

Instructions & Information for the Sample LSAT

Instructions-

Each of the four numbered sections requires 17 minutes and 30 seconds. Do not continue work after time for that section has expired. Do not go back and work on previous sections. You should do each section consecutively, with no breaks. You will need a total of 70 minutes of test-taking time. Do the test in a quiet place with no distractions. If you do not observe the time limits, you will get an inaccurate score.

To mark your answers, simply circle your chosen answer choice. On the actual LSAT you will transfer your answers to a separate answer sheet. In Get Prepped classes, we teach students to do all work in the test booklet, and transfer answers to the separate sheet only after completing a block of answers. This saves time and reduces the possibility of errors in transferring answers.

Information-

The questions in this sample LSAT are highly authentic and are a good predictor of your score on an actual LSAT. Please note, this sample LSAT is not a previously administered LSAT. Get Prepped is licensed to use actual, previously administered LSAT tests in Get Prepped classes, and all LSAT tests used in Get Prepped classes are actual, previously administered LSAT tests. But, due to licensing restrictions, Get Prepped cannot transmit licensed LSAT tests in electronic format, including on the internet. The only way to obtain a free previously administered LSAT test on-line is to visit the LSAC.org website.

This sample LSAT is comprised of 4 test sections of 17 minutes and 30 seconds each. The actual LSAT is comprised of 5 test sections of 35 minutes each, but all published LSAT tests that you can obtain contain only 4 sections of 35 minutes each. The questions in this sample LSAT are not actual LSAT questions. But if you adhere to the required time limits, your score on this sample LSAT will be very similar to the score you would receive on an actual LSAT.

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SECTION I
Time- 17 minutes, 30 seconds
12 Questions

Directions: Each group of questions in this section is based on a set of conditions. In answering some of the questions, it may be useful to draw a rough diagram. Choose the response that most accurately and completely answers each question and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

Questions 1-6

At Markham University, students in the History class are required to meet with the teaching assistant once per semester. The teaching assistant offers meeting times on one day, one meeting time in the morning, one in the afternoon, and one in the evening. The students in the History class this semester are Frank, Gina, Harry, Jon, Kaspar, Leon, Marc, and Nino. The meetings with the teaching assistant must conform to the following conditions:

- The teaching assistant will not meet with only one student at a time.
- The teaching assistant must meet with at least one student in each of the available meeting times.
- Frank and Jon cannot attend the same meeting.
- Kaspar and Marc cannot attend the same meeting.
- If Gina attends the morning meeting, then Kaspar must attend the evening meeting.
- If Jon attends the afternoon meeting, then Harry must attend the afternoon meeting.
- The number of students who meet in the morning must be the same as the number of students who meet in the evening.

1. Which of the following is an acceptable arrangement of student meetings?
 - A) Morning: Frank, Gina, Nino; Afternoon: Harry, Jon; Evening: Kaspar, Leon, Marc
 - B) Morning: Jon; Afternoon: Frank, Gina, Harry, Leon, Marc, Nino; Evening: Kaspar
 - C) Morning: Gina, Marc; Afternoon: Harry, Jon, Leon, Nino; Evening: Frank, Kaspar
 - D) Morning: Harry, Leon, Nino; Afternoon: Frank, Gina, Kaspar; Evening: Jon, Marc
 - E) Morning: Frank, Gina, Harry; Afternoon: Jon, Marc; Evening: Kaspar, Leon, Nino

2. If Jon and Kaspar meet in the afternoon, which of the following must be true?
 - A) Frank attends the morning meeting.
 - B) Marc attends the afternoon meeting.
 - C) Leon attends the afternoon meeting.
 - D) Exactly three people attend the morning meeting.
 - E) Exactly four people attend the afternoon meeting.

3. If Gina meets in the morning and Leon and Nino meet in the evening, then how many different possible meetings could there be in the afternoon?
 - A) 2
 - B) 3
 - C) 4
 - D) 5
 - E) 6

4. If Harry and Frank both meet in the morning, then which of the following must be true?
 - A) Jon meets in the evening.
 - B) Kaspar meets in the morning.
 - C) Leon meets in the morning.
 - D) Marc meets in the afternoon.
 - E) Nino meets in the afternoon.

