

Kaplan Method for Logical Reasoning

1. Identify the Question Type
2. Untangle the Stimulus
3. Make a Prediction
4. Evaluate the Answer Choices

Arguments with Mismatched Concepts

Common Types

- Alike/Equivalent
- Mutually Exclusive
- One Term/Concept Needed for the Other
- One Term/ Concept Representative of the Other

Evid: Socrates is human

Conc: Socrates is mortal

Assm: Humans are mortal

Evid: Humans are mortal

Conc: Socrates is mortal

Assm: Socrates is human

Arguments with Overlooked Possibilities

- Assumes there is no other explanation, reason, or outcome
- Assumes that what is sufficient is actually necessary or vice versa
- Assumes that a correlation proves causation
 - Weaken with: 1) Alternative 2) Reversal 3) Coincidence
- Assumes changed or unchanged circumstances to make a prediction
- Assumes that there are no overlooked advantages or disadvantages to a recommendation
- Assumes that something that can occur, will (or should) occur

LOGICAL REASONING QUESTION STRATEGIES

Conclusion Types: Value Judgement, If/Then, Prediction, Comparison, Assertion of Fact, Recommendation

| | Argument-Based Questions | | | | Assumption Family Questions | | | | Non-Argument Questions | | |
|----------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| | Main Point | Role of a Statement | Point at Issue | Method of Argument | Parallel Reasoning | Assumption | Flaw | Strengthen/Weaken | Principle | Inference | Paradox |
| Identity | "main point" "main conclusion" | "plays which one of the following roles" "figures in the argument in which one of the following ways" | "A and B disagree over" "point at issue between" | "responds to... by" "the argument proceeds by" "argumentative strategy" | "parallel to" "similar to" | "assumption" "presuppose" Nec: "requires" "relies" "depends" Suff: "properly drawn/follows logically...if assumed" | "vulnerable to criticism" "questionable" "error of reasoning" "describes a flaw" | "strengthen" "most strongly supports the author" vs. "most weakens" "calls into question" "undermines" | "principle" "proposition" "generalization" "conforms most closely" | "must be true" "follows logically" "can be properly inferred" "...is most strongly supported" "logically completes the passage" | "explain" "reconcile" "resolve" "paradox" "anomaly" "discrepancy" |
| Task | Find the conclusion, using the One Sentence Test if necessary. Be wary of misleading conclusion keywords. | Locate the statement and use keywords to characterize its function in the stimulus. | Find the issue on which both speakers have an opinion and disagree. | Paraphrase the argument into abstract terms. Look for patterns like analogies, examples, and elimination of alternatives. | Compare part, or all, of the stimulus to the choices. Match conclusion types. | Bridge the gap between the evidence and the conclusion. Use the Denial Test on necessary assumptions. | Find disconnects between the evidence and the conclusion, and identify classic flaws.* | Find the answer that makes the conclusion more/less likely to follow from the evidence. | Match all of the salient elements between the principle and the specifics. Use the LR strategy for the Q type it mimics. | Determine what must be true. Look for connections. | Look for the answer that eliminates the mystery and makes the statements consistent. |

*Common Flaw Types: Overlooked Possibilities, Correlation vs. Causation, Necessity vs. Sufficiency, Scope Shifts, Representativeness, Equivocation, Part vs. Whole, Circular Reasoning, Evidence Contradicts Conclusion, Number vs. Percent, Belief/Opinion vs. Fact, Ad Hominem, Absence of Evidence is Evidence of Absence

Kaplan Method for Reading Comp

1. Read the Passage Strategically
2. Identify the Question Type
3. Research the Relevant Text
4. Make a Prediction
5. Evaluate the Answer Choices

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Passage Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event/Phenomenon • Theory/Perspective • Biography • Debate | Passage Types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanities • Law • Natural Science • Social Science | Roadmapping <p>Use Keywords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis/Opinion • Contrast • Logic • Illustration • Sequence/Chronology • Continuation <p>Use Passage Notes</p> <p>Use Big-Picture Summaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic • Scope • Purpose • Main Idea | Common Logical Reasoning & Reading Comp Wrong Answer Types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside the Scope • Extreme • Distortion • Irrelevant Comparison • 180 • Faulty Use of Detail • Half-Right/Half-Wrong |
|---|---|---|---|

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTION STRATEGIES

Research Clues: Proper Nouns and Names, Line References, Direct Quotations, Paragraph References, Content Clues

| | Global | Detail | Inference | Logic Function | Logic Reasoning |
|-----------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| Identify | “main idea” “purpose” “organization” | “according to the author” “according to the passage” “the passage states” “the author mentions” Categorical language | “the author implies” “the passage suggests” “most likely to agree” “author’s attitude can be described as” Loose language | “the author...primarily in order to” “primary purpose of the first paragraph” “best describes the function of” | Will mimic LR question types, including: Strengthen/Weaken– “supports”/“undermines” Principle–“principle” Parallel Reasoning–“analogous” Method of Argument– “relationship” |
| Task | Think big-picture. Review T/S/P/MI. Consult your roadmap. | Research the relevant text. The answer is explicitly stated in the passage. | Consult the relevant text. If no research clues are available, consider the author’s overall perspective. | Look at the context of the detail or paragraph and use keywords to determine why the author put it there. | Use the appropriate LR strategy. |

