

LSAT Strategy Seminar

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Who is this Person?

- Ben Paris has more than 25 years of experience in LSAT preparation.
- Former Curriculum Director for Kaplan Test Prep, created LSAT courses and published LSAT books
- Created award-winning online test prep courses
- Written thousands of question explanations
- Personally taught thousands of students
- Graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* from Bowdoin College; received J.D. from NYU.
- Lives nearby in Nobleboro, Maine.
- For more on his awesomeness: benparistestprep.com
- Published essays on testing and education at <https://www.insidehighered.com/node/6736>
- Limited PowerPoint skills

Objectives

- Acquire strategies for every section of the LSAT
 - Dissect arguments
 - Set up games strategically
 - Read passages actively
- Describe how the LSAT is scored
- Manage test stress

What aren't we covering?

How Will this Work?

- Mostly, I'll tell you stuff.
- But please break in with questions!
- If you have questions later, please contact me:

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No charge!

The LSAT

- Why does it exist?
- How is the LSAT used?
- How important is it?
- Can you take it at home?
- LSAT vs GRE

What's on the LSAT? (Until August 2024)

- Four 35-minute sections, in any order
 - Analytical Reasoning (22-24 questions)
 - Logical Reasoning (24-26 questions)
 - Reading Comprehension (26-28 questions)
 - 1 unscored section, which could be anywhere

One Writing Sample, taken up to 8 days before these sections above.

- 35 minutes
- Unscored
- Underappreciated, IMHO

In August, Analytical Reasoning is going away, replaced by another LR.

Why Preparation Works

- Tests scores from different administrations have to be comparable.
- The testmakers can't change what they test or how they test it.
- If you know what will appear and what to do, you have a big advantage

LSAT Scoring

180	99.9 percentile
175	99.5 percentile
170	97 percentile
165	91 percentile
160	80 percentile
155	63 percentile
150	44 percentile
145	26 percentile

Scaled scores vs. raw scores

What's a percentile?

What's a "good" score?

Importance of the LSAT

No.	Law School	GPA Low	GPA Median	GPA High	LSAT Low	LSAT Median	LSAT High	Accept %
1	Yale University	3.84	3.92	3.98	170	173	176	6.9%
2	Stanford University	3.82	3.93	3.99	169	171	174	8.7%
3	Harvard University	3.8	3.9	3.97	170	173	175	12.9%
4	U. of Pennsylvania	3.49	3.89	3.95	164	170	171	14.6%
5	U. of Virginia	3.59	3.89	3.97	163	169	171	15.3%
6	Columbia University	3.63	3.75	3.84	170	172	174	16.8%
7	U. of Chicago	3.73	3.89	3.96	167	171	173	17.5%
8	U. of Southern California	3.61	3.78	3.89	163	166	167	19.2%
9	Northwestern University	3.58	3.84	3.9	164	169	170	19.3%
10	U. of Michigan-Ann Arbor	3.55	3.77	3.89	165	169	171	19.6%
11	Duke University	3.66	3.78	3.87	167	169	170	20.2%
11	U. of California-Berkeley	3.64	3.8	3.9	165	168	170	20.2%
13	U. of Texas-Austin	3.47	3.74	3.88	160	167	168	20.9%
14	Cornell University	3.73	3.82	3.89	164	167	168	21.1%
15	Georgetown University	3.56	3.8	3.9	163	167	168	21.2%
16	U. of California-Los Angeles	3.52	3.72	3.85	165	168	169	22.5%
17	New York University	3.61	3.79	3.9	167	170	172	23.6%
18	Vanderbilt University	3.61	3.8	3.87	161	167	168	23.7%
19	U. of California-Irvine	3.4	3.57	3.73	161	163	165	24.8%
20	U. of Notre Dame	3.49	3.71	3.89	159	165	166	25.1%
21	U. of Arizona (Rogers)	3.32	3.7	3.82	155	161	162	25.5%
22	Boston University	3.31	3.74	3.84	160	166	167	25.9%
22	Fordham University	3.38	3.6	3.7	161	164	166	25.9%
22	George Mason U. (Scalia)	3.45	3.76	3.88	157	163	164	25.9%
25	U. of Washington	3.44	3.69	3.8	158	163	165	26.4%
26	U. of Georgia	3.39	3.67	3.85	159	163	164	26.8%
27	U. of Florida (Levin)	3.33	3.72	3.84	155	163	164	27.9%
28	Boston College	3.31	3.62	3.68	161	164	164	28.6%
29	Washington and Lee U.	3.21	3.51	3.68	158	163	164	28.7%
30	U. of Pittsburgh	3.09	3.39	3.6	154	157	159	29.3%

Anatomy of Logical Reasoning

1 scored section

(possibly 1 unscored section)

35 minutes, 24-26 questions

More or less in order of difficulty

Why Logical Reasoning is Difficult

- Complex tasks, unfamiliar to many
- Precise and subtle language
- Unfamiliar/abstract subject matter
- Timing!

