The Digital LSAT

What You Need to Know
THE DIGITAL LSAT: INTRODUCTION

The digital administration of the LSAT constitutes the biggest change to the exam in more than 25 years. Since its inception in 1945, the LSAT has been a paper-and-pencil test, its recognizable answer grid replete with columns of little bubbles to be filled in by No. 2 pencil only. Starting in July 2019, the LSAT will be administered on tablets equipped with software exclusively designed to deliver the test. This change has some test takers excited and makes others wary. An even larger percentage, however, simply have questions, and those are what this short volume is designed to answer.

_The Digital LSAT: What You Need to Know_ will first lay out the details of the digital test administration: what’s changing and what isn’t, when the changes are coming, and briefly, why. Next, the book digs into the tools available in the digital interface and passes on some tips from our LSAT experts who’ve used the new software. Finally, you’ll find Kaplan’s advice for the best ways to prepare for the digital test.

At Kaplan, we believe that the change to a digital format provides opportunities for the well-trained test taker to excel. There are new and unique tools to learn about and a few changes to the test day experience to get ready for, but your key to success on the digital LSAT is preparation, and that’s why we’re here.

*Images of the Digital Familiarization Tool are used with permission of LSAC. This is not an official Law School Admission Council simulation, but it provides an experience intended to be similar to the digital LSAT.*
THE DIGITAL LSAT: FACTS AND DATES

The upcoming implementation of the digital administration of the LSAT is the result of several years of study and design by LSAC, the organization that writes and administers the exam. The most obvious change to the test taker experience will be in the “hardware.” The test booklet and score sheet are out. The tablet and digital interface are in.

Part II of this book will examine the details of the digital interface and provide strategies to help you take full advantage of the new tools. That said, what’s under the hood—the test’s sections and questions—isn’t seeing the same radical change. To allay potential trepidation and to better focus on what is new, first take a look at what remains the same between the paper LSAT and its new digital counterpart.

What’s Not Changing
1. The Test Sections and Questions

Since 1992, the LSAT has had four scored sections: two of Logical Reasoning, one of Reading Comprehension, and one of Logic Games (which the LSAT calls Analytical Reasoning). Over the past 10 years, the number of questions in each of those sections has been almost unchanged. These section types and the number of questions in each will remain intact under the digital administration.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th># of Qs</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logical Reasoning</td>
<td>24 - 26</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Comprehension</td>
<td>26 - 28</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Reasoning (Logic Games)</td>
<td>22 - 24</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental (unscored - any type)</td>
<td>22 - 28</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1.2 LSAT section breakdown**

Within those sections, the types of questions, games, and reading passages will also remain unchanged. In short, you could drop a paper-and-pencil LSAT into the digital format, and vice versa, and as far as the content goes, you would not know the difference.

Notice that there is also an unscored experimental section, which the testmaker includes to evaluate questions for future LSATs. It, too, remains unchanged from the paper-and-pencil administration. The experimental section may appear as any one of the three scored section types, and it may appear at any point in the test.

**LSAT Strategy**

You will not know which section is experimental and you should do your best on all five sections. It is not in your interest to try to guess or figure out the position of the experimental section during the test.

The LSAT will continue to have an unscored Writing Sample, but it will no longer be administered as part of the test day experience. You'll learn more about the new asynchronous Writing Sample in the "What IS Changing" section that follows.

**2. How the Test Is Scored**

LSAT scores are determined entirely by the number of questions a test taker correctly answers. There is no wrong answer penalty, and every question counts equally. This was true for the test’s paper-and-pencil format and will continue to be for the digital version.

**LSAT Strategy**

Don’t leave any bubbles blank. Select an answer for every question even if it is a guess.

The testmaker converts raw scores (the number of correct answers) to the well known 120-180 score through a process called *scaling* that ensures that scores from all test administrations within a three-year window are comparable. The schools to which you apply also see your percentile rank, or the proportion of test takers you scored better than.
The LSAC is undertaking rigorous testing to ensure that digital administrations can be scored fairly and accurately in relation to paper-and-pencil administrations. You may discover a personal preference for one format over the other, but rest assured that there will be no “built in” score advantage for either digital or paper-and-pencil test takers.