Kaplan Method for Logic Games

1. Overview— **SEAL**
(Situation, Entities, Action, Limitations)
2. Sketch
3. Rules
4. Deductions
 - B**locks of entities
 - L**imited options
 - E**stablished entities
 - N**umbers
 - D**uplications
5. Questions

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Logic Games Question Types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Acceptability: Use the rules to eliminate violators. ▶ Must Be/Could Be: Characterize the one right and four wrong choices. Consult the Master Sketch and use previous work if necessary. ▶ New-“If”s: Take the “new rule” through Steps 2–4. ▶ Complete and Accurate List: The sketches you make for other questions in the game may help you to narrow the possibilities. ▶ Completely Determine: Pick the one answer that establishes every entity. Nailing down a duplicated entity or a Floater can be helpful. ▶ Maximum and Minimum: Use number deductions. ▶ Rule Substitution: Identify what impact the removed rule had. Find another that has the same impact. | <p>Formal Logic Translations</p> <p>If X → Then Y Sufficient → Necessary Trigger → Result</p> <p>Forming the Contrapositive</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Flip the terms 2) Change + to ~ and vice versa 3) Change “and” to “or” and vice versa | <p>If A then B A → B All C are D C → D No E are F E → ~F Only G are H H → G I only if J I → J No K unless L K → L M if but only if N M → N N → M If O then neither P nor Q O → ~P AND ~Q</p> |
| | <p>X → ~Y ~X → Y Y → ~X ~Y → X</p> <p>Cannot have both X & Y Have just X, just Y, or neither</p> | <p>Must have at least one of X & Y Have just X, just Y, or both X & Y</p> |

GAME STRATEGIES

| | Script Sequencing | Loose Sequencing | Selection | Matching | Distribution | Hybrid |
|------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Definition | Ordering entities with respect to defined positions | Ordering entities with respect to each other | Choosing a small group out of a large group | Matching two kinds of entities to each other | Forming several small groups out of a large group | Performing two or more of the other actions |
| Key Info | Look for Limited Options and Blocks of Entities. | Which entities can be first? Which entities can be last? If there's no line between the entities, there's no relationship. | Who is not selected is as important as who is. If the game dictates a fixed number of entities to be selected, an In/Out sketch can be used. | Always two or more types of entities. Entities in one of the types can be matched multiple times. Pay attention to numbers and duplications. | Each entity must be placed in one and only one group. Pay attention to numbers. Work out ratios whenever possible. | Set up your sketch according to the types of games that you are integrating. Determine which rules speak to which action(s) in the game. Combine sketches whenever possible. |

LSAC is planning to replace the Logic Games starting with the July 2024 LSAT exam. LSAC is currently testing new question types to assess analytical reasoning skills. You should strongly consider testing before July 2024, as there are ample instruction and practice resources for the current Logic Games section—the section in which students often see the most dramatic score improvements.

Kaplan's LSAT® FAQ and Strategy Guide

So you want to go to law school?

You have lots to do to ensure you have a competitive law school application:

- ▶ Have a solid undergraduate GPA
- ▶ Write a compelling personal statement
- ▶ Line up persuasive letter of recommendation writers
- ▶ Most important: have a stellar LSAT score

According to Kaplan's annual survey of law school admissions officers, the LSAT exam is the most important component of your application.

We're here to help you own LSAT test day. Here's how:

We've included our go-to strategies for LSAT success.

Keep them handy to guide you as you study, practice, and review in your prep course or on your own.

We tackle three of the most frequently asked questions we receive about the LSAT.

- What does the LSAT have to do with law school?
- When should I take the LSAT?
- How long will it take me to prep for the LSAT?

LSAT FAQ 1:

What does the LSAT have to do with law school?

Law school admissions committees use LSAT scores to predict applicants' potential for success in pursuit of their law degrees, especially in the first two years, largely considered to be the most challenging to law students.

The skills tested via the LSAT exam are the same skills—not necessarily the same tasks—that are challenged daily in 1L classes. On the one hand, the LSAT exam requires the same meticulous attention to detail that is demanded in managing copious, opaque legal readings. Ironically, the density of law school readings also requires an ability to rise above all of the details and see the big picture, a skill well familiar to the strategic LSAT test taker.

In your 1L classes, you will be challenged to set aside what you think you know in order to analyze the information before you from an objective perspective—exactly what you must master for the LSAT.

Since it is a purely skill-based (not content-based) test, the LSAT exam requires no outside knowledge—in fact, test takers who can step out of their own assumptions, experiences, and opinions will be best prepared to untangle and manipulate the arguments presented on the test. This same objective analysis is a cornerstone of law school, where the reasoning of each case is much more important than the evidence or even the outcome.

