

introduction 1

- what exactly is the LSAT?
- why is it important?
- what does the LSAT test?
- what's the structure of the test?

what exactly is the LSAT?

Law School Admissions Test

- entrance exam for law schools

given several times a year, in 2019 – 2020:

- January
- February
- March
- April
- June
- July
- September
- October
- November

given in multiple locations throughout the country

why is it important?

required for all ABA law schools

- all U.S. law schools are ABA law schools, you won't be able to get into them unless you take the LSAT

factors very heavily in the school's admissions decision

- schools basically look at only two things – your GPA and your LSAT score
- letters of recommendation, your essays, and all that are much less important than your GPA and LSAT score
- and they tend to look at them about evenly, some schools give a bit more weight to the GPA and some to the LSAT but they're more or less equally important
- so essentially it's an important requirement of law school applications

what does the LSAT test?

basically, the LSAT tests the skills you'll need in law school and in law practice

- according to LSAC, the company that owns/runs the test, 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
- however, it doesn't test the law or legal history
 - you won't be asked to repeat specific information (facts/dates/etc)
 - you won't need to memorize anything
 - you will need to learn how to think critically

what's the structure of the LSAT?

what can you expect to find on the test?

- 6 thirty-five minute sections
 - 5 with multiple choice questions, 1 writing section
 - multiple choice question sections come in 3 types, types can be in any order
 - between 22 – 28 questions each, for a total of 125 - 128, varies slightly from test to test
 - no break between sections until after 3rd section where you get 15 minute break
 - can't skip ahead or go back, have to stick to section you're working on

what's the structure of the LSAT?

- only four of those sections are actually scored, for a total of 100 – 101 questions
 - there is an experimental section, it tests questions for future tests
 - you won't know which is the experimental section
 - could come at any point in the test
 - could be any of the multiple choice section types
 - there is an unscored writing section
 - you'll be asked to write an essay arguing in favor/against something
 - this section is taken separately, you do it on your own via the internet and the deadline for completing it depends on the schools that you're applying to

what's the structure of the LSAT?

- the raw score is the number of questions you got right
- the scaled score converts your raw score to a range from 120 to 180
 - each scaled score represents the percentile where you rank compared to the other test takers
 - a 150 is the 50th percentile, you scored in the middle of all test takers, better than half and worse than half
 - most test takers are in the middle
 - around 65% score between 140 and 160
 - law schools are interested in your scaled score

what's the structure of the LSAT?

how is the test given?

- the format of the test has changed, it is now a digital test
 - the content and structure of the test has remained exactly the same, the only difference is the presentation
 - instead of paper and pencil, you will complete the test on a tablet provided at the testing center
 - answers are selected on the tablet screen instead of a piece of paper
 - tablet offers features such as a timer with a five-minute warning, highlighting, and flagging to keep track of questions that a test taker may want to revisit in a section