



POWERSCORE[®]
TEST PREPARATION

LSAT

SELF-STUDY GUIDE

THE POWERSCORE LSAT SELF-STUDY GUIDE

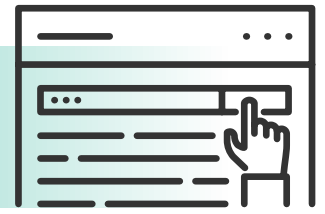
So, you've made the decision to prepare for the LSAT on your own. Good call! This guide will help you get started, identify the materials you need, and provide you with a comprehensive self-study plan.

Let's quickly outline the basic steps you need to take. If you have already completed any of these steps, skip ahead to the next item on the list!

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TAKE A PRACTICE LSAT



Your first step should be to take an actual, released LSAT and establish a baseline score. Taking an official digital LSAT will give you several benefits:

- You will become familiar with the types of questions presented on the exam and the language patterns the test makers use.
- You will get a sense of the endurance and concentration required to complete the exam.
- You will get a starting score and a snapshot of where your strengths and weaknesses lie.

Fortunately, you can get started with this process immediately, and for free! LSAC, the company that administers the LSAT, provides two free practice tests with the [Official LSAT Prep program](#)¹. You should also take note of the LSAC Prep Plus subscription they offer. This will be a key purchase in your future study plans.

HOW TO TAKE A PRACTICE TEST

There are a few things to note prior to taking an exam as well as important guidelines for properly taking a practice test.

- There are 4 sections on an official LSAT test— 1 Logical Reasoning, 1 Logic Games, 1 Reading Comprehension, and 1 Experimental section that can be any of the above sections. This section is unscored.
- Each section is 35 minutes long and there will be a 10 minute break following section two. This will require 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- During the test, you are allowed to work only on the section being timed. You cannot go back or forward to work on any other section of the test.
- Scratch paper can be used on the official test, so you may use scratch paper when you take a practice test. There are certain things you can and cannot have on hand during your actual test administration, and you will want to simulate this when taking your practice tests. You can find a list of what you can and cannot have on hand in [this blog post](#)².
- You may not eat or drink during a timed section.
- Follow the guidelines rigidly and put in your best effort! The more realistic your results, the better decisions you can make later when setting up a study plan.

No matter what your result, do not overemphasize the score you receive. You take an initial practice LSAT to establish a baseline and to learn a little bit about how the test works. You should expect to improve significantly over this first performance.

1 <https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/prep>

2 <https://blog.powerscore.com/lSAT/what-can-you-bring-to-the-lSAT/>

ANALYZE YOUR RESULTS

Once you complete your practice LSAT, your next important step is analyzing your results. LSAC's platform automatically scores your test for you, but does not provide a breakdown of your performance. If you want a full analysis of each test you take, visit our free [Self-Study site](#)¹ and create a free student account. With your account, you can transfer your answers from any test into our scoring and analysis tool and receive a free statistical analysis of your performance.

HOW TO ANALYZE YOUR RESULTS

LSAC's platform automatically scores your test for you, but does not provide a breakdown. If you want a full analysis of each test you take, you have two options.

1. Use our free Self Study site to transfer your answers into our free scoring tool.
2. Look into adding our [Testing and Analytics Package](#)² to your study arsenal. With this package, you receive every test LSAC provides as well as an automatic breakdown of your score upon completion of the test. In addition, you also get some flexibility with how you take exams! With our package, you can take full practice tests, individual sections, and problem sets.

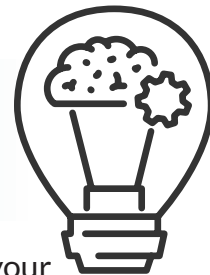
SETTING A TARGET SCORE

A "good" LSAT performance is, to some degree, relative to the range of schools you're considering. If you want to go to Harvard, Berkeley, Michigan, etc, a good performance is in the upper 160s and 170s. If you want to attend a top tier school, you need to go all-out for the highest score possible! Every point counts, especially at the ultra-competitive top schools. This is also an excellent strategy even if you have a modest target law school. You may find that your score opens up so many new, attractive possibilities.

