

# About the LSAT

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a half-day, standardized test administered four times each year at designated testing centers throughout the world. All Bar Association-approved law schools, most Canadian law schools, and many other law schools require applicants to take the LSAT as a part of their admissions process.

In the US, Canada, the Caribbean, and some other countries the LSAT is administered on a Saturday, except in June, when it is generally administered on a Monday. For Saturday Sabbath observers, the test is also administered on a weekday following Saturday administrations.

Many law schools require that the LSAT be taken by December for admissions the following fall. However, taking the test earlier—in June or September/October—is often advised.

Some schools place greater weight than others on the LSAT; most law schools do evaluate your full range of credentials.

## ❖ *Test Format*

The test consists of five 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions. Four of the five sections contribute to the test taker's score. The unscored section, commonly referred to as the variable section, typically is used to pretest new test questions or to preequate new test forms. The placement of this section will vary. A 35-minute writing sample is administered at the end of the test. LSAC does not score the writing sample, but copies of the writing sample are sent to all law schools to which you apply.

## ❖ *What the Test Measures*

The LSAT is designed to measure skills that are considered essential for success in law school; the reading and comprehension of complex texts with accuracy and insight; the organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it; the ability to think critically; and the analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others.

The three multiple-choice question types in the LSAT are:

### *1.) Reading Comprehension Questions*

These questions measure your ability to read, with understanding and insight, examples of lengthy and complex materials similar to those commonly encountered in law school work. The reading comprehension section contains four sets of reading questions, each consisting of a selection of reading material, followed by five to eight questions that test reading and reasoning abilities.

### *2.) Analytical Reasoning Questions*

These questions are designed to measure your ability to understand a structure of relationships and to draw logical conclusions about that structure. You are asked to make deductions from a set of statements, rules, or conditions that describe relationships among entities such as persons, places, things, or events. They simulate the kinds of detailed analyses of relationships that a law student must perform in solving legal problems.

### *3.) Logical Reasoning Questions*

These questions are designed to evaluate your ability to understand, analyze, criticize, and complete a variety of arguments. Each logical reasoning question requires you to read and comprehend a short passage, then answer a question about it. The questions test a variety of abilities involved in reasoning logically and thinking critically.

## ❖ *Registration Information*

To register for the LSAT, you must establish or log in to your LSAC.org account. The registration fee for the LSAT is \$180. If you meet certain criteria, you may qualify for an LSAC fee waiver. Late registrants must pay an additional \$90. Answers to many questions about preparation, the registration process and eligibility to take the LSAT can be found at <http://lsac.org/jd/help/faqs-lsat>.

**Saturday Sabbath observers administrations:** If you observe a Saturday Sabbath, you may take the LSAT in June, which is a Monday administration, or one of the Saturday Sabbath test dates set by LSAC. To request a Saturday Sabbath observers administration, you must obtain a letter on official stationery from your minister or rabbi confirming your religious affiliation.