**DIGITAL DETAIL - The JULY 2019 TEST**

As part of LSAC’s comparison testing of the digital and paper formats, roughly half of the test takers for the July 15, 2019 LSAT administration will take the test on paper while the other half takes the test digitally on tablets. Test takers will not know which format they will use until test day. Because of this uncertainty, LSAC will allow test takers for this administration only to cancel their results after seeing their scores. All subsequent LSAT administrations will be 100% digital, and test takers will not be able to cancel once scores have been released.

3. **Test Registration and (Most) Test Day Rules**

At least for now, LSAC is making no changes to its policies and procedures for registering and checking in for the LSAT test. You will still need to register by the deadline associated with each administration. Test dates and registration deadlines can be found at [www.lsac.org/lsat/lsat-dates-deadlines-score-release-dates](http://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsat-dates-deadlines-score-release-dates). You will also need to upload your passport photo by a
designated date and download your admission ticket prior to going to the test site. See www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-1sat/lsat-test-center-admission-requirements for all requirements.

Likewise, the LSAC has not announced any changes to its rules about what test takers may and may not bring to test sites. See www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-1sat/lsat-test-center-rules for the specifics. Note: July 2019 test takers should bring sharpened No. 2 pencils. If your test site is giving paper-and-pencil tests, you’ll be ready. If your test site turns out to be a digital test site, you will not need to use pencils, as digital test takers will be given a pen to use on scratch paper and a stylus to use for highlighting and underlining on the tablet.

What Is Changing

The biggest change entailed in the digital administration of the LSAT is, of course, the change from paper to tablet both to deliver the questions and to capture test takers’ responses. You can get to know the digital interface through tutorial videos and practice at the appropriately named familiar.lsac.org/. Broadly stating that the test is now on a computer, however, masks several subtle but important differences in test takers’ test day experiences.

1. Pre-Test Procedures

Before the administration of the paper-and-pencil LSAT, test takers heard their proctors read a list of rules aloud and then, without opening their test booklets, were instructed to remove the answer grid and fill in their personal information using bubbles for their name, date of birth, and so on. Now, pre-test instructions will be delivered via a video, and personal information will be entered into the tablet.

2. Scratch Paper

For the paper-and-pencil LSAT, test takers were given no additional scratch paper and were forbidden from bringing any to the test site. Well prepared test takers practiced using the space in their test booklets to take notes, draw diagrams, or flag questions they skipped.

Now, each test taker will be provided with a booklet of blank paper (you still may not bring any from outside the test site) along with the digital tablet. It will be important for digital administration test takers to practice taking notes and drawing Logic Games sketches on paper separate from the test questions, and even to think about details such as where they want to keep the tablet and scratch paper on the desk as they work. Kaplan LSAT experts provide some valuable strategies and tactics for scratch paper use in Part II of this book.

DIGITAL LSAT STRATEGY

If you are practicing for a digital administration of the LSAT using paper PrepTests from LSAC, start training yourself to take notes on separate sheets of scratch paper. Think of the paper PrepTest as a virtual tablet on which you can highlight or underline, but on which you cannot write or draw.
3. Bubbling In Your Answers

This is one area in which the digital interface appears to be a pure win. On the paper-and-pencil LSAT, you, as a test taker, could circle or cross-out answers in the test booklet, but you did not get credit for an answer unless you accurately bubbled it on the answer grid. There were several risks involved in this process. You might fail to completely fill in the bubble, or you could “double-bubble,” both of which would cause the machine scoring the test to register no response for that question. Even worse, you might get your bubbles off by one question—for example, bubbling the answer to Question 5 on the line for Question 6. If you didn’t catch that mistake quickly, it could lead to a disaster in which all of the subsequent questions for that entire section were mis-bubbled.

In the digital interface, your only concern is clicking on the correct answer to start with. If the correct answer for Question 2 is (E), let’s say, all you have to do is click (E) to the left of the answer choice. The tablet will record your answer choice for each question and mis-bubbling is a thing of the past.
DIGITAL LSAT STRATEGY

The new digital interface has a FLAG tool that allows you to note questions to which you want to return, time permitting. Get used to flagging questions you skip and those for which you choose an answer but feel that another look will increase your confidence that you’ve made the right choice.