5. If Gina and Leon are the only students who meet in the morning, then which of the following CANNOT be true?
 - A) Frank meets in the evening.
 - B) Harry meets in the afternoon.
 - C) Jon meets in the afternoon.
 - D) Nino meets in the evening.
 - E) Marc meets in the afternoon.

6. Suppose that the teaching assistant changes the conditions to allow for meeting with only one student in a given meeting. If all of the other conditions remain the same, what is the maximum number of students who could meet in the afternoon?
 - A) 4
 - B) 5
 - C) 6
 - D) 7
 - E) 8

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Questions 7-12

A car dealer has seven luxury cars in his showroom: a Bowie, a Faeri, a Jalar, a Le, a Mearcint, a Porti and a Volant. The dealer must place the cars in one of seven showroom spaces that are numbered 1-7 from left to right. Each showroom space must be filled with exactly one car. The following conditions apply to the placement of the cars in the showroom:

The Jalar must not be placed in a space adjacent to the Le.

The Bowie must be placed in a space adjacent to the Volant.

The Faeri must be placed in the first or the last space. If the Mearcint is placed in the third space, then the Le must be placed in the fifth space.

7. Which of the following is an acceptable placement of the cars in the showroom spaces from one to seven?
- (A.) Bowie, Volant, Mearcint, Jalar, Le, Porti, Faeri
(B.) Faeri, Jalar, Mearcint, Porti, Le, Bowie, Volant
(C.) Jalar, Faeri, Porti, Le, Volant, Bowie, Mearcint
(D.) Faeri, Bowie, Mearcint, Porti, Le, Volant, Jalar
(E.) Porti, Jalar, Mearcint, Volant, Bowie, Le, Faeri
8. If the Le is placed in space seven, then which of the following must be FALSE?
- (A.) The Faeri is in space one
(B.) The Bowie is in space two
(C.) The Jalar is in space three
(D.) The Mearcint is in space three
(E.) The Volant is in space two

9. If the Jalar is placed in space one, then which of the following must be true?
- (A.) The Bowie is in space two
(B.) The Faeri is in space six
(C.) The Mearcint is not in space three
(D.) The Porti is not in space five
(E.) The Volant is not in space six
10. If the Faeri is in space one and the Mearcint is in space three, then which of the following could be false?
- (A.) The Jalar is in space two
(B.) The Porti is in space four
(C.) The Mearcint and the Volant are not in adjacent spaces
(D.) The Bowie is in space six
(E.) The Faeri and the Porti are not in adjacent spaces
11. If the Volant is in space seven, which of the following is a complete and accurate list of cars, any one of which could be in space four?
- (A.) Jalar, Le
(B.) Le, Mearcint
(C.) Jalar, Le, Mearcint
(D.) Le, Mearcint, Porti
(E.) Jalar, Le, Mearcint, Porti
12. If the car dealer wants to place the Faeri and the Porti as far apart as possible on the showroom floor, and THEN place the Jalar and Le as far apart as possible on the showroom floor, then which of the following must be true?
- (A.) The Mearcint is in space five
(B.) The Jalar is in space two
(C.) The Faeri is in adjacent to the Jalar
(D.) The Le is in adjacent to the Porti
(E.) The Mearcint is adjacent to the Volant

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IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.
DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.

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SECTION II
 Time- 17 minutes, 30 seconds
 12 Questions

Directions: The questions in this section are based on the reasoning contained in brief statements or passages. For some questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question. You should not make assumptions that are by commonsense standards implausible, superfluous, or incompatible with the passage. After you have chosen the best answer, blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

1. In a recent survey of hospitals in the state of Cedar, the Roseville hospital was rated lowest in quality of care. While most of the ratings for the Roseville hospital were as high or higher than those for the other Cedar hospitals, Roseville received the lowest rating for the amount of patient/staff interaction. The ratio of doctors to patients at the Roseville hospital is one of the lowest in the state. Thus, the fact that there are so few doctors per patient at Roseville is responsible for the low patient/staff interaction rating that it received.

