The campers screamed in surprise and the creature looked up, shook itself dry, and then ran off into the wilderness.

Which of the following, if true, would undermine the forest ranger's contention that the creature spotted was Bigfoot?

- (A) Bigfoot likes bathing in waterfall pools.
- (B) A camper did not have her glasses with her when looking down to the bottom of the falls.
- (C) Bigfoot roams through northern parklands only during the winter months.
- (D) No hairy mammals were present in the park yesterday besides bears and humans.
- (E) Bigfoot is scared of people, especially when he is spotted and they scream at him.

Correct answer: **D**.

To answer logical reasoning questions correctly, you need to have good critical reading skills and you must be attentive to details. Sometimes small issues present in a long squib can be pivotally important when test takers are deciding between answer choices. Remembering and being able to understand such details is the key to successfully answering logical reasoning questions. Chapter 4 of this book will provide examples and solutions for the following seven types of LSAT logical reasoning questions:

1. Conclusion
2. "Resolve"
3. "Strengthen"
4. "Weaken"
5. Reasoning strategy
6. Analogous reasoning
7. Controversy

For each of these seven question types, there are different things to watch for in the squib and different solution strategies. That is why you need to study each type carefully and to practice with sample questions. All that study takes time, but the payoff is higher scores on two of the four graded LSAT sections—fully half of your total LSAT score!

Reading Comprehension. The Reading Comprehension section contains questions of a type that you have most likely seen before on other standardized tests. The SAT has reading comprehension questions, and those on the LSAT are similar in form. A 400- to 500-word passage is presented and followed by six to eight questions that ask about the passage.

Here is an example of part of a reading comprehension passage and a question based on its content:

As a personification of England, John Bull became a popular caricature during the nineteenth century. John Bull originated as a character in John Arbuthnot's *The History of John Bull* (1712). He became widely known from cartoons by Sir John Tenniel published in the British humor magazine *Punch* during the middle and late nineteenth century. In those cartoons, he was portrayed as an honest, solid, farmer figure, often in a Union Jack waistcoat, and accompanied by a bulldog. He became so familiar that his name frequently appeared in books, plays, periodical titles, and as a brand name or trademark. Although frequently used through World War II, since the 1950s John Bull has been seen less often.

1. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - (A) Uncle Sam, the personification of America, is used in the same way that John Bull is used in England.
 - (B) John Bull is a figure that emerged as a character in a cartoon in a British humor magazine called *Punch*.
 - (C) John Bull, a personification of England, was popular during the nineteenth century but has appeared less often since the 1950s.
 - (D) John Bull was a farmer figure who wore a Union Jack waistcoat and was commonly accompanied by a bulldog.
 - (E) The English people were big fans of John Bull and strongly identified with him as a national figure.

Correct answer: **C**.

To answer reading comprehension questions correctly, you must pay careful attention to details when you read the passages. Chapter 5 of this book will provide examples and solutions for the following six types of LSAT reading comprehension questions:

1. Main point
2. Author's/character's opinion
3. Claims
4. Syntax
5. Inference
6. Support/undermine

You'll learn all about each question type and what to look for when answering questions of each type. You'll also learn techniques to help you retain more information when you read the lengthy reading passages. These techniques can give you the edge you need to succeed in the Reading Comprehension section.

General Strategies

There are several general strategies that you should follow on the LSAT to maximize your score.

1. **Pace Yourself.** Pay attention to the passing of time during the test so that you know whether you need to work faster. Consider bringing an analog watch so you can keep track of the time. If you decide to do so, practice with the watch so that you are used to pacing yourself.

During the test, if you come to a particularly difficult or time-consuming question, mark it and move on. You can always return to it if you have time at the end. Don't let one question drag you down.

2. **Read Critically.** Keep this tip in mind at all times. If you are able to train yourself to read critically and to pay attention to the important points, then you will have an advantage over other test takers.

Also, if you read critically, you will be less likely to make careless errors. The test writers love to use words like *not*, *except*, *only if*, and *but* that you might overlook if you aren't reading carefully, but that can change the entire meaning of a sentence. If you miss one of these words because you aren't reading critically, chances are you'll pick the wrong answer.

3. **Cross Out Obviously Wrong Answers.** Once you have practiced with many sample LSAT questions, you should be able to look at each actual test question and recognize obviously wrong answers. On a typical question, as

many as three answers may be obviously wrong. Take a moment to cross out those answers. Then you can focus on the remaining choices, one of which is the correct answer. In addition, if you are forced to guess, then narrowing down the choices will improve your chances of picking the correct answer.

4. **Answer Every Question.** The LSAT has no penalty for guessing, so mark an answer to every question even if you have no idea what the correct answer is. If you are able to eliminate a couple of choices before guessing, then all the better—you'll be that much more likely to pick the right answer. It is never in your best interest to leave a question blank. As you work on your pacing, make sure you leave time at the end to answer any questions that you have not worked.
5. **Diagram Whenever Possible.** The diagramming tools that you will learn in this book for logic games, scholarly reading, and certain logical reasoning questions set you apart from your competition. Don't forget to use these tools on the day of the test! Use them as often as you can so that you will derive the maximum benefit from them.

Law School Admissions

To get into law school, you need more than just a great LSAT score. There are three basic factors that make up your admissions package:

- Admissions Index
- Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Statement

I. ADMISSIONS INDEX

Your admissions index is a number that consists of your undergraduate grade-point average and your LSAT score. The LSAT score is nearly always given more weight. This number may vary from school to school. By working through this book, you are positioning yourself to achieve the very best LSAT score you can. It is probably too late to change your undergraduate GPA, so all you can do there is request transcripts from every undergraduate institution you attended.

2. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

You should request letters of recommendation from a minimum of four people. Whom should you

choose? Law school admission officers are looking for assurance that you will be able to thrive in the high-pressure academic world of law school. Therefore, most people submit letters from college professors. If at all possible, choose professors who will remember your name and who will attest to your eager, hard-working character. Choose at least one from your major field of study, and only choose professors in whose courses you did well.

3. PERSONAL STATEMENT

Almost all law school applications require you to answer questions about your background and experiences and why you want to attend law school. These are probably the most important questions on the applications, and they are the only thing you can truly, totally control. After you write them, be sure to proofread them for errors. Use the spell-check and grammar-check features on your word-processing program. Then have a couple of other people read them to catch anything you may have missed. Update your résumé or create one if you don't already have one.

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

Following is the order of activities most people follow when applying for law school. You should give yourself between 12 and 18 months from beginning this

process to the start of school. It can be done in less time, but it is not easy to do so and will cause you unnecessary stress during an already stressful process. Begin as early as possible!

1. Prepare for the LSAT.
2. Decide which law schools you wish to apply to, and find out their admission deadlines.
3. Register for the LSAT and LSDAS.
4. Contact your undergraduate schools and have copies of your official transcripts sent to LSAC to be included in your LSDAS package.
5. Contact the people you wish to receive letters of recommendation from and request those letters. Writers may send them to LSAC to be included in your LSDAS package.
6. Take the LSAT and view your score report.
7. View your Master Law School Report from LSAC and make sure all parts are there and are correct.
8. Apply to your chosen schools. U.S. law schools will accept electronic applications that you can complete at www.lzac.org.
9. Order LSAC reports online if you are applying to a U.S. school.
10. Make sure your transmissions went through, and keep an eye on the status of your filings.

CHAPTER 2

DIAGNOSTIC TEST

In this chapter you will:

- Take a full-length sample LSAT under actual test conditions
- Practice with every type of LSAT question
- Read explanations for every question
- Review your results to identify your strengths and weaknesses

The following test has been carefully modeled on the actual LSAT in terms of number of questions, types of questions, and degree of difficulty. You can use it to identify your strengths and weaknesses as you begin your LSAT preparation program.

The chart shown below summarizes the organization of this Diagnostic Test.

When you take this Diagnostic Test, try to simulate actual test conditions. Find a quiet place where you will not be disturbed. Set aside enough time so that you can

complete the entire test without being interrupted. Follow the time limits for each test section. Use the Answer Sheet to record your answers.

When you are finished, check your answers against the Answer Key located at the end of the test. Then follow the instructions to calculate your score. Review the answers and explanations that follow, especially for those questions you missed. Use your results to plan your LSAT preparation program.

Diagnostic Test

Section Number	Question Type	Number of Questions	Time Allowed, Minutes
1	Logical Reasoning	25	35
2	Logic Games	24	35
3	Logical Reasoning	25	35
4	Reading Comprehension	27	35
		Total	101
			2 hrs, 20 min

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ANSWER SHEET

Directions for Test

- Before beginning the test, photocopy this Answer Sheet or remove it from the book. Mark your answer to each question in the space provided. If a section has fewer questions than answer spaces, leave the extra spaces blank.
- *Note:* If you have purchased the book-CD version of *McGraw-Hill's LSAT*, you may enter your answers directly on your computer rather than on this Answer Sheet. The CD program will automatically calculate your score, provide explanations for every question, and show you which question types were easiest for you and which ones were most difficult.

SECTION 1

1. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
2. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
4. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
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26. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
27. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
28. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
29. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
30. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

SECTION 2

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30. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

SECTION 3

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SECTION 4

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SECTION 1
Time—35 minutes
25 questions

Directions: The questions in this section are based on brief statements or passages. Choose your answers based on the reasoning in each passage. Do not make assumptions that are not supported by the passage or by common sense. For some questions, more than one answer choice may be possible, so choose the *best* answer to each question—that is, the one that is most accurate and complete. After you have chosen your answer, mark the corresponding space on the Answer Sheet.

Questions 1–2 are based on the following passage:

Advertising Executive: One in every six Americans chews gum on a daily basis. Out of this number, seven out of ten choose chewing gum, two out of ten choose bubble gum, and one out of ten states no preference. Our client’s share of the market will be most increased, therefore, if we focus our television advertising campaign on our client’s chewing gum product rather than its bubble gum.

1. Which of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion of the advertising executive’s argument?
 - (A) Any advertising campaign should focus on the needs of the largest section of the purchasing population.
 - (B) Focusing the advertising campaign on bubble gum could increase the proportion of people who choose bubble gum.
 - (C) The client’s market share would be most increased by ignoring bubble gum and advertising chewing gum exclusively.
 - (D) Increasing the client’s market share is the most important goal of the advertising campaign.
 - (E) Focusing the advertising campaign on bubble gum would be less effective than focusing it on chewing gum.
2. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the executive’s argument?
 - (A) Nine out of ten chewing gum chewers claim not to be affected by the advertising of brand rivals.
 - (B) Bubble gum chewers do not watch television.
 - (C) Fewer Americans chew gum now than 20 years ago.
 - (D) Chewing gum chewers do not watch television.
 - (E) Most people already prefer his client’s chewing gum to its bubble gum.

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