In the end, it all comes down to doing your research. Determine what score is sufficient to gain admission to the schools you're interested in. While we believe that every student should shoot for a 180, it may be that you don't need to put in the time required to get a score in the upper range. Make sure you set your target score early in the process after seriously considering the types of schools you want to attend.

1 <https://studentcenter.powerscore.com/self-study/>

2 <https://www.powerscore.com/lSAT/publications/digital-tests/>



Once you have a general idea in mind for a target score, it's time to look carefully at your baseline results. Take a look at the following areas and ask yourself some questions.

1. How far away from your target are you?
2. What's your best section? Your weakest section? Identifying the weakest section will give you a starting point for your studies.
3. Within each section, what question types or game types gave you the most difficulty? Again, use this information to focus your studies when formulating a study plan.

RECORD YOUR GOALS



Target Score:



Baseline Score:

Best Section:

Weakest Section:

Difficult Question Types:

COLLECT STUDY MATERIALS

There are a variety of LSAT self-study materials available to students and they fall into three basic categories.

1. LSAT preparation guides containing strategies and techniques
2. Practice LSATs or collections of individual questions.
3. Question explanations

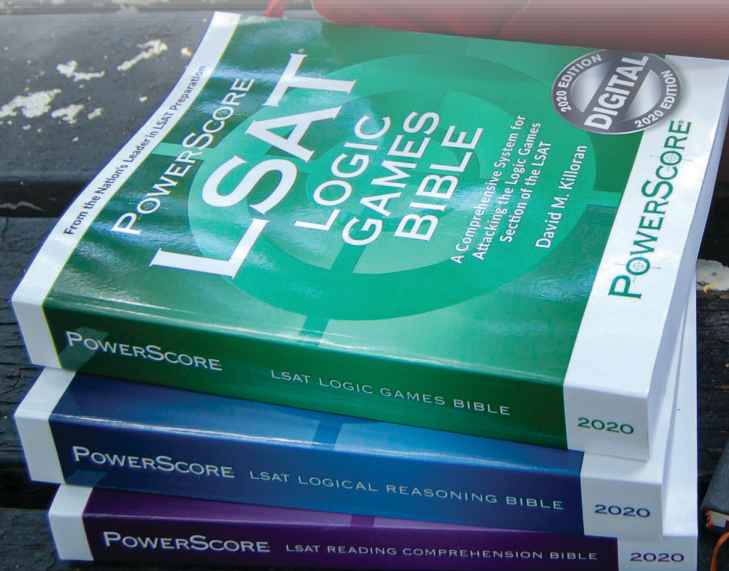
To successfully self-prepare for the exam, having resources from all three categories can be helpful. Let's discuss some of the available options.

LSAT PREP GUIDES

Quality LSAT study guides typically focus on individual sections of the LSAT. Depending on your performance in your baseline practice test, you should select guides for each area giving you difficulty. For example, if Logic Games is your weakest section, look at guides that specialize in Logic Games. As far as individual books, we are of course partial to our well-known [PowerScore LSAT Bibles](#)¹. But, don't take our word for it! We urge you to visit LSAT discussion forums and reviews on Amazon to see what others have to say.

There are some book options where you can buy a book that attempts to explain all three sections of the test. We tend to be less impressed with these books because they usually cover each section very superficially. The LSAT is not an easy or superficial test, and a book that covers the entire LSAT in 400 pages or so cannot go into each section very deeply.

1 <https://www.powerscore.com/lsat/publications/>





LSAT TESTS AND ANALYTICS

As you learn LSAT tips and techniques, you will need to practice with them extensively. The best source for practice materials are the LSAT PrepTests released by LSAC. LSAT PrepTests are authentic, previously administered LSATs and they provide the closest approximation to the exam you will ultimately take. However, LSAC requires their Prep Plus subscription in order to access real digital LSATs and we strongly encourage pairing that subscription with our Testing and Analytics package. Let's break down some of the benefits of doing so:

1. You get every LSAT that has ever been released.
2. Our platform automatically scores and analyzes the test for you. You will be able to easily identify where your strengths and weaknesses lie.
3. You can take full practice tests as well as individual sections for each released LSAT and problem sets to help drill in the most difficult concepts.
4. Your progress is automatically recorded so you can see how you're doing, at a glance, from test to test.
5. You can subscribe for monthly access or pre-pay for an entire year.

