

Mastering the LSAT: Section by Section

Logical Reasoning Section- LSAT

If looking at the LSAT makes you think you're seeing double, think again. There are two separate logical sections on the test. This means that it is twice as important to prepare for them. As with the other sections, you will have 35 minutes to complete each logical reasoning section. Depending on the test, each of these will be made up of either 25 or 26 questions. You will be presented with short arguments that you must use to answer questions that follow. Frequently, you will be asked to choose details that, if true, would strengthen or weaken the presented claim. Below are sample questions that resemble those found on the test.

1. Yeast is used in the making of breads and wines. It changes the fermented sugars in dough to carbon dioxide. This makes the dough expand. Therefore, we can infer that yeast would make wine expand.

This argument uses the following method to prove a claim:

- A. Comparing a general rule to a specific example.
- B. Using a well-known example to make a generalized claim
- C. Proving a rule with a tested example
- D. Making a conclusion without showing a reasonable explanation
- E. Using a similar case to prove a point

2. Nutrition labels on junk foods are more common now than they were 10 years ago. However, obesity levels have not dropped in that time period. This must mean that the labels have not raised awareness about the foods' high calorie content.

Which of the following facts, if true, would make this claim untrue?

- A. Obesity levels are higher than ever.
- B. There are people who have learned about calorie contents through labels but still choose to eat fatty foods
- C. People like fatty foods and they will always like them.
- D. People have trouble understanding food labels. This is why they continue eating fatty foods.
- E. People are eating much less than before, but they are also exercising less.

3. You need an MA in human resources to receive any human resources-related job. Your undergraduate work, however, does not need to involve human resources. Canteen Inc. hired an employee who had just received her BS in human resources. Because her undergraduate work involved human resources, she was hired.

What is the flaw in the author's claim?

- A. A general rule is used to prove a specific incident wrong.
- B. Two contradictory claims are made.
- C. Canteen Inc. is not defined.
- D. A specific example is used as support for a general claim.
- E. The difference between an MA and a BA is not expanded upon.

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4. Even before the Eiffel Tower was complete, it was a worldwide sensation. During the time of its construction in 1887, it replaced the Washington Monument as the tallest structure in the world. This changed in 1930 when the Chrysler Building was built in New York City. Even though the Eiffel Tower is no longer the tallest world structure, it continues to fascinate the public.

The author suggests the following in the passage.

- A. If the Chrysler Building had not been built, the Eiffel Tower would still be the tallest building in the world.
 - B. Americans were competing with the French for the title of the world's largest building.
 - C. Initially, the Eiffel Tower fascinated the public because it was the tallest structure in the world.
 - D. Americans were frustrated that the Washington Monument was no longer the tallest structure.
 - E. Even though the Chrysler Tower was taller, the Eiffel tower was more beloved.
5. The percentage of children who play video games has risen sharply in the last decade. Parents are worried that the violent content of video games will have negative repercussions on children. Because volatile behavior in children has also increased during this time, the parents' worries were proven right.

What statement, if true, would weaken the author's argument?

- A. Violent children are not always the ones who play video games.
- B. There are plenty of non-violent video games on the market.
- C. The rise in childhood violence is not the same in all cities.
- D. Many adults are also violent
- E. Both video games and movies are violent

The logical portion of the test is meant to test your ability to analyze and critique arguments. Previous knowledge of the medical or historical examples is not required. In fact, it's best not to rely on outside knowledge when answering questions. The information provided may be opinionated or incorrect. Instead, appeal to your analytical skills to choose the correct answers. Use prep books as well as the questions above to familiarize yourself with the types of questions asked.

Answers:

1.E 2.B 3.B 4.C 5. A