Overview of the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)

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 items consist of passages of approximately 450 words, each followed by five to eight questions that test reading and reasoning abilities. Passages for reading comprehension items draw from subjects such as the humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, ethics, philosophy, and law. Answer the questions on the basis of the information provided in the passage; the test requires no specific knowledge. You must read carefully and accurately, determine the relationships among the various parts of the passage, and draw reasonable inferences from the material in the passage.

Analytical Reasoning Questions

These questions are designed to measure your ability to understand a structure of relationships and to draw conclusions about the structure. You must make deductions from a set of statements, rules, or conditions that describe relationships among persons, places, things, or events. The questions simulate the detailed analysis of relationships that a law student must perform in solving legal problems. While determining the exact nature of the relationships involved requires careful reading and analysis, no formal training in logic is necessary. Analytical reasoning questions are intended to be answered using knowledge, skills, and reasoning ability generally expected of college students and graduates.

Logical Reasoning Questions

These questions evaluate your aptitude for understanding, analyzing, criticizing, and completing a variety of arguments by requiring you to read and comprehend a short passage, then answer one or two questions about it. The questions test a variety of abilities involved in reasoning logically and critically. While you are not expected to have any knowledge of the terminology of formal logic, you will be expected to understand and critique the reasoning contained in arguments. This requires that you possess at least a college-level understanding of widely used concepts such as argument, premise, assumption, and conclusion.