Kaplan's LSAT® FAQ and Strategy Guide

LSAT FAQ 2:

When should I take the LSAT?

The LSAT is a remotely-proctored digital exam, administered most months of the year, with the notable exceptions of May and December, when many students are otherwise studying for finals. Be sure to check LSAC's website for upcoming test dates and registration deadlines. But what does this mean for you as you plan your application timeline?

► Testing in Summer

If you're a current college student, the summer LSAT dates allow you to get the LSAT out of the way so you can concentrate on your law school applications over the summer and submit them as soon as application season opens in the fall. Plus, if your LSAT score doesn't measure up, summer LSAT dates give you multiple potential retake options in fall or winter. Although testing in summer allows you some time post-finals to complete your prep, you'll have to do the bulk of your studying for the LSAT during your spring semester. If you plan on applying Early Decision to law school, you may have to take the LSAT in summer so you get your scores in time for some deadlines.

► Testing in Early Fall

If your spring semester is particularly busy or your finals period runs long, layering in LSAT prep on top of high-level classes, work, and other obligations may not be a great recipe for success. The September or October LSAT exam is often a better option and, in fact, the most popular time to take the LSAT exam. Taking the fall LSAT exam allows you to prep during your entire summer downtime and still submit applications early. Remember that most law schools work on a rolling admissions cycle, meaning that the earlier you apply, the more seats are still available. Scholarship money is also awarded on a rolling basis, so an earlier application makes you eligible for more merit-based awards.

These earlier LSAT exam dates are also great because they allow you to retest in November (or even winter or spring if necessary), and still submit applications in time for most law schools' regular decision deadlines.

► Testing in November

If you're a little late getting started or find yourself needing more time to prepare, the November LSAT date is another option. The drawback is that your scores will come in later than those of other applicants, forcing you to submit your completed applications later than other applicants in the rolling admissions process. The advantage is that you could potentially get a higher LSAT score by giving yourself more study time. **It is much more important to submit a competitive application than an early application.**

► Testing in Winter or Spring

Nearly half the students who will take the winter and spring LSAT exams will be re-takers trying to raise their score. Given how late it is in the admissions cycle, you should not proactively plan on taking the January exam as your first test, unless you are planning on applying the following year. That said, if you are late to the game, you can indeed still earn admission with a strong LSAT score (i.e., above the median) for the school(s) to which you choose to apply. The March LSAT date will fall past the current year's admissions cycle for most schools, and should really be a chance to get a head start on the current year's admissions cycle, rather than a last-chance for the following fall's admissions cycle.

Keep in mind that whichever LSAT test date you choose, you'll need to register for the exam approximately six weeks prior to the test date. Be sure to check lsac.org for registration deadlines.

► Tying It All Together

The admissions cycle is the most important thing to consider when deciding when is best to take the LSAT exam. Law schools have rolling admissions. That means, getting your application in sooner gives you a significant advantage in the admissions process. Application periods open in the fall and a good rule of thumb is that you should have all your applications in before before the new year.

And so the moral of the story is to take the LSAT exam when you know you're going to have a good amount of time to spend studying for it, but early enough to be on the top of the pile when application season opens.

Kaplan's LSAT[®] FAQ and Strategy Guide

LSAT FAQ 3:

How long will it take for me to prep for the LSAT?

The simple answer is “as much time as you can spare.” The LSAT exam isn't like most other standardized tests that ask you to understand and use content. The only thing you need to know for the LSAT exam is how to read. Everything else on the test is skill, not actual knowledge.

How long you'll spend studying for the LSAT exam also depends on where you start, what your target score is, and what your schedule is. Because the LSAT exam is a skills-based test, you can't cram for it. Most students underestimate the amount of time needed to prep for a skills-based test, and end up prepping intensely over several months to learn how to apply LSAT strategies effectively and efficiently.

Practice with real, released LSAT questions like the ones available on LawHub, LSAC's digital practice tool using the real test day interface. There, you'll find over 70 real LSAT exams to practice with. Kaplan has various self-prep products like LSAT Link and the LSAT Channel that give you exclusive personalized analysis, recommendations, question explanations, additional instruction, and curated practice quizzes with real LSAT questions you won't find anywhere else—not even on LawHub.

Taking a prep course gives you the ideal combination of instruction and practice. As a Kaplan student, you'll enjoy learning from a world-class LSAT expert instructor and will benefit from a fully-customized LSAT preparation experience, anchored by core instruction and supported by an online platform of robust supplemental instructional and practice assets. Your Kaplan course—available Live Online, On Demand, or In Person in select locations—will provide you with access to over 150 unique hours of live or recorded instruction, and to every official LSAT question ever released—nearly 10,000 of them, with complete answers and explanations to each. For more information on comprehensive preparation options, visit us at www.kaptest.com/lsat.

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