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LOGICAL REASONING

Logical Reasoning (LR) is the first of two sections on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT®). It is designed to test your ability to analyze and criticize arguments through various types of questions relating to arguments and flawed reasoning.

On every LSAT test, there will be at least two scored Logical Reasoning sections, meaning LR comprises the majority of the tests scored sections.

Each Logical Reasoning section will include between 24-26 questions, with a total of 35 minutes to complete each section. A full breakdown of the LSAT can be found on page 3 of **Stage 1: LSAT Logic & Arguments**. Within a Logical Reasoning section, you will encounter several different question types. For example, some questions may ask you to identify the flaw within an argument, while others ask you to strengthen an argument.

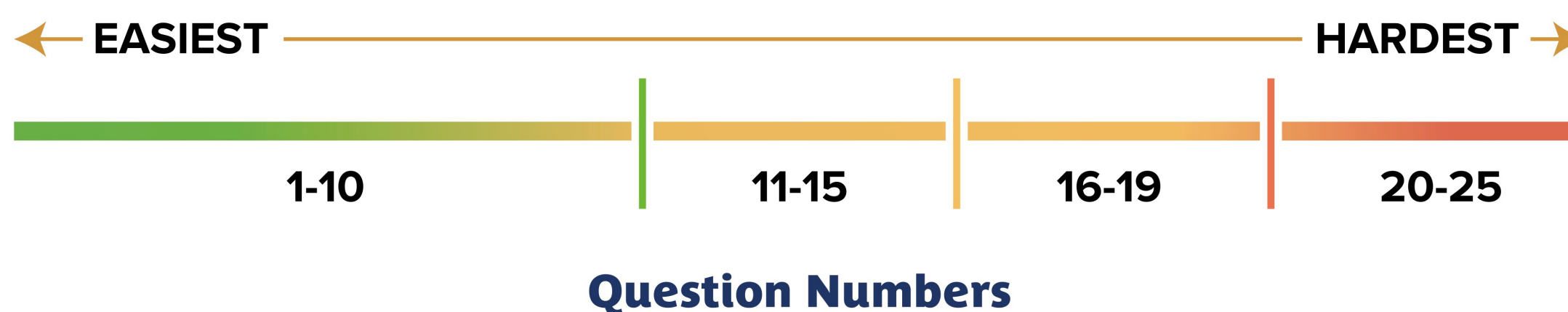


Logical Reasoning (LR)

Logical Reasoning tests your ability to **analyze and criticize arguments**.

- ✓ 2 scored sections
- ✓ 24-26 questions per section
- ✓ 35 minutes per section

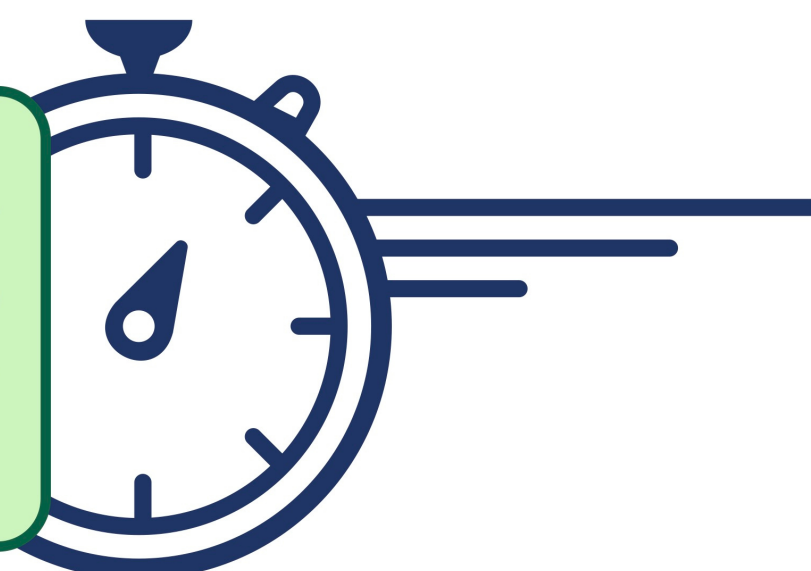
LR Progression of Difficulty Scale



Logical Reasoning sections are organized so that the difficulty of the questions increases as you progress through a section. Generally, questions 1-10 tend to be a bit easier, questions 11-15 are a bit more difficult, then 16-19 get harder, with questions 20-25 generally being the hardest. Therefore, it's important to move through questions quickly at the beginning to ensure you have extra time for the more difficult questions at the end of a section.



With 24-26 questions per LR section and a total time of 35 minutes, this gives you an average of 1 minute and 15 seconds to answer each question. Keep this in mind when answering questions. However, many questions require significantly less or more time than this, so don't worry if you're not meeting this every time. The best approach is to always try to be as quick as you can without sacrificing accuracy.





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MOST STRONGLY SUPPORTED

#?
2-3

Similar to Must Be True questions, Most Strongly Supported questions require you to draw a conclusion based on the given information. However, **MSS questions are looking for an answer that is most supported** rather than something that is 100% undeniably true.

You may be thinking “If we’re determining which one supports most, won’t that make it subjective in choosing an answer?”. That’s a fair question, but there’s good news. Of the five answer choices provided in each MSS question, only one will be supported by the stimulus. The other four will be entirely unsupported. This is why the simple terms expression of this question below only asks “which is supported”, and doesn’t include “most strongly”.