Question Types

Common

Strengthen/Weaken

Flaw

Assumption

Inference

Principle/Application

Less Common

Paradox/Explain

Parallel Reasoning

Point at Issue

Main Point

Role of Statement

Method of Argument

LSAT Arguments

- Evidence + Assumption(s) → Conclusion
- Valid arguments vs invalid arguments
- Don't argue with the evidence!
- Pay very close attention to the terms

Argument-Based Questions From 71

- Scope shifts and Terms of the Argument: **1.3, 2.6, 2.9, 2.14**
- Unmentioned Issues/Alternative Explanations: **1.6, 1.13, 1.20, 2.1, 2.3, 2.8, 2.21**
- Assumptions: **1.16, 1.22, 2.11, 2.19** (mean)
- Common Flaws: **1.21, 1.24, 2.7, 2.15, 2.18, 2.20, 2.25**
- Analogies 1.4

Inferences and Others

- Inferences: 1.15, **1.8**, 2.5, 2.10,
- Formal Logic: **1.17**, **1.23**, **2.17**, 2.24
- Principle: 1.19, 2.22
- Parallel Reasoning: 1.14

Peter: Recent evidence suggests that moderate alcohol consumption has certain beneficial effects on health. In particular, alcohol creates an inhospitable environment in the human body for certain bacteria that can cause illness. Thus, alcohol consumption is, on balance, beneficial.

3. Which one of the following most accurately expresses a flaw in the reasoning in Peter's argument?

- (A) It takes for granted that people choose to consume alcohol because they believe it is beneficial to their health.
- (B) It draws a comparison based on popular belief rather than on scientific opinion.
- (C) It fails to consider methods of achieving the same beneficial effects that do not involve alcohol.
- (D) It draws a conclusion about alcohol consumption in general from a premise about moderate alcohol consumption.
- (E) It fails to consider that alcohol may have no effect on many bacteria that cause illness in human beings.

A recent taste test reveals that most people like low-fat chocolate ice cream as much as its full-fat counterpart. Previous tests with vanilla ice cream found that people tended to dislike low-fat versions, complaining of a harsher taste. Chemists point out that chocolate is a very complex flavor, requiring around 500 distinct chemical compounds to produce it. Hence, this complexity probably masks any difference in taste due to the lack of fat.

6. Which one of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) Most people prefer full-fat chocolate ice cream to full-fat vanilla ice cream.
- (B) The subjects of the previous tests were not informed of the difference in fat content.
- (C) The more distinct compounds required to produce a flavor, the better people like it.
- (D) Vanilla is known to be a significantly less complex flavor than chocolate.
- (E) Most people are aware of the chemical complexities of different flavors.

Animal feed should not include genetically modified plants. A study found that laboratory rats fed genetically modified potatoes for 30 days tended to develop intestinal deformities and a weakened immune system, whereas rats fed a normal diet of foods that were not genetically modified did not develop these problems.


13. Which one of the following, if true, most weakens the argument?






- (A) Potatoes are not normally a part of the diet of laboratory rats.
- (B) The rats tended to eat more of the genetically modified potatoes at the beginning of the 30 days than they did toward the end of the 30 days.
- (C) Intestinal deformities at birth are not uncommon among rats bred in laboratory conditions.
- (D) Genetically modified potatoes have the same nutritional value to rats as do potatoes that are not genetically modified.
- (E) The researchers conducting the study were unable to explain how the genetic modifications of the potatoes would have caused the intestinal deformities or a weakened immune system in the rats.

At the end of 1997 several nations stated that their oil reserves had not changed since the end of 1996. But oil reserves gradually drop as old oil fields are drained and rise suddenly as new oil fields are discovered. Therefore, oil reserves are unlikely to remain unchanged from one year to the next. So most of the nations stating that their oil reserves were unchanged are probably incorrect.

16. Which one of the following is an assumption the argument requires?
- (A) For any nation with oil reserves, it is more likely that the nation was mistaken in its statements about changes in its oil reserves than that the nation's oil reserves remained unchanged.
 - (B) It is likely that in 1997, in most of the nations that stated that their oil reserves were unchanged, old oil fields were drained or new oil fields were discovered, or both.
 - (C) During the course of 1997, the oil reserves of at least one nation not only gradually dropped but also rose suddenly.
 - (D) If a nation incorrectly stated at the end of 1997 that its oil reserves had not changed since the end of 1996, then during 1997 that nation drained its old oil fields and discovered new ones.
 - (E) If a nation's oil reserves change from one year to the next, then that nation is obligated to report the change correctly.
-

If a motor is sound-insulated, then it is quiet enough to use in home appliances. If a motor is quiet enough to use in home appliances, then it can be used in institutional settings. None of the motors manufactured by EM Industries are quiet enough to use in home appliances.