Which of the following, if true, would provide the strongest support for the conclusion above?

- (A) Roseville has the same number of hospital rooms as most of the other hospitals in the survey.
- (B) The hospital that received the lowest rating for the amount of patient/staff interaction in Ross, the state bordering Cedar, also has a very low ratio of doctors to patients.
- (C) Roseville hospital is renowned for its experimental medical programs, which have had very promising results, and it received the highest rating in Cedar for quality of experimental medicine.
- (D) Roseville hospital has more nurses per patient than any other hospital in Cedar.
- (E) Montpelier hospital, which is also located in Cedar, actually received a lower rating for amount of patient/staff interaction than Roseville hospital.

2. Mayor: My initiative to clean up the city parks has clearly been a success. Anyone can walk through the parks today without seeing the rampant drug use and litter that characterized the parks before my tenure in office. Ridding our fair city of these types of behavior was one of my campaign promises, and I have delivered on that promise.

Citizen: The parks may be cleaner than they were in the past, but the mayor's initiative has only succeeded in moving these undesirable elements to other areas where they continue to frustrate the hard working citizens of this city.

Which of the following is the key point at issue between the mayor and the citizen?

- (A) The city parks have become cleaner since the mayor took office.
- (B) Cleaner parks are more important than eradicating problems such as drug use and litter.
- (C) Problems in the city such as drug use and litter still exist.
- (D) The mayor has kept all of the promises that he made in his campaign.
- (E) Drug use and litter are more serious problems in the city than are other undesirable types of behavior.

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3. Scientists have recently discovered a link between eating a high fiber diet and increasing the level of “good” cholesterol in the body. These scientists took two groups of laboratory rats and fed one group a diet high in grains and other fibers while feeding the other group a diet with a normal amount of fiber. When the two groups were tested for levels of “good” cholesterol after the feedings, the group that had eaten the high fiber diet showed significantly higher levels of “good” cholesterol than did the group that had only a normal amount of fiber. The scientists concluded from this experiment that people who have diets high in fiber could expect a higher level of “good” cholesterol in their systems.

The scientist’s conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) “Good” cholesterol helps people maintain good health.
 - (B) A diet high in fiber is the only way that people can increase the level of “good” cholesterol in their system.
 - (C) The systems of humans will respond to a high fiber diet in the same way that the systems of rats do.
 - (D) Most people, if given the option, will choose a high fiber diet over one that does not include many foods such as grains.
 - (E) A diet that does not include any fiber will lower the level of “good” cholesterol in the system.
4. Tracey bought a new camera at Joe’s Camera Mart last week. After bringing the camera home and trying to take some pictures, she discovered that the shutter did not work properly and the flash was broken. Tracey concluded that Joe’s Camera Mart intentionally sells defective products to its customers.

The argument above is flawed for which of the following reasons?

- (A) It overlooks the possibility that the camera manufacturer may have shipped defective cameras to Joe’s Camera Mart without Joe’s knowledge.
- (B) It assumes what it sets out to prove about Joe’s Camera Mart.
- (C) It attacks the character of the owner of Joe’s Camera Mart without addressing the quality of cameras sold there.
- (D) It fails to recognize that it is impossible to predict what types of defects might exist in a given product.
- (E) It assumes without justification that all cameras that are sold should be functionally sound.

5. Dogs will not enter a home where they feel threatened. Paul’s dog Daisy is afraid of his neighbor’s dog Cujo. So, Daisy will not enter Paul’s neighbor’s house if Cujo is inside.

Which of the following arguments most closely parallels the argument above?

