



College of
Arts & Sciences
Office of Pre-Law Advising

LSAT OVERVIEW

The LSAT (Law School Admission Test) is an entrance exam required for admission to most law schools. The purpose of the LSAT is to test the skills necessary for success in the first year of law school. Those skills include reading comprehension, logical and analytical reasoning, and writing, and the test results help admission decision makers and candidates alike gain valuable insight as to law school readiness. Studies have consistently shown the LSAT is the single best predictor of first-year law school performance, even better than undergraduate grade-point average. The LSAT has a score range of 120 – 180. The national average for test-takers is around 152. Scores below 145 are not typically competitive for admission to law school.

The LSAT is the only test accepted by all ABA-accredited law schools. Some law schools will accept tests other than the LSAT for admission such as the GRE. However, students who want to maximize their chances for admission, scholarships, and to be best prepared for law school, are usually advised to take the LSAT.

The LSAT is administered in two parts.

The first part of the test is a multiple-choice exam that includes 35-minute sections of reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, and logical reasoning questions. An unscored variable or experimental section is included with the three scored sections. The unscored section can appear in any order among the four sections of the test.

Beginning in August 2024, the Analytical Reasoning section, often referred to as “Logic Games,” will no longer be included on the test. Instead, a second section of Logical Reasoning will replace it.

The second part of the test is a written essay, called LSAT Writing. LSAT Writing is separately administered online using secure proctoring software on the candidate’s own computer. Candidates can complete their LSAT Writing as early as eight (8) days prior to the multiple-choice exam. Candidates must have a complete writing sample in their file to see their score or have their score released to schools. **Test takers who pay for the Score Preview option (discussed below) must also have LSAT Writing completed before their score will be released.**

Beginning with the August 2024 LSAT, the Writing portion of the exam will be changing. The new format will have test takers draft an argumentative essay in which they take a position on a debatable issue, while addressing arguments and ideas presented in the

prompt. This new format is only required for students who do not already have a prior LSAT Writing sample on record.

Starting with the August 2023 test administration, test takers are permitted to take the LSAT five (5) times within the current reportable score period (five years) and a total of seven (7) times over a lifetime.

LSAT SECTIONS

1. Analytical Reasoning - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KG8imiLzVQ&t=1s>

Beginning in August 2024, the Analytical Reasoning section, often referred to as “Logic Games,” will no longer be included on the test. Instead, a second section of Logical Reasoning will replace it.

These questions are designed to assess your ability to consider a group of facts and rules, and, given those facts and rules, determine what could or must be true. Analytical Reasoning questions appear in sets, with each set based on a single passage. The passage used for each set of questions describes a scenario involving ordering relationships or grouping relationships, or a combination of both types of relationships.

Analytical Reasoning questions test a range of deductive reasoning skills such as: inferring what could be true or must be true from given facts and rules; inferring what could be true or must be true from given facts and rules together with new information presented in hypotheticals; and recognizing when two statements are logically equivalent in context.

[Analytical Reasoning Sample Questions – https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/taking-lsat/test-format/analytical-reasoning/analytical-reasoning-samplequestions](https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/taking-lsat/test-format/analytical-reasoning/analytical-reasoning-samplequestions)

2. Logical Reasoning - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKugS5w50tI>

Logical Reasoning questions are designed to evaluate your ability to examine, analyze, and critically evaluate arguments as they occur in ordinary language. These questions are based on short arguments drawn from a wide variety of sources, including newspapers, general interest magazines, scholarly publications, advertisements, and informal discourse. These arguments mirror legal reasoning in the types of arguments presented, although few of the arguments have law as a subject matter.

Each Logical Reasoning question requires you to read and comprehend a short passage, then answer one or two questions about it. The questions are designed to assess a wide range of skills involved in thinking critically, with an emphasis on skills that have proven to be central to legal reasoning. These skills include: Recognizing the parts of an argument and their relationships; Recognizing similarities and differences between patterns of

reasoning; Drawing well-supported conclusions; Identifying flaws in arguments; and identifying explanations.

