Preparing Candidates for Success In Law School: An Insider's Look At The LSAT & LSAC Services

Isabelle M. Ramos, LSAC Ambassador

February 4, 2020

Building a Just and Prosperous World

The LSAT

Fairness, Validity, Readiness

- ✓ Critical Thinking Skills
- ✓ Candidate preparation and performance translates to first-year of law school (1L)
- ✓ Results are tested for validity
- ✓ No tricks or secrets to answering test questions correctly
- ✓ Test questions are reviewed by a diverse team of Test Developers
- ✓ Accessible for candidates and law schools

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

LSAT Format & Content

3 Hours

4 scored multiple-choice sections: 35 minutes each

Total of 100-102 scored multiple-choice questions

1 unscored multiple-choice section (35 minutes)

1 unscored writing sample

READING COMPREHENSION

LOGICAL REASONING

TWO SECTIONS

ANALYTICAL REASONING

WRITING SAMPLE

OFF-SITE

FLEXIBLE TEST DAY

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Reading Comprehension

LSAT questions are designed to prepare candidates for reading that is complex and involves intricate arguments.

- Read one complex passage … OR

  two related passages—Comparative Reading

- About 450–500 words in total

- Answer 5–8 questions

- 4 Reading Comprehension sets per test

- Variety of topics: Humanities, Natural Science, Social Science, Law Related

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Logical Reasoning

LSAT questions are designed to prepare candidates to understand, analyze, evaluate, and draw inferences from short arguments.

- Short argumentative passages (20–100 words);1 question about each passage
- About 25 questions per Logical Reasoning section; about 50 per test
- Topics include: politics and government, economics, medicine, psychology, natural sciences, education, ethics
- Formats offered: excerpts from articles, editorials, letters to the editor, dialogues, advertisements
- Familiarity with terms such as: argument, inference, assumption, conclusion, and premise

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Analytical Reasoning

LSAT questions are designed to prepare candidates to understand a structure of relationships and draw conclusions about that structure.

- Read a passage of up to 130 words that describes a scenario and a set of rules that apply to it
- Answer 5–7 questions about what can or must be the case
- The scenarios involve various kinds of relationships, such as:

  above, next to

  before, after

  group membership
- Four AR sets per test section

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Sample Analytical Reasoning Passage

Exactly six guideposts, numbered 1 through 6, mark a mountain trail. Each guidepost pictures a different one of six animals– fox, grizzly, hare, lynx, moose, or porcupine.
The following conditions must apply:
The grizzly is pictured on either guidepost 3 or guidepost 4.
The moose guidepost is numbered lower than the hare guidepost.
The lynx guidepost is numbered lower than the moose guidepost but higher than the fox guidepost.

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Writing Sample

This section of the LSAT is designed to prepare candidates to write clear and persuasive arguments based on the facts presented in the prompt.

- Prompt: decide between alternative courses of action using given criteria
- Not scored by LSAC
- Completed writing sample is sent to law schools for their use in evaluating applicants
- 35 minutes
- Flexible date, time, and location

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

LSAT Writing: Steps to Completion

1 **REGISTER**
for the LSAT.

2 **RUN**
Get Acquainted with LSAT Writing
on the computer you are planning
to use to complete your LSAT Writing.

3 **PREPARE**
to take LSAT Writing.

4 **CLICK**
the link in your **LSAC.org**
account to launch the test.

5 **FOLLOW**
the instructions on the screen
to complete the security check-in.

