

Domain 1 of 4

Overview

Logical Reasoning is the most important section of the LSAT, comprising approximately two-thirds of your scored questions (two sections of ~25 questions each, 35 minutes per section). It tests your ability to analyze, evaluate, and complete arguments.

Each question presents a short argument (stimulus) followed by a question stem and five answer choices. The key is to understand exactly what the question is asking before reading the answer choices.

Core Question Types

- Must Be True / Most Strongly Supported: conclusions that follow from the stimulus
- Strengthen / Weaken: identify what would make the argument more or less convincing
- Assumption (Necessary): identify what the argument must assume to be valid
- Assumption (Sufficient): identify what would guarantee the conclusion
- Flaw: identify the logical error in the argument
- Method of Reasoning: describe how the argument proceeds
- Parallel Reasoning: find the argument with the same logical structure

■ **Exam Tip:** For Assumption questions, use the Negation Test: negate the answer choice and see if it destroys the argument. If it does, that's the necessary assumption. This works because necessary assumptions are things the argument cannot be false.

Argument Structure

- Conclusion: the main point the author is trying to establish (look for "therefore," "thus," "hence," "so")
- Premises: the evidence or reasons supporting the conclusion (look for "because," "since," "given that")
- Assumption: the unstated premise that bridges the gap between evidence and conclusion
- Counterargument: an objection the author addresses (look for "although," "while," "despite")
- Intermediate conclusion: a conclusion that also serves as a premise for the main conclusion

Common Logical Fallacies on the LSAT

- Correlation vs. causation: assuming A caused B because they occur together
- Sampling bias: generalizing from an unrepresentative sample
- Equivocation: using the same word with two different meanings
- False dichotomy: assuming only two options when more exist
- Ad hominem: attacking the person rather than the argument
- Circular reasoning: using the conclusion as a premise

■ **Exam Tip:** On Weaken questions, the correct answer attacks the argument's assumption — the gap between the evidence and conclusion. Wrong answers often attack the evidence itself or are irrelevant.