QUESTION EXPLANATIONS

Although any good study guide will explain the questions contained in the text, no study guide explains questions *not* in the book. For that, you need to look for resources that contain questions and/or corresponding explanations. These are the best out there:

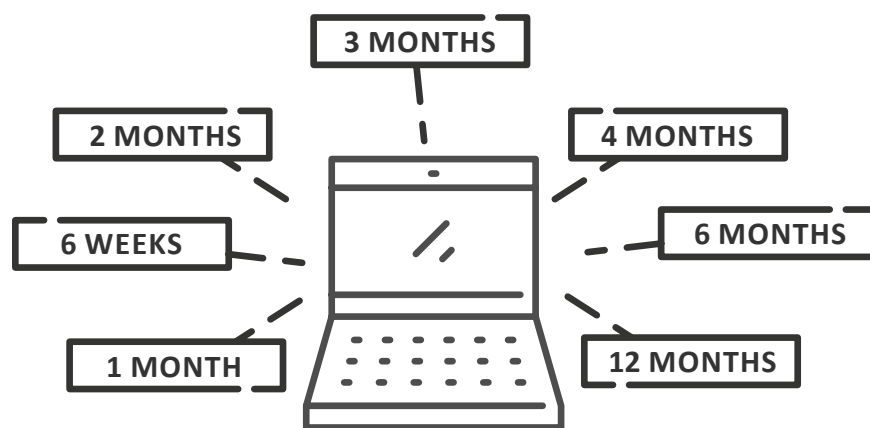
- *The Official LSAT SuperPrep*. This book contains three previously unreleased LSATs with complete explanations for each question from LSAC. Although they don't always provide explanations that clearly explain the correct strategy for attacking a question, reading the explanations gives you a sense of how they think about the questions. Because understanding their mindset is critical to LSAT success, this is a book you should have in your collection.
- *The PowerScore LSAT Workbook Series*. This series presents drills and questions for each section type, and then provides complete explanations for each problem. These are great tools if you want to practice with the techniques from each *LSAT Bible* and study how those strategies are applied to a variety of questions.

SET UP A STUDY PLAN

Once you've completed the basic steps outlined in this guide so far, your next step is to select a study plan. To a great extent, your plan is affected by how much time you have until you take the LSAT. For the most up to date information on when test dates and deadlines, go [here](#)¹.

Because the LSAT is not a test that lends itself well to cramming, the basic rule is this: the more time you have to prepare, the better off you will be. So, if possible, start early!

To make your LSAT preparation easier, we've created a set of free self-study plans that are based on our LSAT Bibles. You can find these detailed plans on the free [Self-Study site](#)².



STUDY PLAN OVERVIEW

The PowerScore Study Plans are extremely comprehensive and provide you with weekly plans and checklists. Select the plan that is closest to the amount of time before your LSAT and start preparing!

Each study plan uses the following pedagogical principles:

- First, you will learn the fundamentals of the LSAT and focus on the strategies and techniques. The goal is to first learn how to best approach the LSAT. The more you know about the test and the best methods for solving questions, the better you score.
- You'll then practice specific question types. You must regularly apply the methods you learn in order to become as fast and efficient as possible.
- At designated intervals, you will take full practice tests. This is critical to becoming comfortable on test day. One of the major problems test-takers face is fatigue. Frequently taking full practice exams acclimates you to the rigors of test day.