4. Time Keeping and the 5-Minute Warning

For the paper-and-pencil LSAT, proctors are also the official timekeepers for each section. They verbally announce “Begin working on Section X,” and usually, write the start time for the section on the board at the front of the room. They also verbally announce “Five minutes remaining” and “Pencils down” for each section. On the digital LSAT, the proctor will tell you to get ready for a section to begin, and then they will press a button that starts the section for all of the tablets in the room. There is a countdown timer in the tablet interface that can be hidden if you find it distracting.
When five minutes remain in the section, test takers will see a pop-up to that effect. They will not be able to proceed in the section until they actively close the 5-minute-warning pop-up. From that point until the end of the section, test takers will not be able to hide the countdown timer.

When time expires, the section will automatically close. There will be no way for test takers to add or change any answers for that section once time has expired.

**DIGITAL LSAT STRATEGY**

When you have less than five minutes remaining in a section, take a moment to click an answer (even if it’s a guess) to each unanswered question you have remaining. Check your flagged questions to decide which you want to go back to review in the time remaining.

5. The Writing Sample

For decades now, test takers at paper-and-pencil administrations of the LSAT have had to complete a 35-minute writing sample after the end of their multiple-choice LSAT test. They were given a separate booklet with a prompt for the Writing Sample and were expected to hand-write their responses on a two-sided sheet of lined paper within the booklet. Well, no more.

Starting with the June 3, 2019 administration of the exam (the last 100% paper-and-pencil administration at test sites), and continuing for all subsequent administrations, test takers will complete the Writing Sample online at a time of their own convenience within one year of their official test date. And, to the delight of many test takers, they'll be able to type their responses. The timing will be the same, so be sure you’ll have an uninterrupted 35 minutes in which to complete your Writing Sample essay.
The Writing Sample is not scored, and it will not be for the digital administration either. Law school admissions officers at many schools, however, tell Kaplan that they read all of their applicants’ Writing Sample responses and give them serious consideration as part of their holistic evaluation of each applicant. Should you decide to take the LSAT more than once, you will not have to complete another Writing Sample.

Accessibility and Accommodations on the Digital LSAT

Accessibility

The LSAC lays out the accessibility features available on the tablets used for administering the digital LSAT in its FAQ here: [www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/about-digital-lsat](http://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/about-digital-lsat).

This is LSAC’s verbatim FAQ entry on Accessibility as of April 4, 2019:

“The Digital LSAT is administered on a Microsoft Surface Go tablet, and has a 8.3125” x 5.5” screen on which text is displayed. The following features will be automatically available for the Digital LSAT Test:

- Stylus
- User-adjustable font sizes (8, 10, 12, 15, 18, and 27-point font)
- Adjustable line spacing
- Brightness adjustment
- High-contrast text
- Magnification gestures
- Color inversion
- Color filters to assist a wide range of issues, including deuteranomaly (reduced sensitivity to green light), protanomaly (reduced sensitivity to red light), and tritanomaly (reduced sensitivity to blue light), as well as light sensitivity and visual preferences
- Gray scale

All candidates will also have access to scratch paper and a pen provided by LSAC for use with the Digital LSAT. LSAC will also provide a stylus that can be used to underline and highlight text on the tablet.”

Accommodations

LSAC has made clear that it will honor accommodated testing for the digital administrations of the LSAT just as it has on paper-and-pencil versions. In fact, some accommodations—such as alternative score sheets or larger font sizes—may be built-in features of the digital interface. Nevertheless, LSAC encourages students to apply for all appropriate accommodations. This is especially important for anyone taking the July 15, 2019 administration, as test takers will not know until they arrive at the test site whether they are receiving a paper or digital version of the test. For more information about accommodated testing and all of the details about how to apply for accommodations, see [www.lsac.org/lsat/lsac-policy-accommodations-test-takers-disabilities](http://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsac-policy-accommodations-test-takers-disabilities). LSAC addresses questions about accommodations on the digital test in their FAQ: [www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/about-digital-lsat](http://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/about-digital-lsat).
## UPCOMING LSAT ADMINISTRATIONS

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>100% Paper; Online writing sample</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 24, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 15, 2019, 12:30 pm</td>
<td>50% Paper, 50% Digital; Online writing sample</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 4, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 21, 2019, 8:30 am</td>
<td>100% Digital; Online writing sample</td>
<td>[TBA]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 28, 2019, 12:30 pm</td>
<td>100% Digital; Online writing sample</td>
<td>[TBA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 25, 2019, 12:30 pm</td>
<td>100% Digital; Online writing sample</td>
<td>[TBA]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.8 2019 LSAT test dates and formats  LSAC.org
THE DIGITAL LSAT: STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

The purpose of this section is to illustrate and explain some of the ways you can use the new digital LSAT interface to your advantage. Using the new tools judiciously will help you manage time and put points in your pocket on test day. Before you dive into this part of the book, please watch the tutorial videos posted by LSAC to help test takers get acquainted with the new test format: familiar.lsac.org/. After you’ve watched the videos and experimented a bit with the generic practice questions, come back to this chapter to see the advice of Kaplan’s veteran LSAT experts. Then, apply your new skills and strategies to the Section Practice back on the LSAC website.

