

Lsat Study Guide

Recommended LSAT Study Guide

Shared by T. Mauck, UNH '08, MA '09

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General Notes:

- This study schedule is designed around a four month period, but it can be compressed or expanded to fit a different time span.
- Find someone (or a group) to study with. A study partner will help defray the costs of the prep materials and will help in keeping you motivated.
- At least two weeks before the test (preferably a month before), set up a sleeping schedule where you go to bed and get up at the same times as you will on test day.
- Do some form of aerobic exercise at least three days a week and maintain a healthy diet.
- You will need an analog wristwatch that has a second's hand for timing. Make sure you practice with the same watch that you'll be using on test day, so to familiarize yourself with the watch.
- Study in places where there are distractions, so you can learn how to ignore them (i.e. the reading room at the library, a coffee shop, etc.).
- **Read everything.** Dense novels: Joyce, Faulkner, etc. News publications: The New York Times, the Economist, etc. Journals: American Scientific, etc. (all of these materials can be found at the UNH library).
- Find a method of timing that works for you (the PowerScore books have an informative section on this).
- A good way to take practice tests is to take the test at 8:00am, have lunch, and then go over the test in the afternoon.
- **On days when you are not testing, go over questions from previous tests that you either got wrong or struggled with.**
- If you get behind on the testing schedule, and you cannot catch-up, skip to the more recent tests because the test has evolved over time so you want to make sure that you've taken the most recent tests because they will be the most like the test you'll see on your actual test day.
- If you are a current student, I recommend that you take either the June or October administration. I favor the October administration because it gives you the whole summer to study.
- Visit the law school discussion forum, Top-Law-Schools, found here: <http://www.top-law-schools.com/>. There is a wealth of knowledge on this site about the LSAT and applying for law school in general. As a disclaimer, neither I nor UNH is responsible for the material on the website, so visit at your own discretion.
- Always use a bubble sheet when doing timed tests. Transferring answers takes a few seconds and you want this to be reflected in your practice.
- **If you are serious about doing well on the LSAT, you should be prepared to invest at least 20 hours a week into studying for a four month period.**

LSAT Study Guide

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a standardized test that plays a crucial role in the law school admission process. For many aspiring lawyers, preparing for the LSAT can be a daunting task. This comprehensive LSAT study guide aims to provide you with the essential tools, strategies, and resources to succeed on the test. By understanding the structure of the exam, developing effective study habits, and utilizing the right materials, you can maximize your potential and achieve the score you desire.

Understanding the LSAT Structure

The LSAT consists of several components that assess various skills necessary

for success in law school. Understanding these components is essential for effective study preparation.

1. Test Format

The LSAT is divided into the following sections:

- Logical Reasoning (2 sections): These sections evaluate your ability to analyze and critically assess arguments. You will encounter a variety of question types that require you to identify assumptions, evaluate reasoning, and draw conclusions.
- Analytical Reasoning: Often referred to as "Logic Games," this section tests your ability to understand and work with complex relationships. You will be presented with a scenario and a set of rules, then asked to make deductions based on the information provided.
- Reading Comprehension: This section assesses your ability to read and understand complex texts, a critical skill for law students. You will read passages and answer questions related to their content, structure, and arguments.
- Writing Sample: While this section is not scored, it is sent to law schools as a sample of your writing abilities. You will be asked to respond to a prompt, presenting an argument and supporting it with evidence.
- Unscaled Variable Section: This section is used to test new questions and does not count toward your score. You will not know which section is unscaled, so it is important to treat all sections with equal importance.

2. Scoring Overview

The LSAT is scored on a scale of 120 to 180, with each question contributing to your raw score. The following scoring components are important to note:

- Raw Score: The total number of correct answers you achieve on the multiple-choice sections.
- Scaled Score: Your raw score is converted to a scaled score through a process called equating, which accounts for variations in test difficulty.
- Percentiles: LSAT scores are accompanied by percentile rankings, indicating how your score compares to that of other test-takers.

Creating a Study Plan

A well-structured study plan is essential for effective LSAT preparation. Below are steps to create a personalized study plan.