17. If the statements above are true, which one of the following must be true? 

- (A) If a motor can be used in institutional settings, then it is sound-insulated. 
- (B) None of the motors manufactured by EM Industries are sound-insulated. 
- (C) At least some of the motors manufactured by EM Industries can be used in institutional settings. 
- (D) If a motor is quiet enough to use in home appliances, then it is sound-insulated. 
- (E) None of the motors manufactured by EM Industries can be used in institutional settings. 

Lawyer: If you take something that you have good reason to think is someone else's property, that is stealing, and stealing is wrong. However, Meyers had no good reason to think that the compost in the public garden was anyone else's property, so it was not wrong for Meyers to take it.






21. The reasoning in the lawyer's argument is flawed in that the argument

- (A) confuses a factual claim with a moral judgment
- (B) takes for granted that Meyers would not have taken the compost if he had good reason to believe that it was someone else's property
- (C) takes a condition that by itself is enough to make an action wrong to also be necessary in order for the action to be wrong
- (D) fails to consider the possibility that the compost was Meyers' property
- (E) concludes that something is certainly someone else's property when there is merely good, but not conclusive, reason to think that it is someone else's property

From time to time there is a public outcry against predatory pricing —where a company deliberately sells its products at prices low enough to drive its competitors out of business. But this practice clearly should be acceptable, because even after its competitors go out of business, the mere threat of renewed competition will prevent the company from raising its prices to unreasonable levels.

22. Which one of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?








- (A) Any company that is successful will inevitably induce competitors to enter the market. 
- (B) It is unlikely that several competing companies will engage in predatory pricing simultaneously. 
- (C) Only the largest and wealthiest companies can engage in predatory pricing for a sustained period of time. 
- (D) It is only competition or the threat of competition that keeps companies from raising prices. 
- (E) Any pricing practice that does not result in unreasonable prices should be acceptable. 







Pediatrician: Swollen tonsils give rise to breathing problems during sleep, and the surgical removal of children's swollen tonsils has been shown to alleviate sleep disturbances. So removing children's tonsils before swelling even occurs will ensure that the children do not experience any breathing problems during sleep.

24. The pediatrician's argument is most vulnerable to the criticism that it
- (A) relies on an inappropriate appeal to authority
 - (B) relies on an assumption that is tantamount to assuming that the conclusion is true
 - (C) infers from the fact that an action has a certain effect that the action is intended to produce that effect
 - (D) fails to consider the possibility that there may be other medical reasons for surgically removing a child's tonsils
 - (E) fails to consider the possibility that some breathing problems during sleep may be caused by something other than swollen tonsils

Some philosophers explain visual perception by suggesting that when we visually perceive an object, a mental image of that object forms in our mind. However, this hypothesis cannot be correct, since it would require an inner self visually perceiving the newly formed mental image; this would in turn require that the inner self have a mental image of that mental image, and so on. But such an infinite regress is absurd.


14. Which one of the following arguments is most similar in its pattern of reasoning to the argument above? 






- (A) According to some linguists, many of the world's languages can be traced back to a common source known as Indo-European. However, Indo-European cannot be the earliest language, for if it were, then there would be no language from which it was derived. But this is highly unlikely, given the overwhelming evidence that humans spoke long before the advent of Indo-European.  
- (B) The claim that any scientific theory is adequate as long as it agrees with all the empirical data cannot be correct. For there are an infinite number of theories all of which account equally well for the empirical data, and they cannot all be true at the same time.  

- (C) Some historians claim that no theory is ever genuinely new; no matter how clever a theory is, there is always a precedent theory that contains its gist. But if this were true, then every theory would have a precedent theory containing its gist, and this precedent theory would also have a precedent theory, and so on, without end. Since this is clearly impossible, the historians' claim must be false.  
- (D) Some engineers define a structure's foundation as that part of the structure that supports the rest of the structure. This definition is unfortunate, however, because it evokes the suggestion that the foundation itself does not have any support, which, of course, is absurd.  
- (E) Some people claim that the first library was the library of Alexandria, which for many centuries contained the largest collection of books in the world. However, Alexandria's collection was itself put together from smaller collections, small libraries in themselves. It follows that the library of Alexandria was not the first in the world.  

Let's Create a Little Atmosphere . . .