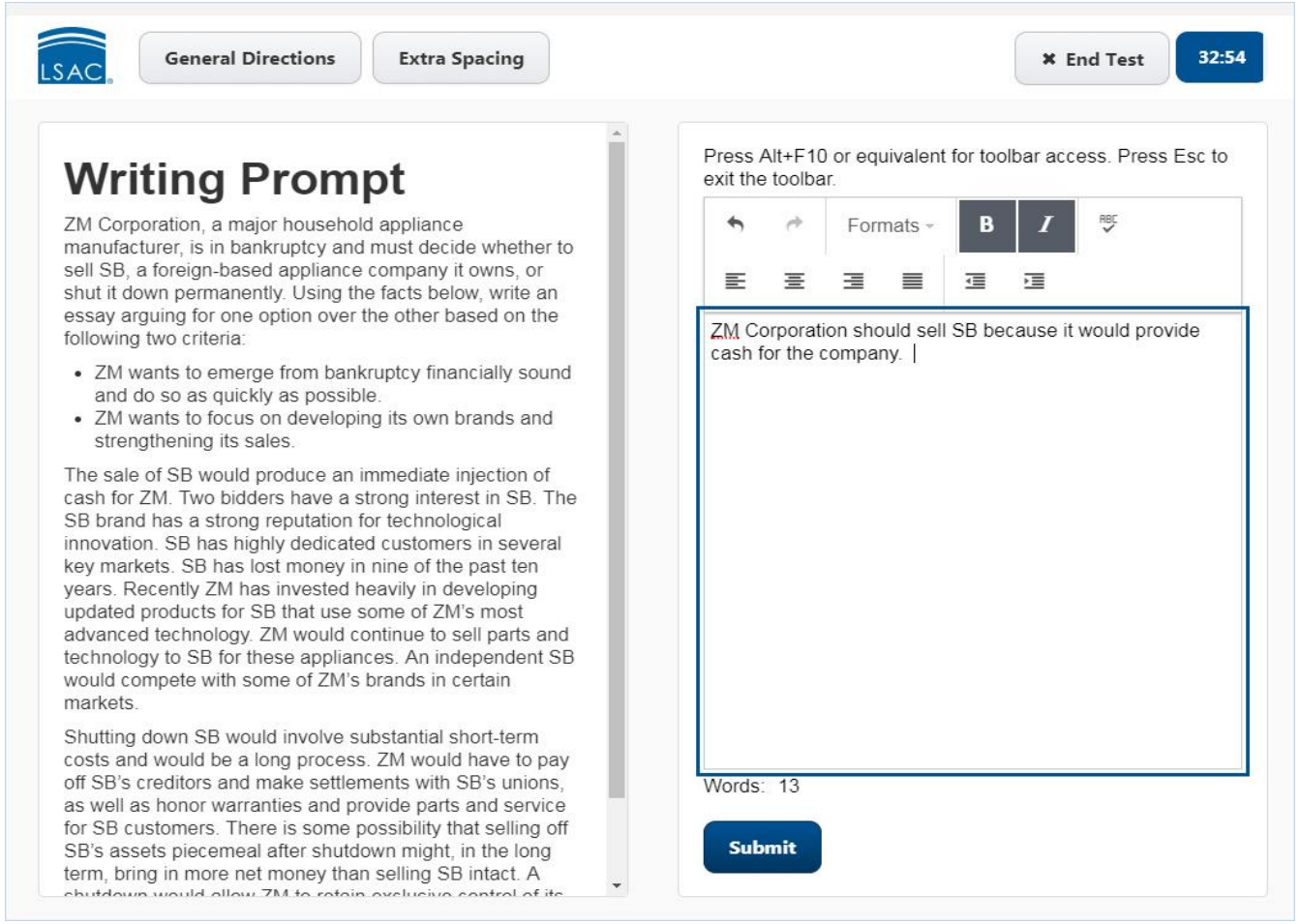
6 **WRITE**
your essay in response
to the prompt as instructed.

7 **CLICK**
the **Submit** button and then
End Test once you are finished

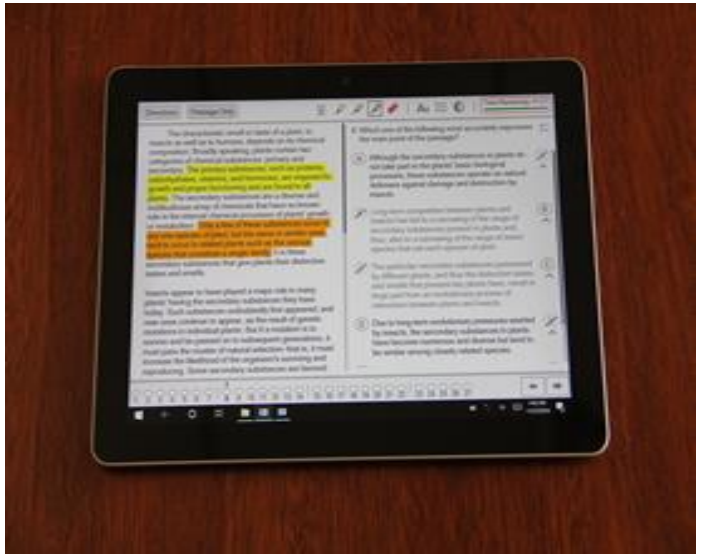
© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

LSAT Writing Features

- Interface includes common word-processing functions, including:
  - Spell-check
  - Cut, copy, and paste text
- Includes variety of accessibility features, such as zoom buttons, an extra spacing button, and speech-to-text compatibility
- Download PSI Software and complete security steps (approx. 15 minutes)



© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.



