

**CLIFFS**

**LSAT**

**PREPARATION GUIDE**



**LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST**

By Peter Z Orton, M.Ed.

CLIFFS

# Law School Admission Test

## PREPARATION GUIDE

*by*

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## PREFACE

**YOUR LSAT SCORE WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!** And thorough preparation can help you do your best! This LSAT study guide is direct, precise, and easy to use. The comprehensive test preparation program can be carefully completed in a reasonable time and provides everything you need to do your best on the LSAT. The strategies and materials presented in this guide have been researched, tested, and evaluated in actual LSAT preparation classes.

This guide also features the **PATTERNED PLAN OF ATTACK** for each section while focusing on:

1. The Ability Tested
2. The Basic Skills Necessary
3. Understanding Directions
4. Analysis of Directions
5. Suggested Approach with Samples
6. Practice-Review-Analyze-Practice

This LSAT study guide includes two complete LSAT practice exams—similar to the actual LSAT in question types and time allotments—with answers and in-depth explanations.

*Cliffs LSAT Preparation Guide* was written to give you maximum return on your investment of study time. Follow the Study Guide Checklist and work through this book systematically. It will give you the edge to do your best!

## STUDY GUIDE CHECKLIST

- 1. Read the LSAT Information Bulletin and Sample Test included in your Registration Packet.
- 2. Become familiar with the Test Format, page 3.
- 3. Familiarize yourself with the answers to Questions Commonly Asked about the LSAT, page 5.
- 4. Learn the techniques of Two Successful Overall Approaches, page 7.
- 5. Carefully read Part II: Analysis of Exam Areas, beginning on page 11
- 6. Strictly observing time allotments, take Practice Test 1, section by section (review answers after each section), beginning on page 51.
- 7. Check your answers and analyze your results, beginning on page 123.
- 8. Fill out the Tally Sheet for Problems Missed to pinpoint your mistakes, page 126.
- 9. While referring to each item of Practice Test 1, study ALL the Answers and Complete Explanations, beginning on page 127.
- 10. Review as necessary the Analysis of Exam Areas, beginning on page 11.
- 11. Strictly observing time allotments, take Practice Test 2, section by section (review answers after each section), beginning on page 153.
- 12. Check your answers and analyze your results, beginning on page 219.
- 13. Fill out the Tally Sheet for Problems Missed to pinpoint your mistakes, page 222.
- 14. While referring to each item of Practice Test 2, study ALL the Answers and Complete Explanations, beginning on page 223.
- 15. Carefully reread Part II: Analysis of Exam Areas, beginning on page 11.
- 16. Go over Final Preparation, page 247.

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## **Part I: Introduction**



## FORMAT OF THE NEW LSAT EXAM

Section	Subject Area (order will vary)	Time	Number of Questions
	Essay	30 Minutes	
I	Reading Comprehension	35 Minutes	25–30
II	Analytical Reasoning	35 Minutes	21–27
III	Evaluation of Facts	35 Minutes	32–38
IV	Logical Reasoning	35 Minutes	24–29
V	Experimental	35 Minutes	varies
VI	Experimental	35 Minutes	varies

Total Time: 210 minutes – 3½ hours (plus ½ hour for writing the essay)

Approximately 170 questions (110–120 questions actually count toward your score) :

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The order in which the sections appear and the number of questions in each section may vary because there are several forms of the new LSAT. *The experimental sections may appear at any point in the test, and each will probably repeat one of the common sections.*

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The LSAT lasts 4 hours. 3½ hours of multiple-choice questions plus a 30-minute unscored essay. All questions are of equal value. The test is scored from 10 to 50. The sections are:

**ESSAY**—You will be asked to write a clear, concise essay on a topic provided. The essay will not be graded, but a copy will be sent along with your test score to your prospective law schools.

**READING COMPREHENSION**—You will answer questions about reading passages from a variety of subject areas. Referring back to the passage is permitted.

**ANALYTICAL REASONING**—You will derive information and deduce spatial and other relationships from groups of conditions or statements.

**EVALUATION OF FACTS**—You will evaluate questions based on a sequence of facts, a dispute, and a pair of rules.

**LOGICAL REASONING**—You will derive logical conclusions and relationships from a variety of situations and passages.

These common sections and the essay question will require no specific knowledge from any specialized course or courses. No formal background in law is required or necessary.

## QUESTIONS COMMONLY ASKED ABOUT THE LSAT

**Q: WHO ADMINISTERS THE LSAT?**

**A:** The Law School Admission Test is administered by Law School Admission Services, Inc. If you wish any information not covered in this book, write to Law School Admission Services, Box 2000, Newtown, PA 18940

**Q: CAN I TAKE THE LSAT MORE THAN ONCE?**

**A:** You may repeat the LSAT, but be advised that your prospective law school(s) will receive all your scores, along with the advice that the average score may be the most accurate indication of your achievement.