The strategies and tactics you’ll learn here focus exclusively on using the digital interface. Of course, success on the LSAT requires mastery of the content and skills involved in answering the questions as well. If you’re looking for more help and practice with all aspects of the test, visit www.kaptest.com/LSAT for everything from free events and books to live in-person and online courses. We’ve got your back on all things LSAT.

The Digital LSAT Interface

Here's a screenshot of a generic question, taken from the Digital LSAT interface. We've labeled the buttons to show you what each of them does.
Here’s what we’ve labeled along with a few strategy notes that apply to all three scored sections of the test.

1. The “Directions” button will take you back to the Directions slide at the start of the test section. When you’re on the Directions page, this button changes to say “Questions.” If you click the button while you’re on the Directions page, it will take you back to the last question at which you were looking.

2. These icons activate the underlining and highlighting tools (there are three highlighter colors), and an eraser tool to remove underlines or highlights you’ve made.

   **PRACTICE TIP**

On the official LSAT, you will have a stylus that makes underlining and highlighting easier and more accurate than it may be with your finger (if you’re using a tablet without a stylus); the stylus will almost certainly feel more responsive than a mouse (if you’re practicing on a laptop).

3. These three tools allow you to adjust font size (four options), line spacing (three options), and brightness (a slider).
**PRACTICE TIP**

Practice using these tools—preferably on a tablet—until you’re familiar and comfortable with them. That way, you’ll know from the get-go how you want to adjust the view for each section of the test. Note: The LSAC familiarization tool is web-based, so no matter how you use it, it will not have quite the ease of use or responsiveness of the official test day tablet.

4. This is the section timer. It will start at 35:00 and count down to 00:00. For the first 30 minutes of the section, you can hide the timer by clicking on the numbers.

**PRACTICE TIP**

Some test takers like to see the timer. Others get anxious having the clock in their peripheral vision. There is no right or wrong way to use the timer. Try it out in practice to see what works best for you.

5. This is where the question’s stimulus or prompt will be. For Logical Reasoning, that means the argument or paragraph on which the question is based; for Logic Games, it means the game’s setup and rules; and, for Reading Comprehension, it means the passage. For passages and paragraphs too long to fit on the screen, there will be a scroll bar that controls just the text in the left-hand column.

6. This column will always have the question stem and answer choices. Clicking a circle to the left of an answer choice selects that choice as the correct answer. Clicking a circle to the right of an answer choice will grey-down that choice. Note: You must click a choice from the left-hand circles; greying down four answer choices does not automatically select the correct answer. This may look or sound confusing at first, but it’s quite intuitive after just a couple minutes of practice.

**DIGITAL LSAT STRATEGY**

Among the high-scoring LSAT experts we surveyed about their use of the new digital interface, no feature gained as universally high praise as the “grey down” bubbles. Top scorers on the LSAT develop tremendous acumen and confidence that allows them to eliminate incorrect choices after one read-through. They all appreciated the added clarity of being able to visually eliminate the choice with one click.

6a. On questions in which the right-hand column text will not fit onscreen, you’ll see upward arrows to the right of the answer choices. These allow you to collapse answer choices until the text no longer requires a scroll bar. Collapsing answers you’ve confidently eliminated will help you avoid rereading and confusion.
7. This flag allows you to mark questions. Our LSAT experts used it in two situations. Some flagged questions that they skipped or left unanswered. All of the experts, however, used the flag for questions to which they wanted to return, time permitting. In some cases, these were questions for which they had picked an answer, but had low confidence in their choice and wanted to give it one more look. In other cases, these were questions on which the expert had eliminated (greyed down) two or three of the answers and wanted to come back for a final decision on the remaining choices.