Until 1985 all commercial airlines completely replenished the cabin air in planes in flight once every 30 minutes. Since then the rate has been once every hour. The less frequently cabin air is replenished in a plane in flight, the higher the level of carbon dioxide in that plane and the easier it is for airborne illnesses to be spread.

18. Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the information above? 

- (A) In 1985 there was a loosening of regulations concerning cabin air in commercial airline flights. 
- (B) People who fly today are more likely to contract airborne illnesses than were people who flew prior to 1985. 
- (C) Low levels of carbon dioxide in cabin air make it impossible for airborne illnesses to spread. 
- (D) In 1980 the rate at which the cabin air was replenished in commercial airliners was sufficient to protect passengers from the effects of carbon dioxide buildup. 
- (E) In 1980 the level of carbon dioxide in the cabin air on a two-hour commercial airline flight was lower than it is today on a similar flight. 

Researchers have discovered that caffeine can be as physically addictive as other psychoactive substances. Some people find that they become unusually depressed, drowsy, or even irritable if they do not have their customary dose of caffeine. This is significant because as many people consume caffeine as consume any one of the other addictive psychoactive substances.

Which one of the following can be logically concluded from the information above?

- (A) There is no psychoactive substance to which more people are physically addicted than are addicted to caffeine.
- (B) A physical addiction to a particular psychoactive substance will typically give rise to diverse psychological symptoms.
- (C) Not all substances to which people can become physically addicted are psychoactive.
- (D) If one is physically addicted to a psychoactive substance, one will become unusually depressed when one is no longer ingesting that substance.
- (E) If alcohol is a physically addictive psychoactive substance, there are not more people who consume alcohol than consume caffeine.

Science journalist: Brown dwarfs are celestial objects with more mass than planets but less mass than stars. They are identified by their mass and whether or not lithium is present in their atmospheres. Stars at least as massive as the Sun have lithium remaining in their atmospheres because the mixing of elements in their internal nuclear furnaces is incomplete. Stars with less mass than the Sun have no lithium because the element has been fully mixed into their nuclear furnaces and consumed. A brown dwarf does not have a fully functional nuclear furnace and so its lithium cannot be consumed.

Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the science journalist's statements?

- (A) Any celestial object without lithium in its atmosphere is a star with less mass than the Sun.
- (B) Any celestial object with lithium in its atmosphere has a nuclear furnace that has incompletely mixed the object's elements.
- (C) No celestial object that has no lithium in its atmosphere is a brown dwarf.
- (D) No celestial object with lithium in its atmosphere has less mass than the Sun.
- (E) No celestial object less massive than a brown dwarf has lithium in its atmosphere.

Science journalist: Brown dwarfs are celestial objects with more mass than planets but less mass than stars. They are identified by their mass and whether or not lithium is present in their atmospheres. Stars at least as massive as the Sun have lithium remaining in their atmospheres because the mixing of elements in their internal nuclear furnaces is incomplete. Stars with less mass than the Sun have no lithium because the element has been fully mixed into their nuclear furnaces and consumed. A brown dwarf does not have a fully functional nuclear furnace and so its lithium cannot be consumed.

Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the science journalist's statements?

What do we know?

Brown dwarfs

- No functional nuclear furnace
- Lithium can't be consumed (have lithium)

Stars at least as massive as the Sun

- Mixing in nuclear furnace is incomplete
- Have lithium remaining

Stars with less mass than the Sun


- Lithium fully consumed in nuclear furnace
- No lithium remaining






Ethicist: It is morally right to reveal a secret only if one has a legal obligation to do so and will not harm oneself by doing so. At the same time, it is morally wrong to reveal a secret if one has promised not to do so and if revealing the secret is likely to result in any harm to others.

21. The principles cited by the ethicist most help to justify the reasoning in which one of the following?

- (A) Kathryn revealed a secret entrusted to her by her brother. Kathryn did not promise not to reveal the secret and her revealing it was likely to benefit all parties concerned. However, because she was under no legal obligation to reveal the secret, her action was not morally right.
- (B) Jae admitted in confidence to his defense attorney that he was guilty of the crime with which he had been charged. His attorney, knowing that the law did not require her to reveal such a confession of guilt, recounted Jae's confession to the judge anyway. The attorney's action was morally right.
- (C) A doctor informed Judy that she should not tell her father that he was in critical condition, since such knowledge sometimes makes patients despondent and inhibits recovery. Nevertheless, Judy revealed the doctor's diagnosis to her father. Judy's action was morally wrong.
- (D) Phil was arrested for bank robbery and under interrogation was asked to fulfill a legal obligation to reveal the identity of his accomplice. Despite the possibility that he was endangering himself by testifying, Phil revealed his accomplice's identity, and his accomplice was arrested without incident. Phil's action was morally right.
- (E) After writing a story about a possible political scandal, a journalist invoked her legal rights and refused to reveal the names of her sources who had spoken on condition of anonymity. The journalist's refusal to divulge her secret was morally right.