- (A) Cats will not enter a room if there is no food in that room. Bill’s cat Whiskers is always hungry. Thus, Whiskers will not go into Bill’s den unless her favorite food is in there.
 - (B) Dan will not go to a play if it is a musical. *The Death of a Salesman*, which Dan’s wife Patty wants him to go to, is not a musical. Hence, Dan will go see *The Death of a Salesman*.
 - (C) Doctors will not prescribe Thorazine if they feel that their patients can be cured with other methods. Sam, Doctor Smith’s patient, has chronic arthritis, which can be cured with aspirin. So, Doctor Smith will probably not prescribe Thorazine to Sam.
 - (D) Birds will only fly back to their cage if they feel there is no danger there. Tim’s bird Tweety is scared of the hanging toy in her cage. Thus, Tim should remove the hanging toy if he wants Tweety to go back in the cage.
 - (E) Singers will not go on stage if they think the crowd is hostile. Tina, a singer at the Larkin Club, knows that Sean, a regular at the club, heckles her anytime he is there. Hence, Tina will not go on stage if Sean is at the club.
6. Some skiers prefer fresh powder to packed snow. All snowboarders prefer fresh powder to packed snow. All snowmobile riders prefer packed snow to fresh powder. At the Poppy Ski Ranch, the management prepares the facility every morning with packed snow.

If all of the above statements are true, then which of the following statements must also be true?

- (A) Some skiers prefer packed snow to fresh powder.
- (B) Any snowmobile rider will prefer snowmobiling at Poppy Ski Ranch to snowmobiling at the neighboring Terry Ski Ranch where the management prepares the facility every morning with fresh powder.
- (C) Some snowboarders prefer snowboarding at Poppy Ski Ranch to snowboarding at the neighboring Terry Ski Ranch where the management prepares the facility every morning with fresh powder.
- (D) Any skier will prefer skiing at Terry Ski Ranch where the management prepares the facility every morning with fresh powder to skiing at Poppy Ski Ranch.
- (E) No snowboarder will snowboard at Poppy Ski Ranch.

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7. Ocean divers have recently discovered the wreckage of a ship lying in the sedentary layer at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. The sedentary layer of the Atlantic Ocean is believed to have fully developed by the year 1000 A.D., and it is believed that the final hundred years of development were quite volatile and would have completely covered anything that would have rested there prior to 900 A.D. As a result, the divers have determined that this wreckage could not be that of the Viking ship *Visalia*, which is known to have set sail in the Atlantic Ocean in 850 A.D.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?

- (A) Through carbon dating, it has been shown that some of the ships recently discovered in the sedentary layer of the Indian Ocean were built in the eighth century A.D.
 - (B) Ship building experts have determined that the design of the *Visalia* was inherently flawed, and the ship almost certainly would have sunk within weeks of setting sail.
 - (C) Certain fossils of now extinct fish, believed to have flourished in the period of 700 – 900 A.D., have been found in the Atlantic Ocean.
 - (D) Some ships that have been discovered in the sedentary layer of the Atlantic Ocean may have rested in the layer of rock just above the sedentary layer for hundreds of years before coming to rest in the sedentary layer itself.
 - (E) Historians reviewing Viking records have determined that the *Visalia* never reached its intended destination and neither did it return to its original port.
8. The city council of Easton is looking at ways to fund the needed reconstruction of Highway 4. It has been determined that the reconstruction will cost \$250,000. After looking at several options, including ones to upgrade the public transportation system in Easton and increasing bridge tolls, the city council has proposed building a downtown parking garage, which they contend will raise \$400,000 a year for the city. Thus, the revenue from the parking garage will be more than sufficient to pay for the reconstruction of Highway 4 by the end of its first year of operation.

The argument above can be logically concluded if which of the following is assumed?

- (A) If public transportation in Easton is upgraded, it would bring in at least \$100,000 more per year than the proposed parking garage.
- (B) The cost to the city of building the parking garage will not exceed \$150,000.
- (C) A study on the feasibility of increasing the bridge tolls in Easton has concluded that most people would not pay the increased tolls.
- (D) As a general rule, the citizens of Easton approve the proposals set forth by the city council
- (E) Of all of the options explored by the Easton city council, the one most likely to be approved by the citizens of Easton is the building of the downtown parking garage.