**DIGITAL LSAT STRATEGY**

Strategic skipping and guessing are important tactics for effective time management on the LSAT. Test experts know that all questions carry equal weight in calculating their final score, so they avoid wasting too much time on any single question. The flag tool on the digital test is a huge improvement over any technique available for keeping track of skipped questions in the paper test booklet.

8. The horizontal bar at the bottom of the screen is for navigation. We call it the “bubble bar,” and it indicates questions for which you’ve selected a correct answer, questions you’ve left blank, and any question you’ve flagged, answered or not. The current on-screen question is indicated by a small vertical bar above the bubble. Clicking on a bubble in the navigation bar will automatically advance you to that question. The forward and back buttons in the far bottom right will move you one question forward or back.
Digital Strategies for the Logic Games Section

Here’s a typical screen from the Logic Games section.

![Logic Games question screen](LSAC.org)

Take note of two features that distinguish the Logic Games screen from the Logical Reasoning screen you saw earlier. First, the left-hand column now has the game’s setup and rules. That remains the same for all of the questions associated with this game (which, as you can see from the bubble bar, includes questions 1-7). Any highlighting or underlining you do in the setup and rules (i.e., the left-hand column) will persist even when you move to another question. Second, there are vertical lines in the bubble bar to indicate the beginning and end of each of the section’s four games. You’ll use that to your advantage in the very first strategy associated with this section.

1. **Triage the games before diving in.** Too often, test takers simply take the games in the order that the test serves them up. Even on the paper-and-pencil LSAT, many experts suggested flipping through the four games in the section to assess their relative difficulty. With the ease of clicking through the games on the bubble bar, this initial section triage is even easier.

2. **Set up your scratch paper.** For almost every test taker, the Logic Games section will require more handwritten diagrams and notes than any other section on the LSAT. One nice thing about the paper test booklet was that you could keep your sketches right below the setup and rules and right next to each question.
Kaplan LSAT experts suggest that you develop an equally clear system for keeping track of your handwritten work in the pages of your scratch paper booklet. As soon as you see that your section is Logic Games, label four pages (or, if you have big handwriting, four sets of 2-page spreads) with “G1,” “G2,” etc. to keep track of your notes for each game. Then, for each game’s page, preserve an area for your depiction of the overall setup and rules, and label a spot for each question. Keeping your work clear and distinct will prevent confusion later on.
3. *Jot down the correct answer to the Acceptability question.* Well-trained test takers know that, for almost every logic game, the first question will ask for an acceptable arrangement of the game’s entities. Using Kaplan’s elimination strategy for Acceptability questions, they turn these into quick points. Beyond that, however, true LSAT experts use the correct answer to the Acceptability question (which represents an arrangement that does not violate any of the game’s rules) to eliminate incorrect answers in other questions associated with the game. In the paper booklet, a test taker could see all of the questions associated with a given game without turning a page. On the digital test, however, you need to click back to see the answer to an earlier question. Our LSAT experts all indicated that they would simply write down the correct answer to any Acceptability question on their scratch paper, so they could use it to evaluate other questions without having to click back and forth. There is an example of this in the previous illustration.

**PRACTICE TIP**

Don’t hesitate to use paper-and-pencil LSAC PrepTests to prep for the digital test. The content will be 100% applicable. As you use those tests, however, train yourself to start using scratch paper for your sketches and diagrams. You don’t want test day to be your first time managing the test interface and a separate scratch paper booklet.

By the way, if you need the best explanations for all of the questions on recent LSAC PrepTests, get them from Kaplan. They come individually or in 10 test bundles to match LSAT publications. They are available either in print or for your Kindle device.
Our dedicated team of LSAT experts has been analyzing and explaining LSAC tests for over 50 years.

4. [Optional] Highlight the “level of truth” required by the correct answer. Kaplan-trained LSAT test takers get very fast and accurate at characterizing the one correct and four incorrect answers for any Logic Games question. Consider, for example, a question in which the correct answer must be false. In that case, all four wrong answers could be true. On the paper test, some experts would jot down something along the lines of “1 MBF / 4 CBT” next to the question stem in the booklet to help them evaluate the answer choices more quickly and confidently. Those same experts were more likely to highlight the characteristics of the correct answer when working in the digital environment. Try it out to see if this is helpful for you.

Digital Strategies for the Reading Comprehension Section

A typical page from the Reading Comprehension section is similar to those in Logic Games.
For example, the bubble bar navigation feature at the bottom of the screen clearly indicates the beginning and end of the four passages in the section.

