

Domain 3 of 4

# Overview

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The LSAT Reading Comprehension section contains 4 passages (one of which is a Comparative Reading set of two shorter passages) with 5-8 questions each, for approximately 27 questions in 35 minutes.

Passage topics include law, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. The questions test your ability to understand the main point, identify the author's purpose, make inferences, and compare viewpoints.

## Question Types

- Main Point: identify the central argument or purpose of the passage
- Author's Purpose: why did the author write this passage?
- Inference: what can be concluded based on information in the passage?
- Strengthen/Weaken: what would support or undermine the author's argument?
- Vocabulary in Context: what does this word/phrase mean as used in the passage?
- Structure: how is the passage organized? What role does a paragraph play?
- Comparative Reading: how do the two passages relate? Where do they agree/disagree?

■ **Exam Tip:** Read the passage with a purpose: identify the main argument, the author's attitude, and the structure. For law-related passages, identify the rule, the application, and any exceptions.

## Active Reading Strategy

- Paragraph 1: usually introduces the topic and the author's main argument
- Middle paragraphs: develop the argument with evidence, examples, or counterarguments
- Final paragraph: often restates the main point or draws a conclusion
- Mark transitions: "however," "in contrast," "furthermore," "therefore"
- Note the author's tone: objective, critical, supportive, cautious, enthusiastic

## Comparative Reading Strategy

- Read Passage A first and note its main argument
- Read Passage B and immediately compare it to Passage A
- Ask: Do they agree, disagree, or address different aspects of the same topic?
- Note where they overlap and where they diverge
- For questions asking about both passages, the answer must be supported by both

■ **Exam Tip:** For Inference questions, the correct answer must be directly supported by the passage — not just consistent with it. Avoid answers that go beyond what the passage explicitly states.