The folktale that claims that a rattlesnake's age can be determined from the number of sections in its rattle is false, but only because the rattles are brittle and sometimes partially or completely break off. So if they were not so brittle, one could reliably determine a rattlesnake's age simply from the number of sections in its rattle, because one new section is formed each time a rattlesnake molts.

22. Which one of the following is an assumption the argument requires in order for its conclusion to be properly drawn? 

- (A) Rattlesnakes molt exactly once a year. 
- (B) The rattles of rattlesnakes of different species are identical in appearance. 
- (C) Rattlesnakes molt more frequently when young than when old. 
- (D) The brittleness of a rattlesnake's rattle is not correlated with the length of the rattlesnake's life. 
- (E) Rattlesnakes molt as often when food is scarce as they do when food is plentiful. 

Reading Comprehension

- Can I get better at reading comprehension?
- Can I get faster?
- What are some typical challenges when:
 - Reading the passage
 - What am I reading for?
 - What's important? What isn't?
 - Answering the questions
 - Precision
 - Types of wrong answer choices

Read for . . .

- The main idea
- Any of the author's opinions
- The cast of characters
- A passage map that will help you look up answers

Don't worry about details. You can look them up later. You just need to know what they're for.

The following passage is adapted from a journal article.

To understand John Rawls's theory of justice, one first needs to grasp what he was reacting against. The dominant approach in pre-Rawls political philosophy was utilitarianism, which emphasized maximizing the fulfillment of people's preferences. At first sight, utilitarianism seems plausible—what else should we do but try to achieve the most satisfaction possible for the greatest number of people?—but the theory has some odd consequences. Suppose executing an innocent person will appease a mob, and that doing so will therefore increase total satisfaction. Incredibly, a utilitarian would have to endorse the execution. Rawls accordingly complains that, in the utilitarian view, there is no reason "why the violation of the liberty of a few might not be made right by the greater good shared by many."

If we reject utilitarianism and its view about the aim of the good life, how can we know what justice requires? Rawls offers an ingenious answer. He asserts that even if people do not agree on the aim of the good life, they can accept a fair procedure for settling what the principles of justice should be. This is key to Rawls's theory: Whatever arises from a fair procedure is just.

1. According to the passage, Rawls uses which one of the following devices to explain his theory?



(A) a thought experiment



(B) a process of elimination



(C) an empirical study of social institutions



(D) a deduction from a few basic principles



(E) a consideration of the meaning of words








But what is a fair procedure? Rawls again has a clever approach, beginning with his famous veil of ignorance. Suppose five children have to divide a cake among themselves. One child cuts the cake but does not know who will get which shares. The child is likely to divide the cake into equal shares to avoid the possibility of receiving the smallest share, an arrangement that the others will also admit to be fair. By denying the child information that would bias the result, a fair outcome can be achieved.

Rawls generalizes the point of this example of the veil of ignorance. His thought experiment features a situation, which he calls the original position, in which people are self-interested but do not know their own station in life, abilities, tastes, or even gender. Under the limits of this ignorance, individuals motivated by self-interest endeavor to arrive at a solution in which they will not lose, because nobody loses. The result will be a just arrangement.

Rawls thinks that people, regardless of their plan of life, want certain "primary goods." These include rights and liberties, powers and opportunities, and income and wealth. Without these primary goods, people cannot accomplish their goals, whatever they may be. Hence, any individual in the original position will agree that everyone should get at least a minimum amount of these primary goods. Unfortunately, this is an inherently redistributionist idea, since the primary goods are not natural properties of human beings. If someone lacks a primary good, it must be provided, at the expense of others if necessary.

5. The author's stance toward Rawls's theory is most accurately described as one of 

- (A) scholarly neutrality with respect both to its objectives and its development 
- (B) disdain for its pretensions camouflaged by declarations of respect for its author 
- (C) sympathy with its recommendations tempered with skepticism about its cogency 
- (D) enthusiasm for its aims mingled with doubts about its practicality 
- (E) admiration for its ingenuity coupled with misgivings about some of its implications 

This passage was adapted from an article written by three economists.

Roughly 40 percent of the African American population of the Southern United States left the South between 1915 and 1960, primarily for the industrial cities of the North. While there was some African American migration to the North during the nineteenth century, most accounts point to 1915 as the start of what historians call the Great Migration. There were at least three catalysts of the Great Migration. First, World War I increased labor demand in the industrial North. Second, the war in Europe cut off immigration, which led many Northern employers to send labor agents to recruit African American labor in the South. Finally, a boll weevil infestation ruined cotton crops and reduced labor demand in much of the South in the 1910s and 1920s.