1. Assess Your Current Skill Level

Before diving into LSAT preparation, take a diagnostic test to evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. This will help you identify areas that require more focus.

2. Set Realistic Goals

Establish clear, achievable goals for your LSAT score based on your target law schools. Research the median LSAT scores of admitted students to help set your target score.

3. Allocate Study Time

Decide how many weeks or months you have until your test date and create a weekly study schedule. Aim for at least 10-15 hours of study time per week, but adjust according to your personal commitments and learning pace.

4. Break Down Your Study Sessions

Plan your study sessions to focus on different sections of the LSAT. Consider the following structure:

- Week 1-2: Focus on Logical Reasoning
- Week 3-4: Concentrate on Analytical Reasoning
- Week 5-6: Dedicate time to Reading Comprehension
- Week 7-8: Review all sections and take practice tests

Effective Study Strategies

Implementing effective study strategies will enhance your preparation and boost your confidence on test day.

1. Utilize High-Quality Study Materials

Invest in reputable study resources, including:

- Prep Books: Look for comprehensive LSAT prep books from well-known publishers like Kaplan, Princeton Review, or LSAC.
- Online Courses: Consider enrolling in an online LSAT prep course that offers structured lessons, practice questions, and personalized feedback.
- Official LSAT Prep Tests: Use official prep tests from LSAC to familiarize yourself with the format and types of questions.

2. Practice, Practice, Practice

Regular practice is vital for LSAT success. Here are some tips:

- **Timed Practice Tests:** Simulate test day conditions by taking full-length, timed practice tests. This will help you manage your time effectively during the actual exam.
- **Review Mistakes:** After each practice session, thoroughly review your answers, paying special attention to the questions you missed. Understanding your errors is key to improvement.

3. Develop Test-Taking Strategies

Effective test-taking strategies can significantly impact your performance. Consider the following:

- **Elimination Method:** When unsure about an answer, eliminate the choices you know are incorrect to improve your odds of guessing correctly.
- **Pacing:** Monitor your time during each section to ensure you complete all questions. Aim to spend a set amount of time per question and move on if you're stuck.
- **Stay Calm:** Develop relaxation techniques to manage anxiety. Deep breathing or visualization can help center your focus.

Resources for LSAT Preparation

In addition to study materials, various resources can support your LSAT preparation.

1. Online Forums and Communities

Join online forums such as Reddit's LSAT community or LSAT Unplugged. Engaging with fellow test-takers can provide valuable insights, study tips, and motivation.

2. Study Groups

Consider forming a study group with peers preparing for the LSAT. Collaborative studying can help keep you accountable and provide diverse perspectives on challenging questions.

3. Tutoring Services

If you find certain areas particularly challenging, consider hiring a tutor who specializes in LSAT preparation. A tutor can provide personalized guidance and strategies tailored to your needs.

Final Preparations

As your test date approaches, focus on refining your skills and maintaining your confidence.

1. Review Key Concepts

In the final weeks, revisit key concepts and strategies, ensuring you're comfortable with the material.

2. Practice with Realistic Conditions

In your last practice tests, simulate the actual testing environment to build familiarity and reduce anxiety.

3. Take Care of Yourself

Remember to prioritize self-care leading up to the exam. Ensure you're getting enough sleep, eating well, and managing stress.

Conclusion

Preparing for the LSAT is a significant undertaking, but with the right study guide and strategies, you can approach the test with confidence. By understanding the exam structure, creating a tailored study plan, and utilizing effective resources, you set yourself on the path to success. Remember, consistency and perseverance are key—stay committed to your preparation, and you'll be well-equipped to achieve your desired LSAT score. Good luck!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the best LSAT study guides available in 2023?

Some of the top LSAT study guides in 2023 include The LSAT Trainer by Mike Kim, PowerScore LSAT Bible Series, and Kaplan's LSAT Prep Plus. Each offers comprehensive strategies, practice questions, and explanations.

How long should I study for the LSAT using a study guide?

Most experts recommend studying for at least 3 to 6 months, dedicating around 10 to 20 hours per week to ensure thorough preparation using your study guide.

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