**Q. WHAT MATERIALS MAY I BRING TO THE LSAT?**

**A.** Bring your registration form, positive identification, a watch, three or four sharpened Number 2 pencils, and a good eraser. A pen for writing the essay will be provided at the exam. You may not bring scratch paper or books. You may plan your essay using the scratch paper provided and rely on the space provided in the test booklet for scratch work during the objective test.

**Q. IF NECESSARY, MAY I CANCEL MY SCORE?**

**A.** Yes. You may cancel your score by notifying the test center supervisor on the day of the test or by sending a mailgram to LSAS within five days of the test date. Your LSAT score report will note that you have canceled a score and have seen the test questions.

**Q. SHOULD I GUESS ON THE LSAT?**

**A.** Yes. There is no penalty for guessing on the LSAT. Before taking a wild guess, remember that eliminating one or more of the choices increases your chances of choosing the right answer.

**Q: HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THE LSAT?**

**A.** Because knowledge of particular subject matter is not necessary for the LSAT, the mastery of test-taking strategies will contribute most successfully to a good score. Courses involving critical thinking, reading comprehension, writing, and simple logic can also be helpful.

**Q: WHEN IS THE LSAT ADMINISTERED?**

**A:** The LSAT is administered four times during the school year, in October, December, February, and June. Three of these administrations will probably occur on Saturday mornings, beginning at 8:30 A.M., and one administration may occur on a Wednesday afternoon.

**Q: WHERE IS THE LSAT ADMINISTERED?**

**A:** The LSAT is administered at a number of colleges and universities worldwide. A list of testing centers is included in the LSAT/LSDAS Registration Packet, published by LSAS.

**Q: HOW AND WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER?**

**A:** Complete registration materials are included in the LSAT/LSDAS Registration Packet, available free at the Office of Testing or Graduate Studies at your university or from most law schools. To register, mail in the forms provided, along with the appropriate fees. You should register at least five weeks prior to the exam date.

**Q: WHAT IS LSDAS?**

**A:** The Law School Data Assembly Service collects the necessary information for your application to law school, arranges it into the standardized format preferred by many law schools, and mails it upon the applicant's request. Registration material for the LSDAS is provided in the LSAT/LSDAS Registration Packet.

**Q. HOW DOES THE PRESENT LSAT DIFFER FROM PAST ADMINISTRATIONS?**

**A:** Before June, 1982, the LSAT included math sections (Quantitative Comparison and Data Interpretation) and an objective test of "Writing Ability," as well as Practical Judgment and Cases and Principles sections. All of these sections have been removed from the test, and the variable time limits of past sections have been replaced with a uniform 35-minute limit on each section. The only section from the pre-June LSAT that still remains, in somewhat altered form, is Logical Reasoning. No math problems remain on the present test, and the objective Writing Ability sections (Error Recognition/Sentence Correction/Usage) have been replaced with a 30-minute unscored essay question.

## TAKING THE LSAT: TWO SUCCESSFUL OVERALL APPROACHES

Many who take the LSAT don't get their best score because they spend too much time dwelling on hard questions, leaving insufficient time to answer the easy questions they can get right. Don't let this happen to you. Use the following system to mark your answer sheet:

### I. The "Plus-Minus" Strategy

1. Answer easy questions immediately.
2. Place a "+" next to any problem that seems solvable but is too time-consuming, take a guess, and go on to the next question.
3. Place a "-" next to any problem that seems impossible. Act quickly. Don't waste time deciding whether a problem is a "+" or a "-" Then take a guess and move on.

After working all the problems you can do immediately, go back and work your "+" problems. If you finish them, try your "-" problems (sometimes when you come back to a problem that seemed impossible you will suddenly realize how to solve it).

Your answer sheet should look something like this after you finish working your easy questions:

1. (A) ● (C) (D) (E)  
+2. (A) (B) (C) ● (E)  
3. (A) (B) ● (D) (E)  
-4. ● (B) (C) (D) (E)  
+5. (A) (B) (C) ● (E)

Make sure to erase your "+" and "-" marks before your time is up. The scoring machine may count extraneous marks as wrong answers.

By using this overall approach, you are bound to achieve your best possible score

## II. The Elimination Strategy

Take advantage of being allowed to mark in the testing booklet. As you eliminate an incorrect answer choice from consideration, mark it out in your question booklet as follows.

- (A)
- ?(B)
- (C)
- (D)
- ?(E)

Notice that some choices are marked with question marks, signifying that they may be possible answers. This technique will help you avoid reconsidering those choices you have already eliminated and will help you narrow down your possible answers.

These marks in your *testing booklet* need not be erased.



## **Part II: Analysis of Exam Areas**

This section is designed to introduce you to each LSAT area by carefully reviewing the

- 1 Ability Tested
- 2 Basic Skills Necessary
- 3 Directions
- 4 Analysis of Directions
- 5 Suggested Approach with Sample Questions

This section features the PATTERNED PLAN OF ATTACK for each subject area and emphasizes important test-taking techniques and strategies, and how to apply them to a variety of problem types