The Digital LSAT

Microsoft Surface Go tablet, July 2019

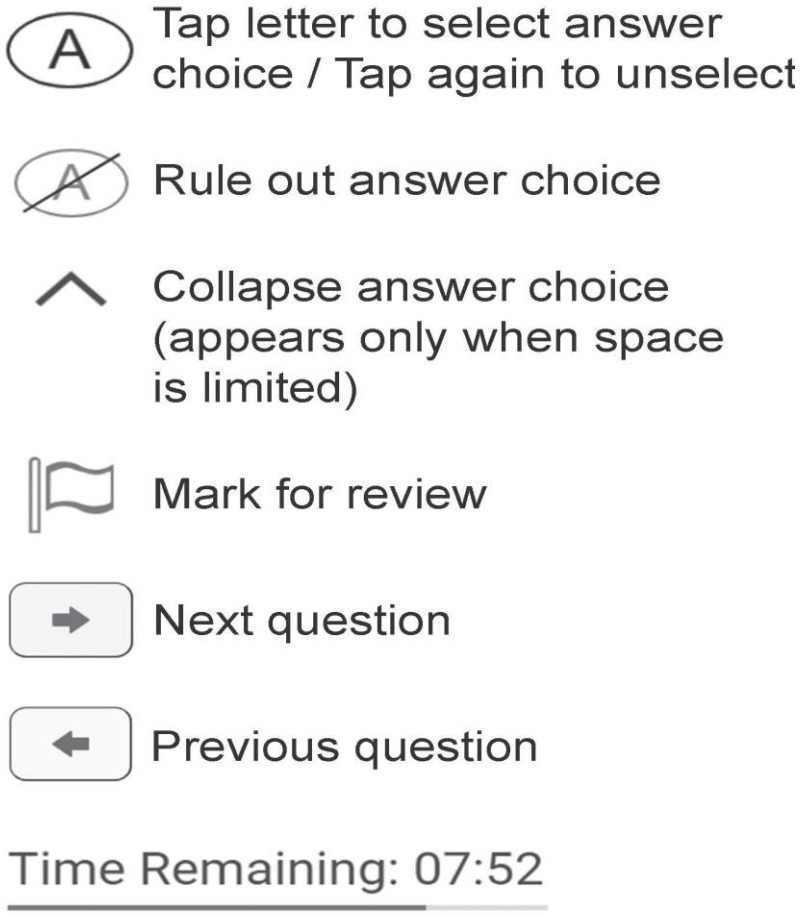
LSAC is committed to ensuring accessibility for test takers with disabilities. The Digital LSAT offers flexible type sizes, a built-in-screen reader and other enhancements that will assist test takers who need these options.

- ✓ Highlight with the ability to use multiple colors along with the ability to erase
- ✓ Underlining capability
- ✓ Line spacing (increase or decrease)
- ✓ Brightness adjustable
- ✓ Secure testing
- ✓ Easier check-in on test day
- ✓ No Standardized Timing issues

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Digital LSAT Features

- Microsoft Surface Go tablets, scratch paper, and a stylus/pen will provided on test day at test center.
- Test takers can bring No. 2 pencils, erasers, and other items noted.
- Test takers can select answer choices with a “tap” as well as underline and highlight text on the tablet.
- The tablet displays a timer with a five-minute warning and auto-stop feature to reduce proctoring issues.



