

Five Things Every **LSAT** Test Taker Must Know

The LSAT is a standardized test that is used by all accredited Law Schools in the United States and Canada. WKU Lifelong Learning Test Prep is here to help prospective law school applicants prepare to perform at their best on the LSAT. To help you get started, we've put together this list of five facts that we feel are critical to understand if one wants to perform well on the exam.

Fact #1: *The LSAT is a test of know-how, rather than know-that.*

Unlike most tests students take to gain admission into a graduate or professional school, there is no specific content area, such as math or science, which you must master in order to perform well on the test. The LSAT tests skills rather than content knowledge; and most of these skills center on the notion of an argument. Specifically, many LSAT questions require you to identify parts of an argument, identify statements that strengthen or weaken an argument, an assumption made by an argument, etc.

Fact #2: *Choose your battles wisely; you only need to answer correctly about 70% of questions to earn a pretty competitive score.*

Don't worry about having enough time to get to every question; instead, rather than hurrying through the test, spend the time you have on questions that you are likely to get right. This way you end up with more time to answer the questions you do try. And remember – there is no “guessing penalty” on the LSAT, so you will pick up additional points by randomly filling in answers to the questions you don't get time to work on.

Fact #3: *Even though most test takers are worried about the logic games, the most important questions on the LSAT are the logical reasoning questions.*

Logical reasoning questions make up roughly half of the LSAT, two sections of about 25 questions each, out of a total of about 100 questions. By contrast, there only will be 22-24 logic game questions on the whole test. This is why most students will benefit from extra preparation time devoted to logical reasoning questions.

Fact #4: *All vocabulary is tested in-context only.*

The only questions that test vocabulary explicitly are reading comprehension questions. In each case, the expression will occur in a sentence, so you have the advantage of context clues to help you figure out its meaning.

Fact #5: *The best preparation involves familiarizing yourself with the required skills by studying with real LSAT questions.*

Previously administered LSAT exams are available for you to study with, and there are several collections of 10 tests available from the usual booksellers as well as from the LSAC, the makers of the LSAT. And remember when studying that, it is perhaps even more important to understand why the wrong answer choices are incorrect than being able to recognize the correct answer. The same wrong-answer strategies show up over and over. The better you are at recognizing them the more accurate you will become.