

The LSAT

WHAT?

The LSAT has 4 sections. Each section lasts 35 minutes and contains 20–28 multiple-choice questions. Currently, 3 of these sections are scored and one is an experimental section. While taking the test, you are not told which section is considered experimental.

- **Logical Reasoning:** argument analysis. Short-answer questions asking you to analyze arguments (e.g. “What is the biggest weakness in the argument above?”)
- **Reading Comprehension:** Comparative reading and reading comprehension. Contains four reading passages with 5–8 questions about each. Three of the passages are 450 words. One passage (comparative reading) contains two related shorter passages. You have to relate different parts of the two passages and draw reasonable conclusions.
- **Analytical Reasoning:** Logic games. Includes 4 different logic games with 5–8 questions about each (e.g. “Ms. Jones teaches 7 music lessons each week to A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. Assume A can’t go before B, and B must go after C, etc. Who of the following can have a lesson before B?”)

The score is scaled from 120–180. No penalties are given for wrong answers

WHEN?

The LSAT is offered several times each year. Because many law schools use “rolling admissions”—which means they start reviewing applications as they arrive, some opening as early as September 1—your chance of being accepted to law school is best if you take the LSAT and secure a score by early fall of the year prior to when you plan to attend law school.

HOW TO STUDY

The LSAT is often weighed most heavily in the application review process, so it is important that you prepare seriously. Most students plan to study for 4–6 months, 10–15 hours per week, and take an LSAT preparation class. Others study by taking formerly administered LSAT's. Most, study doing a combination of both. Because this is a test you can improve on but can not really cram for, we encourage you to start studying far sooner than you think to set yourself up to do as well as possible.

RETAKE THE LSAT

Repeat test-takers often score slightly higher. Schools will have access to your complete record. Unusually large differences in scores may require that you include an addendum with your individual school applications in order for you to explain why the higher score is a better indicator of your ability.

CANCELING SCORES

Students who do not wish to have their score recorded may cancel their score. Generally, law schools do not penalize a LSAT score cancellations. Multiple cancellations may require an explanation from the student (see Addendums). You may cancel your score in two ways:

- Complete the score cancellation section on the answer sheet—blacken both bubbles.
- Send a written request to LSAC with your signature. It must be received within 6 calendar days of the test.