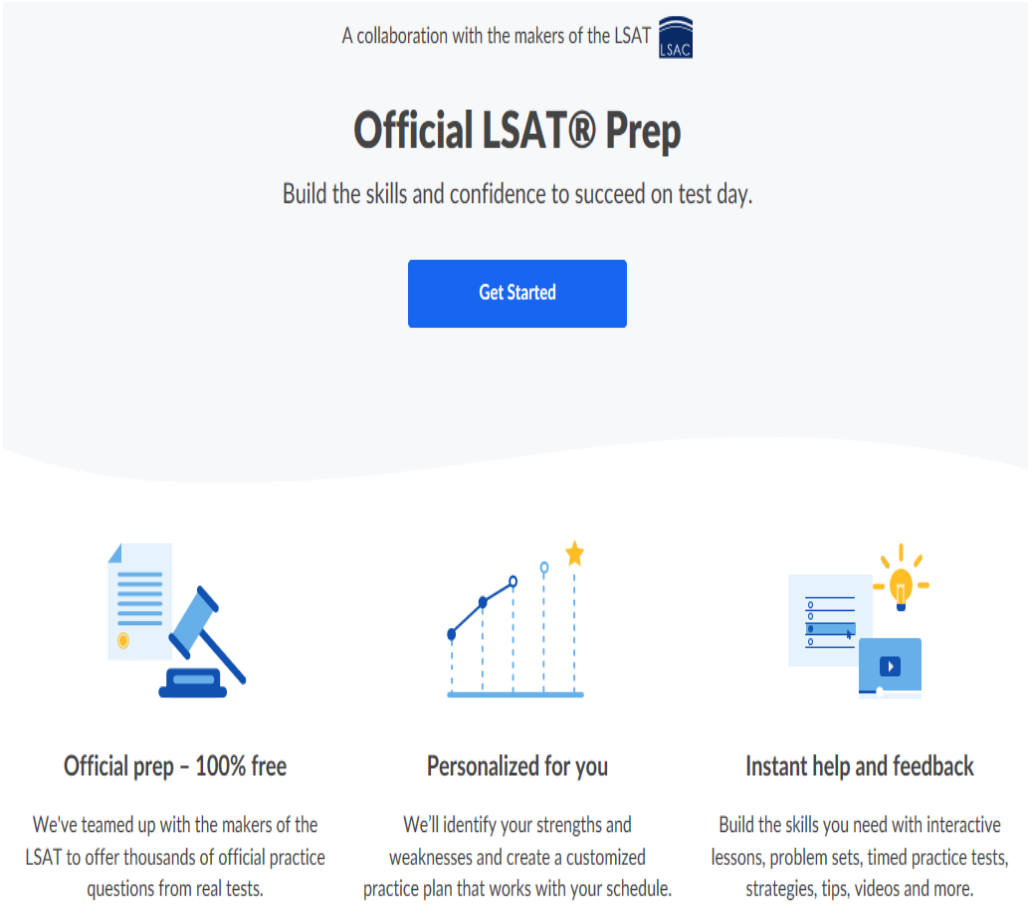
© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Get acquainted with the Digital LSAT

LSAC offers a free Digital LSAT familiarization tutorial in the Test Prep section of LSAC.org

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Khan Academy Official LSAT Prep



Candidates may begin preparing and practicing for the LSAT by creating an account with Khan or utilizing one of the Official LSAT Prep books featured on LSAC.org.

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

I just took my first Khan Academy official LSAT practice test. I increased from my diagnostic test 8 points! I am truly gaining so much knowledge and confidence from the Khan Academy LSAT prep!

ASHLEY, via Twitter

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

LSAC Services & Web Features

- ✓ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion grant opportunities, pipeline programs, scholarship information
- ✓ Student Stories, Field of Law Quiz, and Law School Search Tool
- ✓ Access data in Reports, register to attend an LSAC Forum, submit an Ambassador request
- ✓ Credential Assembly Services (CAS) for Candidates applying to law school
- ✓ LSAC's Fee Waiver program

DISCOVER LAW

PRELAW DASHBOARD

FORUMS

CAS & LSAT FEE WAIVER

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

LSAC Prelaw Programs, Events, & Forums

PLUS

Four-week law school immersion programs designed for students in the first two years of college.

- Apply Spring 2020
- Summer start-end dates
- Accommodations On-campus
- $1,000 stipend
- Improve reading, writing, and networking skills

EVENTS

Participate in a pipeline program or recruitment event near you.

- Diversity Matters Events
- Regional and Statewide Prelaw Events
- Prelaw Summer Programs by CLEO and AILC
- LSAC.org Calendar

LSAC FORUMS

LSAC sponsors Law School Forums in 10 major cities.

- Participate in Workshops lead by experts in the field
- Meet Law School Deans serving on Panels
- Speak with prelaw advisors
- Connect with over 115+ law schools

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Credential Assembly Services (CAS)

Most American Bar Association-approved law schools and many others require that JD applicants use CAS.

- ✓ Sign-up with LSAC account
- ✓ Letters of Recommendation, Transcript(s), LSAT Score(s), Writing Sample(s)
- ✓ Assign “required” materials to each law school application
- ✓ CAS Registration Fee $195
- ✓ CAS Report Fee $45 (for each law school)
- ✓ CAS Report for Law Schools

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

LSAT Fee Waiver

Candidates should complete the Fee Waiver application six weeks before the LSAT registration deadline. Approval is based on the absolute inability to pay for the LSAT and CAS.

- ✓ Sign-up with LSAC account
- ✓ Two LSATs
  - Test dates must fall within two-year fee waiver period
- ✓ CAS Registration Fee
- ✓ Six CAS Law School Reports
- ✓ Conditional Approval
- ✓ Appeal Process

© 2020 Law School Admission Council, Inc.

Thank you.

Email: iramos@lsac.org and prelaw@lsac.org

Stay Connected

@Official_LSAT

@LSACDiversity

@LSACForums