9. A species of tree known as the *Berrylius Lenore* is characterized by large, tear drop shaped leaves and an extraordinarily thick bark. The *Berrylius Lenore* is predominantly found in the Congo region of Central Africa, and natives of that area have long heralded the leaves and bark of this tree as having medicinal qualities, including pain relief. There is no written history of the *Berrylius Lenore* existing outside of Africa. Horticulturists have recently discovered an as yet unidentified tree in South America with very thick bark. When locals of the area were asked about the tree, they claim to have used its leaves to help women with the pain of childbirth.

Which of the following is logically inferable from the argument above?

- (A) If the tree in South America has teardrop shaped leaves, it must be related to the *Berrylius Lenore* species.
 - (B) Since there is no written history of the *Berrylius Lenore* existing outside of Africa, the horticulturists have found a tree that originated outside of Africa.
 - (C) The fact that the South American tree has very thick bark and may help ease the pain of childbirth does not in and of itself indicate that it is a relative of the *Berrylius Lenore*.
 - (D) The only way that the tree in South America could be related to the *Berrylius Lenore* species is if someone had transplanted the *Berrylius Lenore* from Africa to South America.
 - (E) Given the similar characteristics of the tree in South America and the *Berrylius Lenore*, the soil conditions present in the Congo region of Central Africa must be similar to the soil conditions present in South America.
10. The Topeka Wheat Germs baseball team announced at the end of last season that they were raising all of their ticket prices 25% across the board for this year's season. Baseball fans in Topeka expressed outrage at the time and threatened to boycott the games to show their displeasure with the price increase. Yet, at the end of this season, when attendance records were compared to attendance records from last season, the records show that attendance of the Wheat Germs games increased by 20% from last year to this year.

Which one of the following statements, if true, best helps to resolve the paradox outlined above?

- (A) Last season, the Wheat Germ team finished last in their division. This season, the Wheat Germ team got off to a fast start and continued to play well throughout the season, making the playoffs for the first time in team history.
- (B) Red Fitzpatrick, the team owner of the Topeka Wheat Germs, regularly had his family members watch the games from his luxury suite this season, which he did not do last season.
- (C) Last year, the unemployment rate in Topeka was 5.3%. This year, the unemployment rate in Topeka was 5.1%.
- (D) The people who manage Topeka Park, where the Wheat Germs play, ran fewer promotions, such as free hot dog night, this year than they did last year.
- (E) The Lincoln Cornhuskers, who play in the same division as the Topeka Wheat Germs, have also experienced an increase in attendance from last year to this year.

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11. The curator of the local art museum is faced with a dilemma. She has been given only enough funding to purchase one of three works of art that are available: an oil painting verified to be by the master Matisse, a sculpture attributed to Thierry, who was purported to be a student of Rodin, and a bas-relief thought to be from an eminent American artist of the nineteenth century but as yet not attributed to any specific artist. All three works are aesthetically pleasing and would make excellent additions to the museum, but the museum charter indicates that the curator must first and foremost select a work based on its known origin and the preeminence of the artist who created it.

If all of the above statements are true, which of the following is the most logical conclusion of the argument above?

- (A) The curator has a professional obligation to the patrons of the museum to purchase the work of art that she believes will add the most aesthetic value to the museum.
- (B) Since Rodin is widely considered the preeminent sculptor of his time, the curator should adhere to the charter and purchase the sculpture.
- (C) The curator has been placed in her position by the charter of the museum, so she has no authority to make any decision about what works of art to purchase other than what the charter permits.
- (D) Since the museum is located in America, the curator must purchase the bas-relief instead of the oil painting or the sculpture, as it is preferable to have works of art by fellow Americans rather than those produced by foreigners.
- (E) If she adheres to the museum charter, the curator will purchase the Matisse, since it is the only work whose origin has been verified.

12. Used Car Salesman: This 1999 Nispa Sonta is the best car on my lot! It only has 30,000 miles on it, it still gets 35 miles to a gallon and the body doesn't have a scratch on it. I can offer you this vehicle for only \$10,000, and I'm telling you, you would be a fool not to take this car at that price! You can go to any other used car lot in the country and you won't see another 1999 Nispa Sonta in better condition for less!

Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the claim made by the used car salesman?