1 <https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/lSAT-dates-deadlines-score-release-dates>

2 <https://studentcenter.powerscore.com/self-study/>



- Reviews of your practice sessions and test results are built in so you can track improvement and identify areas of difficulty. This portion of your preparation is essential. You must closely examine every question on each test you take. Understand why you answered questions incorrectly by asking where you went wrong and how can you avoid missing questions like it in the future. Don't neglect reviewing the questions you answered questions correctly, too! Could you have been faster or more certain?
- Use the results from your PTs to revise your general study plan to account for changes and improvements. As you progress, you will improve in some areas and find other areas that still need work. If you keep running into issues with Logic Games, slant your study time to allow for more games and review of more material about games. If you have a weakness, find it and work relentlessly to eliminate it.

TIMING ON THE LSAT

One question that frequently comes up concerns timing and using a timer while studying. Timing, while always important on the LSAT, should not be a primary concern for you when you begin your studies. One of the benefits of starting your studies early is so you don't have to concern yourself with timing out the gate.

As you go through more material, however, you should begin to make timing a regular part of your preparation. For example, when you begin studying, you should keep an eye on the amount of time you take to complete each question, but you shouldn't obsess over it. If you are taking longer than desired, make note of that fact, but focus more on understanding the concepts in the questions and the methods to solve them. Practice is not about starting at full speed; it's about understanding the fundamental steps and slowly working your way up to full speed.



To keep things interesting while studying, you can use different timing strategies such as timing yourself on a set of two or three questions and then reviewing your performance. Or, you could time yourself on a set of five or ten questions and then go back and review each question carefully after you complete the set. The goal of timing yourself is for you to gain a clear understanding of how fast you can move through questions as well as develop an internal clock that gives you a general idea of your pacing.

The farther you progress in your studies, the more frequently you should time yourself. But remember, when you encounter a new concept (especially one that you find difficult), set aside the timer until you are comfortable with the idea itself. Then start timing and tracking your performance again.

STICK TO YOUR STUDY PLAN



Getting the materials together and selecting a study plan are the easy parts. Sticking to the plan is much more difficult!

When you set your schedule, do not generalize. Don't say "I want to study a lot this week," or "I want to take a practice test sometime."

Instead, be specific!

- "I want to study every day except Monday and Friday for at least 2 hours a day."
- "I'm going to complete every item on the study plan this week by Friday."

Creating specific goals will help you stick to the schedule more easily and will give you an ironclad guide for knowing whether or not you are following your plan.

REVIEW YOUR PROGRESS, MAKE CHANGES AS NEEDED



In war, the battle plan sometimes changes and adjustments have to be made as the campaign continues. The same holds true for your LSAT preparation. That's right, taking on the LSAT is a war!

At the outset, you may draw certain conclusions about your test performance or your study schedule that subsequently change over time. Constantly revisit your progress and [use your practice test results¹](#) to revise your estimations of needed study time and your areas of strengths and weaknesses.

It's also important to note that scheduling breaks is encouraged! Many test-takers avidly studying for the LSAT experience burnout and [score plateaus²](#). This is completely normal and often times taking a break can help alleviate these issues and even [increase your score³](#).

What happens if you can't keep up with your schedule? You have a few options.

1. Postpone your LSAT date. Depending on when you are sitting for the LSAT, you may have the option of delaying your test while not losing out on the [current application cycle⁴](#).
2. Seek professional assistance from LSAT experts. If you feel that self-studying isn't giving you the results you want or if you feel you need a jump start to your studies, you have a lot of options at your disposal.

1 <https://blog.powerscore.com/lsat/getting-the-most-out-of-your-lsat-practice-test-review/>

2 <https://blog.powerscore.com/lsat/how-to-focus-your-lsat-study/>

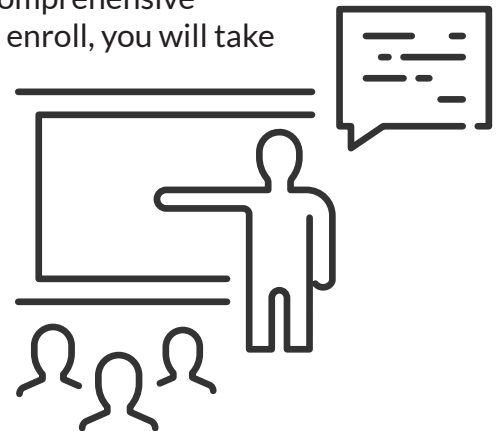
3 <https://blog.powerscore.com/lsat/bid-243584-why-breaks-from-the-lsat-can-increase-your-score/>