Logical Reasoning Sample Questions – <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/test-format/logical-reasoning/logical-reasoning-sample-questions>

3. Reading Comprehension - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1XIRig0R70>

Reading Comprehension questions are designed to measure the ability to read, with understanding and insight, examples of lengthy and complex materials similar to those commonly encountered in law school. The Reading Comprehension section of the LSAT contains four sets of reading questions, each set consisting of a selection of reading material followed by five to eight questions. The reading selection in three of the four sets consists of a single reading passage; the other set contains two related shorter passages. Sets with two passages are a variant of Reading Comprehension called Comparative Reading. Comparative Reading questions concern the relationships between the two passages, such as those of generalization/instance, principle/application, or point/counterpoint. Law school classes often require reading two or more texts in conjunction with each other and understanding their relationships.

Reading selections for LSAT Reading Comprehension questions are drawn from a wide range of subjects in the humanities, the social sciences, the biological and physical sciences, and areas related to the law. Generally, the selections are densely written, use high-level vocabulary, and contain sophisticated argument or complex rhetorical structure (for example, multiple points of view). Reading Comprehension questions require you to read carefully and accurately, to determine the relationships among the various parts of the reading selection, and to draw reasonable inferences from the material in the selection.

Reading Comprehension Sample Questions – <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/test-format/reading-comprehension/reading-comprehensionsample-questions>

LSAT FEES

The basic LSAT fee is \$222. Other fees associated with the LSAT include a test date change fee and score preview fee. For the Test Date Change, there is no fee if the date is changed prior to the registration deadline. Up to 10 days after the registration deadline, the fee is \$135.

Score Preview is available to all test-takers. This option allows test takers to see their LSAT score before deciding whether to keep it and have it reported to law schools. The fee is \$45 for candidates who sign up prior to their test and increases to \$75 if signing up after their exam. Once LSAT scores are released, candidates will have six (6) calendar days to decide

if they want to cancel their score. If no action is taken, the score will be added to their LSAC account and released to law schools. The Office of Pre-law Advising encourages all students to speak with a Pre-law Advisor before deciding to cancel a score.

LSAT STUDY AND PREP

Take the LSAT in the Spring or early Summer of your Junior year if you plan to apply for the following cycle and you are well-prepared. This allows you to focus on the other elements of your applications during the Fall of your Senior year. Taking the LSAT early also allows you to retake it in Fall if you didn't get the score you want and still get your applications in early.

Carefully consider the resources you use to prepare for the LSAT. Find resources that work for you. Do some self-assessment regarding how you learn best to determine whether an in-person class, online class, or a self-study plan would work best for you. The Office of Pre-law Advising doesn't endorse any one study guide, but we do keep a list of programs recommended by Pre-law students.

Check out our LSAT Resource Guide: <http://prelaw.ua.edu/lSAT-resource-guide/>

LSAC is committed to assisting test takers with disabilities and any accommodations they might need. For information regarding accommodations for the LSAT, please see LSAC's website: <https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/lSAT-policy-accommodations-test-takers-disabilities>

LSAT STUDY SCHEDULE

Begin studying five to nine months before you plan on taking the test. Block off time in your weekly schedule specifically for LSAT prep and have an idea of what you want to accomplish during that set time. After learning the fundamentals of each section and question type, take numerous practice tests under timed conditions. Completing each section in the 35-minute time window is the greatest obstacle most students face.

You should generally be devoting about 10-20 hours per week to studying, especially in the months immediately leading up to the test. Treat studying like a part-time job. You shouldn't study sporadically or only look at materials in your spare time.

If your baseline results fall short of your target score, you may need more time to prepare. Keep in mind that many students who are ultimately successful end up needing more study and prep time than they originally anticipated.

Be prepared the first time you take the LSAT. Most law schools will take your highest score, but all your scores will be reported to the law schools you apply to. You want to be as prepared as possible, giving yourself the best chance to make the score you want, the first time you take it.