- (A) The used car salesman has an available 1998 Nispa Sonta with 50,000 miles for only \$8,000.
- (B) The used car lot down the street from the used car salesman has a 1999 Nispa Sonta with 25,000 miles and no body damage that gets 37 miles to a gallon for \$9,000.
- (C) The used car lot across town has a 1999 Nispa Sonta with 28,000 miles and some minor body damage that gets 30 miles to a gallon for \$10,000.
- (D) All used cars should be tested by independent mechanics to verify the information that is provided about those vehicles by used car salesman.
- (E) The used car salesman has an available 1999 Nipsa Millennia Limited Edition with 20,000 miles and no body damage that gets 40 miles to a gallon for \$8,500.

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IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.
DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.

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SECTION III
Time- 17 minutes, 30 seconds
13 Questions

Directions: Each passage in this section is followed by a group of questions to be answered on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage. For some of the questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question, and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

Passage A

The current federal taxation system features a progressive tax on income and a proportional or flat tax on wages. (This payroll tax finances Social Security and Medicare.) Many proposals have been made to reform the tax system—among the most promising is a European-style consumption, or value-added tax, a VAT. In a VAT system, the individual pays no income tax; instead they pay a federal sales tax on all goods and services. Low-income individuals can collect rebates to make the system progressive—so that the working poor, who consume most or all of their incomes, do not pay proportionally more tax than a wealthy individual who can spend proportionally less of their income.

A VAT system has several advantages. It is fairer. The current payroll tax is regressive because it does not fully tax the highest wage earners, and it only applies to income from labor, not investments. A VAT is also better at capturing income from investments. If investment income is spent instead of reinvested, it is taxed just like income from labor. This provides an incentive to save and invest—more so than the current patchwork of gimmicks like IRAs and tax-free dividends. Finally, a VAT would save time and money. In 2002 Americans spent roughly \$194 billion dollars on tax compliance, and 1.6 billion hours on the 1040 form alone. The IRS calculates that for every dollar of revenue raised, there is 20 cents of compliance cost.

Passage B

America needs a liberation movement, a modern-day “Boston Tea Party,” if you will, to put an end to the taxing and spending politics in Washington, DC.

America needs dramatic pro-growth tax cuts. The usual game in Washington is to pretend to cut some taxes while raising others. Instead, scrap the entire tax code—currently 66,000 pages and growing—and replace it with an income tax rate of 17%. Expand exemptions so that a family of four earning the national median household income pays no tax at all.

The flat tax would be simple. Citizens would fill it out on a postcard. It would be honest. It would eliminate the principal source of political corruption in Washington—trading loopholes for campaign cash. It would be fair. Millions would leave the federal income tax rolls.

There would be no payroll tax, no death tax, and no tax on pensions, savings, or capital gains. It would set off an economic boom by letting people keep more of what they earn.

Since 1970 federal spending has increased more than seven-fold. During those same years, family income in America has declined. The politicians say “we” can’t afford a tax cut. Maybe we can’t afford the politicians.

1. Which of the following pairs of descriptions accurately describes the attitudes of the authors of passage A and passage B, respectively?
 - A) Careful explanation: Enthusiastic endorsement
 - B) Prescient exploration: Feigned indifference
 - C) Guardedly optimistic: Mildly pessimistic
 - D) Detached observation: Tentative recommendation
 - E) Resigned indifference: Analytical overview

2. It can be inferred from the passage that both authors believe which one of the following to be true?
 - A) Tax reform will result in increased government revenues.
 - B) The current tax system is unnecessarily complex.
 - C) A new system for raising tax revenue is necessary.
 - D) Compliance costs in the current tax system are wastefully high.
 - E) A need for new revenue sources outweighs the need for tax transparency.

