

LSAT Quick Guide

University of South Alabama Prelaw

What is the LSAT? Format & Sections

The LSAT is a multiple choice, skillsbased exam designed to measure your preparedness for law school.

The LSAT is administered in two parts. The first part consists of three scored sections: two sections of Logical Reasoning and one of Reading Comprehension, and an unscored experimental section of either Logical Reasoning or Reading Comprehension.

The second part of the LSAT consists of an unscored argumentative writing essay. This part is administered separately online and can be taken as early as eight days prior to the date of your LSAT test day and anytime up to a year after it.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Logical Reasoning (2 Scored Sections)	Evaluates the ability to analyze, evaluate, and complete arguments.	35 Mins each
Reading Comprehension (1 Scored Section)	Features long, complex passages from humanities, social sciences, and law.	35 Mins
Unscored Section (1 Variable)	An "experimental" section used to vet future questions. It can be Logical Reasoning or Reading Comprehension.	35 Mins

Argumentative Writing	A separate, unscored (but seen by law schools) essay taken online. Taken on a different day. Can	50 Mins
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Logical Reasoning:

This section tests the ability to analyze and evaluate arguments and makes up ~~two~~ ^{two} of the scored exam.

Students read a short paragraph (25 sentences) and must identify the conclusion, find a hidden assumption, strengthen/weaken the argument, or spot a logical flaw.

Example Question:

Every time the local professional basketball team plays a home game, ~~the~~ ^{city's} downtown traffic is significantly slower. Therefore, the basketball games are the primary cause of the city's traffic problems.

The reasoning in the argument above is most vulnerable to criticism because it:

- A) Fails to consider that traffic could be caused by other factors, such as road construction or other events.
- B) Confuses a correlation (two things happening at once) with a cause-and-effect relationship.
- C) Relies on a sample size that is too small to be representative of the city's overall traffic.
- D) Assumes that the basketball team's popularity will never decline.

Correct Answer: B. The argument assumes that because A and B happen together, A must cause B.

Reading Comprehension

This section measures the ability to understand long, complex, and "dense" texts. It mimics the type of reading required for law school casebooks.

The section includes four sets of reading materials. Three are single long passages; one is a "Comparative Reading" set (two shorter passages on the same topic).

Example:

"...The painter Roy Lichtenstein helped define pop art by paraphrasing the style of comic books. While some critics viewed his work as mere parody, others argued his merger of 'low' culture with fine art forms achieved a seriousness of theme that transcended the original material..."

Which one of the following most accurately describes the "complex result" of Lichtenstein's work as mentioned in the passage?

- A) It generated a new genre of art that was quickly abandoned by critics.
- B) It simultaneously poked fun at the art world while maintaining a serious artistic theme.
- C) It proved that comic books were a more valid art form than abstract expressionism.

Correct Answer: B The passage explicitly mentions that his work both "poked fun" and "conveyed a seriousness of theme."

Argumentative Writing

Students are given a Key Question and 3 Perspectives on that issue. They must write an essay that takes a position, addresses at least one of the provided perspectives, and incorporates their own reasoning.

Students are given 15 minutes for prewriting analysis and then 35 minutes to write.

Example:

Should a university education focus primarily on providing specialized career training, or should it focus on a broad liberal arts curriculum?

Perspective 1: "In a shifting global economy, students need specific, marketable skills to ensure their investment in education leads to employment."

Perspective 2: "The true purpose of university is to teach students *how* to think, not *what* to do. A broad education creates adaptable citizens."

Perspective 3: "Higher education is a luxury that often reinforces social class; therefore, it should be restructured to prioritize equity over curriculum style."

The Student's Goal Write a persuasive essay arguing for one of these views (or a hybrid of them) while explaining why their chosen path is superior to the others.

LSAT Dates 2026-2027

- **June 2026:** June 3–6 (Registration Deadline: April 21, 2026)
- **August 2026:** August 5–8
- **September 2026:** September 9–12
- **October 2026:** October 7–10
- **November 2026:** November 11–14
- **January 2027:** January 13–16

See more info at: [LSAC Official Dates & Deadlines](#)

LSAT Registration

- **Where to Register** Create an account at [LSAC.org](#).
- **Standard Fee** \$248 (includes the LSAT and the Writing section).
- **Credential Assembly Service (CAS)** \$15. Most law schools require this service to centralize your transcripts, letters of rec, and LSAT scores.
- **Fee Waivers** Students with extreme financial need can apply for an [LSAC Fee Waiver](#), which covers two LSATs and the CAS fee.

Study Resources

The "Gold Standard" (Official)

- **[LSAC LawHub](#)** The most essential tool. It uses the exact interface the student will see on test day.

- **Free Tier** Includes four full-length practice tests and drills.
- **LawHub Advantage (\$120/year)** Access to 75+ official practice tests.

Comprehensive Prep Platforms

- **7Sage** Highly popular for its "blind review" method and extensive video explanations for almost every official question.
- **LSAT Demon** Focuses on an "AI-drilling" approach that adapts to the student's skill level to keep them constantly challenged.
- **LSATHacks** Offers free, high-quality written explanations for thousands of LSAT questions—great for students on a budget.