In short, the Great Migration began in 1915 and not earlier, because it was only then that the North–South income gap became large enough to start such a large-scale migration. Less clear, however, is why migration continued, and even accelerated, in subsequent decades, at the same time that North–South income differences were narrowing.

We propose that once started, migration develops momentum over time as current migration reduces the difficulty and cost of

7. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?

- (A) Approximately 40 percent of the African American population left the Southern U.S. between 1915 and 1960—an event historians refer to as the Great Migration.
- (B) The Great Migration was triggered by an increased labor demand in the North due to the onset of World War I and a reduced labor demand in the South due to a boll weevil infestation.
- (C) Because earlier migrants helped defray the financial costs of migration for later migrants, African American migration to the North accelerated at a time when income differences were narrowing.
- (D) In migration movements, earlier migrants reduce the physical costs of moving and provide a cultural and linguistic cushion for later migrants.

over time as current migration reduces the difficulty and cost of future migration. Economists have typically assumed that people migrate if their expected earnings in the destination exceed those of the origin enough to outweigh the difficulties and one-time costs of migration. Previous research suggests that the difficulties and costs arise from several sources. First, the uncertainty that potential migrants face concerning housing and labor-market conditions in the destination presents a significant hindrance. Second, there is the simple cost in terms of time and money of physically moving from the origin to the destination. Third, new migrants must familiarize themselves with local labor- and housing-market institutions once they arrive; they must find housing and work, and they must often adapt to a new culture or language.

Empirical studies show that during the Great Migration, information was passed through letters that were often read by dozens of people and through conversation when migrants made trips back to their home communities. Thus early migrants provided information about labor- and housing-market conditions to friends and relatives who had not yet made the trip. First-time African American migrants often traveled with earlier migrants returning to the North after a visit to the South, which reduced physical costs. Additionally, previous migrants reduced new migrants' cost of adapting to a new locale and culture by providing them with temporary housing, food, and even credit. Previous migrants also provided a cultural cushion for later migrants, so that they did not have to struggle as hard with their new surroundings.

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- (B) The Great Migration was triggered by an increased labor demand in the North due to the onset of World War I and a reduced labor demand in the South due to a boll weevil infestation.
- (C) Because earlier migrants helped defray the financial costs of migration for later migrants, African American migration to the North accelerated at a time when income differences were narrowing.
- (D) In migration movements, earlier migrants reduce the physical costs of moving and provide a cultural and linguistic cushion for later migrants.
- (E) Although the Great Migration was initially triggered by the income differential between the North and South, other factors must be cited in order to explain its duration over

Passage A

Insider-trading law makes it a crime to make stock transactions, or help others make stock transactions, based on information you have ahead of the general public because of your special position within a company.

However, trading based on information you have that everyone else doesn't— isn't this part of the very definition of a functioning stock market? The entire field of stock brokering is based on people gaining knowledge that others don't have and then using it to profit themselves or their clients. If you analyze a stock, decide that it is overvalued, and sell it, you are taking advantage of knowledge that many others don't have. That doesn't make you a criminal; it means you've done your homework.

Stock markets work best when all the relevant information about a company is spread as widely as possible, as quickly as possible. Stock prices represent a constantly shifting amalgamation of everyone's information about and evaluations of a company's value. It helps when those who have accurate information about changing circumstances are permitted to act so that stock prices reflect them.

14. Both passages are primarily concerned with answering which one of the following questions?

- (A) How is insider trading defined?
- (B) Should there be severer penalties for insider trading?
- (C) Why do investors engage in insider trading?
- (D) Is insider trading harmful to the stock market?
- (E) What is the best means of regulating insider trading?

Passage B

One of the basic principles of the stock market is transparency. In a transparent market, information that influences trading decisions is available to all participants at the same time. Success in the market can then be gained only by skill in analyzing the information and making good investing decisions. In a transparent stock market, everyone has the same chance of making a good investment, and success is based on individual merit and skill.

In insider-trading situations, some people make investment decisions based on information that other people don't have. People who don't have access to the inside information can't make similarly informed investment decisions. That unfairly compromises the market: people with inside information can make informed trade decisions far before everyone else, making it difficult or impossible for other people to earn money in the stock market.

This, in turn, causes a loss of investor confidence and could ultimately destroy the market. People invest in the stock market because they believe they can make money. The whole point of capital investments is to make good investing decisions and make money over time. If investors believe they can't make money, they won't invest. Undermining investor confidence would thus deny companies access to the funds they need to grow and be successful, and it could ultimately lead to widespread financial repercussions.