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3. What is the main point of passage A?
- A) Reforming the tax system to eliminate the payroll tax will result in a more equitable taxation system.
 - B) The government can raise more tax revenue if it adopts a VAT in place of the current income tax system.
 - C) European governments have used consumption taxes to fund all government functions.
 - D) A tax on consumption would be a more efficient and fair way to raise revenue.
 - E) A properly-designed VAT would be less regressive than either a flat tax or the current tax system.
4. Which one of the following was mentioned in both passages as being an important component of tax reform?
- A) Low-income individuals should pay little or no tax.
 - B) Individuals should not be required to file income tax returns.
 - C) Individual payroll taxes should be eliminated.
 - D) Individuals should pay tax on investment gains.
 - E) Tax collection should be transparent.
5. The best titles for passage A and passage B, respectively, would be:
- A) "A European road-map to tax utopia"
"A modern American tax revolution"
 - B) "The VAT, an idea whose time has come"
"Death and taxes, a new chapter"
 - C) "Realizing maximum revenue from minimal inputs"
"Taxation without representation, never again"
 - D) "Abolishing the payroll tax"
"Free and fair, a new proposal for a flat tax."
 - E) "New views on progressive taxation systems"
"Abolishing the IRS"
6. It can be inferred from the passages that neither of the authors would agree with the following statements:
- A) A regressive tax system ensures social equity.
 - B) Systems that tax income instead of consumption are more susceptible to the creation of unfair loopholes and exemptions.
 - C) Progressive taxation is the hallmark of any system that taxes income earned from labor.
 - D) It is as important to tax gains on savings and investments, as it is to tax earnings from labor.
 - E) The current taxation system has caused government revenues to grow faster than family incomes.
7. Which one of the following was mentioned in both passages as being an important feature of the proposed taxation systems?
- A) All individuals should know how much tax they pay.
 - B) The taxation system should treat all individuals fairly.
 - C) Individuals should not be required to file tax returns or other documents in order to comply with the tax system.
 - D) A family of four that earns the national average income should not pay any tax at all.
 - E) High income individuals should pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes than low-income individuals pay in taxes.

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19th century author Timothy Nielsen has long been lauded by literary critics. Many reviewers have cited the innovative use of narrative in his seminal work *A Long Cold Winter* as the inspiration for the narrative styles of 20th century novelists like F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Nielsen's development of peripheral characters in *A Courtesan's Tale* and *The Dragons of Antioch* is widely regarded as the template upon which many modern authors have built their own emotionally rounded supporting casts. However, a recent book examining Nielsen's works questions the validity of the notion that he has been such a motivating force in the novels of the American writer of the 20th century.

Timothy Nielsen: Separating the Man from the Myth, by modern critic Scott Baisch, presents a far less flattering view of Nielsen's place in literary history. Baisch writes, "What is considered by some as indicative of Nielsen's unique narration is actually a style uniquely derivative of the truly great authors of the nineteenth century." *Separating the Man from the Myth* further alludes to Nielsen's ability to flush out what might be considered lesser characters in his work as, "simply an excuse for ignoring the more significant development of the protagonist." To be fair to Baisch, he does not dismiss Nielsen as an untalented writer whose works have no merit. But Baisch is unequivocal about his disregard for Nielsen's supposed innovation of the genre and subsequent influence on the many great novelists who have followed him.

There are some elements of *Separating the Man from the Myth* that do seem meritorious. For example, the special use of narrative whose creation is attributed to Nielsen in *A Long Cold Winter* does not appear that different than the style used years before by Mark Twain in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. It may be overstating the case to call Nielsen's work "derivative", but there are unquestionably some significant similarities between the narration of Nielsen's Horatio Tucker and that of Tom Sawyer, the protagonist in Twain's best-known work. Further, some reviewers have complained about the relatively sparse treatment Nielsen gives to fully developing the character of Tobin Bobbitt, the arch villain of *The Dragons of Antioch*. Yet while these reasonable criticisms of Nielsen's work may have some weight, his influence on some of the 20th century's most read authors is still undeniable.

Literary critics may have their own opinions about the impact that Nielsen has had on other writers, but it is difficult to ignore the opinions of those authors themselves. Modern novelists from John Irving to Elmore Leonard have personally cited Nielsen's work as having a certain effect on their own style of writing. The criticisms leveled by Baisch in his book *Timothy Nielsen: Separating the Man from the Myth* may expose some reviewers as a bit too cloying in their assessment of Nielsen, but with testimony from 20th century luminaries for additional support, it appears that Nielsen's legacy as one of the preeminent American authors of the 19th century remains intact.

