

# The LSAT

## What?

The LSAT has 4 sections. Each section lasts 35 minutes and contains 20–28 multiple-choice questions.

- *Logical Reasoning* (repeated twice): 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. The last 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?”)

There are generally 100 questions on every test, but the score is scaled from 120–180. No penalties are given for wrong answers.

## When?

The LSAT is offered 4 times each year: June, October, December, and February. Law school deadlines start as early as February 1, so it is preferable to take the June, October, or December LSAT. 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 in June or October after finishing your junior year so you can submit all your applications in early November of your senior year.

## How to study

The LSAT is often weighed most heavily in the application review process, so it is important that you prepare seriously for it. Most students plan to study for 4–6 months, 10–15 hours per week, and take an LSAT preparation class. You can also take old LSAT tests by signing up for an LSAC account and purchasing tests at <https://os.lsac.org/Release/Shop/Publications.aspx>.

## Retaking 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 single LSAT score cancellation. 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.