The left-hand column, however, looks a little different. Given that LSAT passages are, on average, 450-550 words long, you’ll always see a scroll bar. Because of the lengths of the passages, LSAC has built in a “Passage Only” option for reading. When you click into this mode, you won’t see a question. Instead, you’ll see as much of the passage as the font size and line spacing you’ve chosen will allow.

![Figure 2.7 "Passage Only" display mode LSAC.org](image)

Any highlights or underlines you add while in Passage Only mode will persist when you return to the “Passage With Questions” screen. That means that you can mark up the passage in Passage Only mode, and when you return to the question layout, you’ll see all of the same marks (highlights or underlines) that you made in exactly the same places in the passage text.

**PRACTICE TIP**

Kaplan’s LSAT experts were divided in their evaluation of the Passage Only screen. Some preferred it while conducting their initial, strategic read-through of the passage. Others never opted into it. Try the section both ways to see what’s best for you.
1. **Triage the passages before diving in.** As in the games section, clicking the first question for each passage will allow you to give them a quick once-over. Use your personal preference for subject matter along with a more objective evaluation of the ease and clarity of the language to determine the order in which you want to tackle the passages.

2. **Set up your scratch paper.** You’ll almost certainly want to jot down some notes as you read each passage. While your scratchwork won’t be anywhere near as complex as it will in the Logic Games section, it’s a good idea to have your pages labeled with something like “P1,” “P2,” and so on to keep each passage separate. This is especially true if you want to work out of order.

   **PRACTICE TIP**

   On the paper-and-pencil test, Kaplan students learned to Roadmap the passage by circling or underlining keywords and jotting down brief margin notes next to each paragraph.

   The highlighting and underlining tools in the digital interface can be used for the first part of that Roadmapping strategy, but don’t go overboard with these attractive tools. Learn to zero in exclusively on the keywords that help you read more efficiently and effectively to target LSAT points.

   In the digital interface, of course, all paragraph notes or summaries will now have to go onto your scratch paper. Practice effective paraphrasing so that you can capture the author’s purpose and point of view accurately in just a few words.

   Here’s a page of sample paragraph notes from one LSAT expert.

   ![Figure 2.8 Sample Reading Comp passage notes](image)

   No two test takers will take identical notes, so don’t strive to replicate what you see here word-for-word. Evaluate your notes by how much they helped you anticipate the questions associated
with the passage and how quickly and accurately you were able to research the passage to find any and all correct answers.

3. [Optional] Highlight the question type in the question stem. With practice and experience, LSAT experts learn that different types of Reading Comprehension questions reward different research and evaluation skills. Some of Kaplan’s veteran instructors used the digital highlighting tool to tag words in the question stems that indicated different question types.

Here, for example, “states that” indicates a Detail question, while “most likely to agree” signals an Inference question.

This was by no means a universal application of the digital interface, so try it out to see when it may or may not be the most helpful approach for you.

4. Use the scroll bar to help you research. In LSAT Reading Comprehension, most of the questions will reference (either explicitly or implicitly) a specific paragraph or piece of text. Expert test takers research the text before evaluating the answer choices. Kaplan’s LSAT experts almost universally reported that aligning the paragraph to be researched with the question made their work on the digital platform more efficient than identical research in the paper test booklet.
On the paper-and-pencil test, some question stems would have specific line numbers to indicate where in the passage the quoted or referenced text appeared. Line numbering is impossible in the digital interface (as test takers can vary the font size and line spacing), so any question that would have cited line numbers in the paper version will now highlight the referenced text in the passage. The color of the highlight, by the way, is different from any of the highlighter colors available to the test taker.
extravagantly awful The Two Ways of Life—rather than among its most vital images.
It is precisely the camera's realism—its stubborn obsession with the surface of things—that has given Cameron's theatricality and artificality its atmosphere of truth. It is the truth of the sitting, rather than the fiction which all the dressing up was in aid of, that wafts out of these wonderful and strange, not-quite-in-focus photographs. They are what they are: pictures of housemaids and nieces and husbands and village children who are dressed up as Mary Magdolinas and Infant Jesuses and John the Baptists and Lancelots and Guinevere and and trying desperately hard to sit still. The way each sitter endures his or her ordeal is the collective action of the photograph, its "plot" so to speak. When we look at a narrative painting we can suspend our disbelief: when we look at a narrative photograph we cannot. We are always aware of the photograph's doubleness—of each figure's imaginary and real personas. Theater can transcend its doubleness, can make us believe (for at least some of the time) that we are seeing only Lear or Medea. But photographs of theatrical scenes can never escape being pictures of actors.