14. Both passages are primarily concerned with answering which one of the following questions?



- (A) How is insider trading defined?
- (B) Should there be severer penalties for insider trading?
- (C) Why do investors engage in insider trading?
- (D) Is insider trading harmful to the stock market?
- (E) What is the best means of regulating insider trading?



There are some basic conceptual problems hovering about the widespread use of brain scans as pictures of mental activity. As applied to medical diagnosis (for example, in diagnosing a brain tumor), a brain scan is similar in principle to an X-ray: it is a way of seeing inside the body. Its value is straightforward and indubitable. However, the use of neuroimaging in psychology is a fundamentally different kind of enterprise. It is a research method the validity of which depends on a premise: that the mind can be analyzed into separate and distinct modules, or components, and further that these modules are instantiated in localized brain regions. This premise is known as the modular theory of mind.

It may in fact be that neither mental activity, nor the physical processes that constitute it, are decomposable into independent modules. Psychologist William Uttal contends that rather than distinct entities, the various mental processes are likely to be properties of a more general mental activity that is distributed throughout the brain. It cannot be said, for instance, that the amygdala is the seat of emotion and the prefrontal cortex is the seat of reason, as the popular press sometimes claims. For when I get angry, I generally do so for a reason. To cleanly separate emotion from reason-giving makes a hash of human experience.

But if this critique of the modular theory of mind is valid, how can one account for the fact that brain scans do, in fact, reveal well-


20. Which one of the following most accurately states the main point of the passage?






- (A) In spite of troubling conceptual problems surrounding brain scan technology, its use in psychological research on mental activity has grown rapidly.
- (B) The use of brain scans to depict mental activity relies on both a questionable premise and a misleading methodological approach.
- (C) Contrary to what is usually asserted in the popular press, reason and emotion are probably not located in the prefrontal cortex and the amygdala, respectively.
- (D) Although the fMRI is usually interpreted as a measure of metabolic activity in the brain, this interpretation is misguided and therefore leads to false results.
- (E) The modular theory of mind has gained wide currency precisely because it is illustrated effectively by the images

get angry, I generally do so for a reason. To cleanly separate emotion from reason-giving makes a hash of human experience.

But if this critique of the modular theory of mind is valid, how can one account for the fact that brain scans do, in fact, reveal well-defined areas that "light up" in response to various cognitive tasks? In the case of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), what you are seeing when you look at a brain scan is actually the result of a subtraction. The fMRI is usually interpreted as a map of the rate of oxygen use in different parts of the brain, which stands as a measure of metabolic activity. But what it actually depicts is the differential rate of oxygen use: one first takes a baseline measurement in the control condition, then a second measurement while the subject is performing some cognitive task. The baseline measurement is then subtracted from the on-task measurement. The reasoning, seemingly plausible, is that whatever remains after the subtraction represents the metabolic activity associated solely with the cognitive task in question.

One immediately obvious (but usually unremarked) problem is that this method obscures the fact that the entire brain is active in both conditions. A false impression of neat functional localization is given by differential brain scans that subtract out all the distributed brain functions. This subtractive method produces striking images of the brain at work. But isn't the modular theory of mind ultimately attractive in part because it is illustrated so well by the products of the subtractive method?

20. Which one of the following most accurately states the main point of the passage? 

- (A) In spite of troubling conceptual problems surrounding brain scan technology, its use in psychological research on mental activity has grown rapidly. 
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- (C) Contrary to what is usually asserted in the popular press, reason and emotion are probably not located in the prefrontal cortex and the amygdala, respectively. 
- (D) Although the fMRI is usually interpreted as a measure of metabolic activity in the brain, this interpretation is misguided and therefore leads to false results. 
- (E) The modular theory of mind has gained wide currency precisely because it is illustrated effectively by the images produced by the subtractive method. 

Why Analytical Reasoning is Difficult

- Timing!
- Unfamiliar tasks
- You need a plan, and it better be a good one.
- One mistake early and you're in big trouble.

5-Step Logic Games Process

1. Analyze the setup:
 - Who are the characters?
 - What do we have to know about them?
 - Are there any limitations?
2. Create a master sketch
3. Analyze the rules individually
4. Look for deductions
 - Characters in 2+ rules
 - Numbers
 - Negative to positive
 - Limited options
 - Key players/scenarios
 - Who could be first/last?
5. Answer the questions
 - Use one to answer another

A teacher will assign each of five students—Juana, Kelly, Lateefah, Mei, and Olga—to exactly one of two research teams, the green team and the red team. One team will have two members, and the other will have three members. One member of each team will be designated as facilitator. The assignment must satisfy the following conditions:

Juana is assigned to a different team than Olga is.

Lateefah is assigned to the green team.

Kelly is not a facilitator. Olga is a facilitator.

