KAPLAN® LSAT® Strategy Sheet

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 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® LSAT® Strategy Sheet

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	Passage Types	Roadmapping		Common Logical Reasoning & Reading Comp Wrong Answer Types
• Event/Phenomenon	• Humanities	**Use Keywords**	**Use Passage Notes**	• Outside the Scope
• Theory/Perspective	• Law	• Emphasis/ Opinion	**Use Big-Picture Summaries**	• Extreme
• Biography	• Natural Science	• Contrast	• Topic	• Distortion
• Debate	• Social Science	• Logic	• Scope	• Irrelevant Comparison
		• Illustration	• Purpose	• 180
		• Sequence/ Chronology	• Main Idea	• Faulty Use of Detail
		• Continuation		• 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.