Be careful when choosing answers for MSS questions. LSAT writers may try to trick you by making unsupported answer choices related to the material discussed. Therefore, it's important to stick to your ability to make logically sound conclusions based on the arguments provided.

Simple Terms

"Which of the following statements is supported by the given information?"

Q

Simple Example: Which of the following statements is supported by the given information?

The Captain evaluates every piece of work produced by Jake, while he does not do so for Charles. Therefore, that must be why Jake produces high-quality work.

- (A) Only employees whose work is evaluated by the Captain produce high-quality work.
- (B) Having his work evaluated by the Captain causes Jake to produce high-quality work.
- (C) All employees whose work is evaluated by the Captain produce higher quality work.

Common Question Stems:

- “___’s statements, if true, most strongly support which of the following?”
- “Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?”
- “Which of the following is most reasonably supported by the information above?”
- “The statements above, if true, most strongly support which of the following?”

How to Solve:

1. **Identify the question type** by reading the question stem.
2. **Identify the Context, Premises, and Conclusion** within the stimulus.
3. Proceed to the answer choices, searching for the one answer that is supported by the given information. To do this, ask yourself if the answer choice can be concluded based on the premises in the stimulus.
4. If you have time, **double-check** that your selected answer is supported by the argument, not just a related topic.



Oftentimes, MSS answer choices can be easy to eliminate because they use strong words such as “all” or “only”. These words alone can drastically change the meaning of the sentence. This often makes choices that use strong words incorrect since they over-broaden or over-narrow a point that could be supported. Although this is not always true, it applies to many questions.



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LSAT ARGUMENTS VISUALLY

The next set of question types tests your ability to describe the method of argumentation and relate that method to other arguments.

Although you may now feel confident in breaking down an argument into its context, premises, and conclusion, many arguments employ complex structures or methods that can be hard to describe. **Therefore, drawing the arguments or relationships out visually can be a highly useful tool, especially for beginners.** Although you likely will not have time to fully draw out arguments on test day, understanding this method can help you draw them out in your head efficiently while working through a question.

In drawing out arguments, the following template should be used:

Premise:	The given relationship between two conditions
Event:	The actual occurrence/event of a condition
<hr/>	
Conclusion:	The conclusion based on the premise and event

Within this template, you will use letters to represent the conditions.

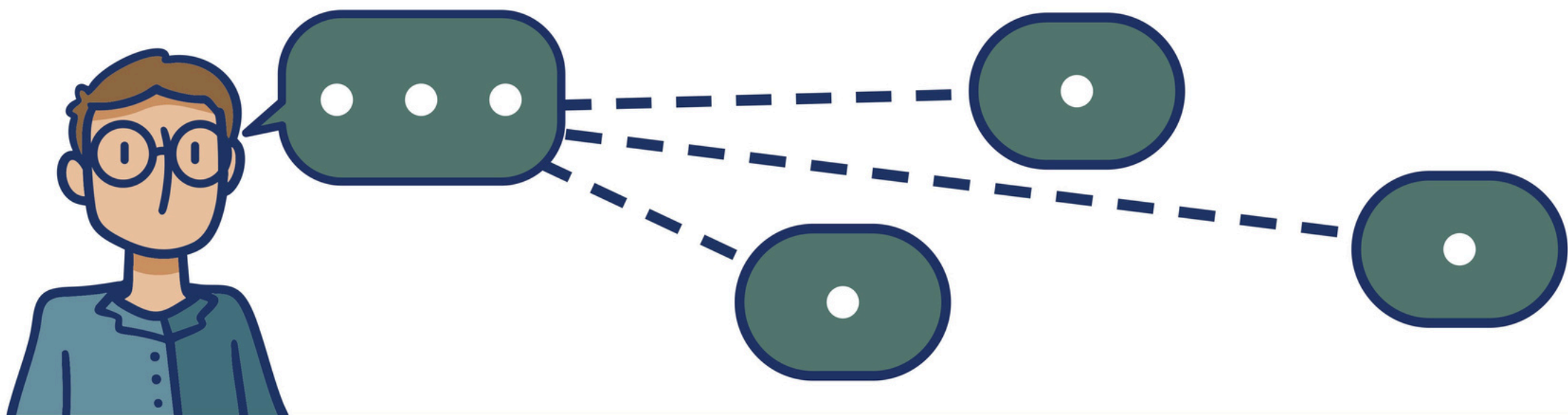
Remember the standard “If A, then B” relationship, or $A \rightarrow B$. In this relationship, A represents the sufficient condition while B represents the necessary condition.

Full Example: If Harvey is at work, then Mike is at work. Harvey is currently at work. Therefore, Mike is at work.

Premise:	Harvey at work \rightarrow Mike at work	Premise:	$A \rightarrow B$
Event:	Harvey at work	Event:	A
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Conclusion:	Mike at work	Conclusion:	B

Example Explained

Looking at the example, the argument provides you with the premise, describing the relationship between Harvey being at work and Mike being at work. You are then given the event of Harvey being at work. From this, the conclusion that Mike is at work can be logically made. **This same visual arrangement can be used for many different argument structures**, as you will see in the coming pages.



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