1. Which one of the following could be an accurate listing of the members and facilitators of the two research teams?

- (A) green team: Juana, Lateefah, Olga (facilitator)
red team: Kelly, Mei (facilitator)
 - (B) green team: Kelly, Lateefah (facilitator), Olga
red team: Juana, Mei (facilitator)
 - (C) green team: Kelly, Lateefah, Olga (facilitator)
red team: Juana (facilitator), Mei
 - (D) green team: Kelly, Mei, Olga (facilitator)
red team: Juana (facilitator), Lateefah
 - (E) green team: Lateefah, Olga (facilitator)
red team: Juana, Kelly (facilitator), Mei
-

An author is planning to write a mystery novel consisting of seven chapters, chapter 1 through chapter 7. Each of seven different clues—R, S, T, U, W, X, and Z—is to be mentioned exactly once, one clue per chapter. The order in which the clues are mentioned is subject to the following constraints:

T cannot be mentioned in chapter 1.

T must be mentioned before W, and there must be exactly two chapters separating the mention of T from the mention of W.

S and Z cannot be mentioned in adjacent chapters.

W and X cannot be mentioned in adjacent chapters.

U and X must be mentioned in adjacent chapters.

6. Which one of the following could be the order in which the clues are mentioned, from the first chapter through the seventh?



(A) S, T, Z, X, U, W, R



(B) T, X, U, W, S, R, Z



(C) U, S, X, T, Z, R, W



(D) X, U, T, Z, R, W, S



(E) Z, R, T, U, X, W, S



At an upcoming exhibition, four art students—Franz, Greene, Hidalgo, and Isaacs—will each display exactly two paintings—an oil and a watercolor. Exactly two paintings will be displayed on each of the walls of the exhibition room—walls 1, 2, 3, and 4—with one painting in the upper position and one in the lower position. The following conditions will apply:

No wall has only watercolors displayed on it.

No wall has the work of only one student displayed on it.






No wall has both a painting by Franz and a painting by Isaacs displayed on it.

Greene's watercolor is displayed in the upper position of the wall on which Franz's oil is displayed.

Isaacs's oil is displayed in the lower position of wall 4.

12. Which one of the following could be an accurate list of the paintings displayed in the lower position on walls 1 through 4, listed in that order?



- (A) Franz's oil, Franz's watercolor, Greene's oil, Isaacs's oil 
- (B) Franz's oil, Hidalgo's watercolor, Isaacs's watercolor, Isaacs's oil 
- (C) Greene's oil, Franz's oil, Isaacs's oil, Hidalgo's oil 
- (D) Hidalgo's oil, Greene's oil, Greene's watercolor, Isaacs's oil 
- (E) Hidalgo's watercolor, Franz's oil, Greene's oil, Isaacs's oil 

Three real estate companies—RealProp, Southco, and Trustcorp—are considering trading buildings with one another. Each building they own is categorized as either class 1, class 2, or class 3, depending on its approximate value:

RealProp owns the Garza Tower (class 1), the Yates House (class 3), and the Zimmer House (class 3).

Southco owns the Flores Tower (class 1) and the Lynch Building (class 2).

Trustcorp owns the King Building, the Meyer Building, and the Ortiz Building, all of which are class 2.

Each trade must be of exactly one of the following three kinds:

Trading one building for one other building of the same class

Trading one class 1 building for two class 2 buildings

Trading one class 2 building for two class 3 buildings

19. Which one of the following could be the buildings owned by the three companies after only one trade is made?

(A) RealProp: the Flores Tower and the Garza Tower

Southco: the Lynch Building, the Yates House, and the Zimmer House

Trustcorp: the King Building, the Meyer Building, and the Ortiz Building

(B) RealProp: the Garza Tower, the King Building, and the Ortiz Building

Southco: the Flores Tower and the Lynch Building

Trustcorp: the Meyer Building, the Yates House, and the Zimmer House

(C) RealProp: the Garza Tower and the Lynch Building

Southco: the Flores Tower, the Yates House, and the Zimmer House

LSAT Prep Principles

- Stick with released practice material
- Learn the patterns.
- Diagnose your problems.
- Set score goals.
- Each question is a potential teaching experience.
- Get used to making educated guesses.
- A little can help a lot.

Test Stress

- Some of this is normal and can be helpful.
 - But it can get out of hand.
 - Sloppiness vs perfectionism
- Confidence comes from success, not the other way around.
- Beware self-defeating thoughts such as:
 - *I don't do well on tests.*
 - *I always get it down to two, and then pick the wrong one.*
 - *This whole thing is stupid.*

Thank You!

Any questions?

- If you have questions later, please contact me:

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No charge!

- All feedback is welcome!