10. Which one of the following, if true, would most help to explain the claim about suspension of disbelief in the second paragraph?

A. Sitting for a painting typically takes much longer than sitting for a photograph.
B. Paintings, unlike photographs, can depict obviously impossible situations.
C. All of the sitters for a painting do not have to be present at the same time.
D. A painter can suppress details about a sitter that are at odds with an imaginary persona.
E. Paintings typically bear the stylistic imprint of an artist, school, or period.

Figure 2.11 Highlighted text replaces the use of line numbers to reference text in the passage. LSAC.org

Digital Strategies for Logical Reasoning

The Logical Reasoning section has the least need for notes or sketches. In one sense, that makes it best suited for the digital format. Still, effective use of the digital tools can enhance your efficiency and accuracy in this section of the test.
1. **[Optional] Highlight the question type in the question stem.** Similar to their approach in Reading Comprehension (discussed in the previous section), some LSAT experts used the highlighting or underlining tools to mark language in the question stem that indicates the question type. Well-trained LSAT test takers know that the best approach to, say, Strengthen/Weaken questions is very different from that for Inference questions. Whether you choose to use the highlighting tool is up to you, but knowing the tasks and strategies for each question type is essential to LSAT success.

2. **[Optional] Mark up the stimulus.** In the Kaplan Logical Reasoning Method, Step 2 is labeled “Untangle the Stimulus.” In other words, don’t passively read the stimulus. Instead, dissect it with a surgical precision to identify and paraphrase the text needed to answer the question. Assumption-Family questions (Assumption, Strengthen/Weaken, and Flaw) provide an excellent example. For these questions, test takers need to identify the author’s conclusion and zero in on the explicit evidence the author offers in support of that conclusion. On the paper test, many LSAT experts had a system for labeling these parts of the argument. For example, they might bracket the conclusion and underline the primary evidence.
Although video game sales have increased steadily over the past 3 years, we can expect a reversal of this trend in the very near future. Historically, over three quarters of video games sold have been purchased by people from 13 to 16 years of age, and the number of people in this age group is expected to decline steadily over the next 10 years.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument?

(A) Most people 17 years old or older have never purchased a video game.
(B) Video game rentals have declined over the past 3 years.
(C) New technology will undoubtedly make entirely new entertainment options available over the next 10 years.
(D) The number of different types of video games available is unlikely to decrease in the near future.
(E) Most of the people who have purchased video games over the past 3 years are over the age of 16.

Figure 2.13 LR question mark-up on a paper test  PT Jun07, Section 2, Question 9

In translating this approach to the digital interface, our experts tried a variety of approaches; e.g., some highlighted the conclusion in one color and the evidence in another; others underlined the conclusion but left the evidence blank; some even highlighted the evidence and underlined the conclusion; a few made no marks at all. All of these experts are top scorers and seasoned LSAT veterans. The fact that they had such different approaches means that you should adopt your own best practices here. Being able to zero in on the conclusion and evidence is essential; how you get there on the digital test depends on your own practice and your comfort with the various tools.

3. Use scratch paper for Formal Logic. Kaplan’s LSAT experts largely agreed that the one important use for scratch paper in Logical Reasoning is to jot down complicated Formal Logic translations and their contrapositives. When you do this, be sure to label the question with which the scratchwork is associated in case you need to come back to one or more of these questions later in the section.

PRACTICE TIP

Time management is vital in Logical Reasoning. With 35 minutes for 25 discrete questions, you need to average about 1 minute 15 seconds per question. The “Danger Zone” – the area with the highest concentration of difficult questions – tends to be roughly Question 14 through Question 21. On the paper test, that meant the third of the section’s four 2-page spreads was probably the hardest. Some LSAT experts chose to do that spread last to maximize their opportunity to get to
the easiest questions first. The digital format makes that approach obsolete. On paper, other experts would work from Question 1 through Question 14 and then work backward from the end of the section to Question 15. That latter approach is still available. However you choose to manage the section, remember that the Danger Zone is still in place. Don’t get bogged down in this quagmire of hard questions. Skip and guess strategically to maximize your efficiency and your score.