4 <https://blog.powerscore.com/lsat/applying-to-law-school-to-ed-or-not-to-ed/>

RECOMMIT TO YOUR GOALS

If at any point you find yourself struggling and ready to go forward with option two, we offer a number of different ways to help you get the score you want.

- [Tutoring¹](#). Private tutoring gives you the most personalized experience possible, allowing you to maximize your time and your score. A tutor will work around your schedule, customize study plans to help you reach your specific goals, and tailor instruction to your strengths and weaknesses. We understand that tutoring is a big investment! That's why you can schedule a free consultation with a tutor to discuss exactly what we can do for you.
- [Live Courses²](#). Our courses train you to take on the LSAT with comprehensive materials and a personalized Online Student Center. When you enroll, you will take part in over 70 hours of live lecture, gain access to exclusive weekly LSAT Clinics, and have over 100 hours of supplemental digital content at your fingertips.
- [On Demand Course³](#). If you would prefer working through lessons at your own pace, the on-demand version of our course is the perfect option for you. Upon enrollment, you gain access to 30 hours of pre-recorded lecture with Eric Ockert, an LSAT expert with over 11 years of teaching experience. In addition, over 55 hours of additional instruction is available to you.



“

*It's simple: PowerScore gets you accepted,
and gets you scholarship money. Period.
I increased my score by 15 points.
I have a future now.*

Reed Alexander, PowerScore Student

”

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1 <https://www.powerscore.com/lsat/tutoring/>
2 <https://www.powerscore.com/lsat/courses/>
3 <https://www.powerscore.com/lsat/courses/on-demand/>

TAKE THE LSAT & DESTROY IT!



This is your ultimate goal, and if you are dedicated and diligent you can achieve it! Study hard, good luck, and remember that we're here for you!

FREE RESOURCES FROM POWERSCORE

We give away more free LSAT resources than any other LSAT company. Why do we do it? Because we hope you'll see the very high quality of what we do, and then if you do choose to take a prep course, tutor, or buy a book, we'll be in your thoughts. And if you don't, that's okay too! Maybe you'll mention us to a friend. Let's look at all the free LSAT help we offer.

- [Free Webinars](#) — Sign up to learn about important topics such as Conditional Reasoning, Causal Reasoning, Common Flaws, Basic Linear Games, and Templates in Logic Games, and many more.
- [LSAT Discussion Forum](#) — Dive into explanations for thousands of LSAT questions on our Forum. We also answer questions about LSAT methods, strategy, and preparation. If you want answers, this is the place to be!
- [LSAT Blog](#) — Read articles about LSAT preparation, changes, news, test mentality, and law school admissions! We post content regularly. Equally valuable are the comments on each blog, where we offer our insights into specific questions from students.
- [The PowerScore LSAT PodCast](#) — Join world-class LSAT experts Dave Killoran and Jon Denning as they make the LSAT feel fun. They cover developments in the LSAT world and dive deep into important LSAT and admissions topics.
- [PowerScore Free Help Area](#) — Discover dozens of LSAT articles available on our Free Help site. We cover everything from LSAT basics to specifics of each section.
- [Self-Study Site](#) — Pick a study plan that works for you. We have 7 different plans available based on how much time you have until the test. And, when you take practice LSATs, use our system for a full analytical breakdown.
- Twitter — If you are looking for breaking LSAT news, follow our CEO and author of the LSAT Bibles, [Dave Killoran](#). And follow our main company account for regular updates and special offers, [PowerScore](#).

If you ever have questions, want help, or need advice, can contact us at 1 (800) 545-1750 and LSAT@powerscore.com. Never hesitate to reach out!



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