8. Which of the following is the primary purpose of the passage above?
 - A) Explain how an inaccurate view of a specific author's work has been accepted by the literary community.
 - B) Describe the various assessments of a particular novelist in light of his books and their impact on society in general.
 - C) Address recent criticism of a long held view of a certain writer and his influence on authors who have followed him.
 - D) Refute how an individual novelist has been associated with a larger group of authors.
 - E) Support the position held by a particular book reviewer in his review of the works of a 19th century writer.

9. According to the passage, literary critic Scott Baisch differs from many other literary critics in his opinion of author Timothy Nielsen in that Baisch:
 - A) Disputes the originality of Nielsen's work and the impact his novels have had on future writers.
 - B) Believes that Nielsen demonstrates an innovative use of narrative that had not been shown prior to *A Long Cold Winter*.
 - C) Credits Nielsen's work in *A Courtesan's Tale* as directly influencing F. Scott Fitzgerald's piece *The Great Gatsby*.
 - D) Questions the accuracy of other critics who claim that Nielsen's novels were well received by readers of his era.
 - E) Claims that some of the books that have been attributed to Nielsen were actually penned by other authors.

10. The author suggests which of the following about the relationship between *A Long Cold Winter* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?
 - A) *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* borrows liberally in its development of lesser characters from *A Long Cold Winter*.
 - B) Neither of the two books is particularly original in its use of plot twists or chapter elongation.
 - C) *A Long Cold Winter* had a dramatic impact on Mark Twain when he wrote *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
 - D) *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* may have had an impact on the narrative style used by Timothy Nielsen in *A Long Cold Winter*.
 - E) *A Long Cold Winter* could never have been written without the direct use of characterization used in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

11. The passage implies that *Timothy Nielsen: Separating the Man from the Myth* can best be described as:
- A) A vindictive work by an author jealous of the success of a past writer.
 - B) A thoroughly accurate review of the complete works of 19th century writer Timothy Nielsen.
 - C) An objective assessment of the lasting literary value of *The Dragons of Antioch*, the most popular book penned by Timothy Nielsen.
 - D) The seminal work of literary critic Scott Baisch that brings to light the true nature of one author's work from the previous century.
 - E) A negative review of some validity that ultimately does not serve to denigrate the worth of the author being reviewed.
12. The author states that 20th century authors John Irving and Elmore Leonard:
- A) Disagree with the opinions of most literary critics in regards to the writing of 19th century author Timothy Nielsen.
 - B) Both admit to having been directly influenced by the novels of writer Timothy Nielsen.
 - C) Have never been the subject of a book review by 20th century reviewer Scott Baisch.
 - D) Adapted their own literary style based on the works of a wide variety of authors both in and out of their own genres.
 - E) Were more popular and well read than their 19th century counterparts.
13. Which of the following best describes the attitude of the author of the passage toward the work of Timothy Nielsen and its impact on other writers?
- A) abject criticism
 - B) qualified support
 - C) fervent admiration
 - D) skeptical optimism
 - E) passive rejection

S T O P

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.
DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.

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SECTION IV
Time- 17 minutes, 30 seconds
13 Questions

Directions: The questions in this section are based on the reasoning contained in brief statements or passages. For some questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question. You should not make assumptions that are by commonsense standards implausible, superfluous, or incompatible with the passage. After you have chosen the best answer, blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

1. In 1991, 45% of the company's budget was spent on research and development. In the past 10 years, the company's commitment to research has only intensified, as shown by the fact that in 2001, a full 60% of the budget was earmarked for this area. Accordingly, the claim of the staff in the science department that the company is spending less today on research and development than it has in the past is clearly false.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the argument above?

- A) In 2001, the company spent more on marketing than it did in 1991.
- B) Despite an increase in the public's desire for better-developed products, the company has focused more of its effort in research than development.
- C) The overall company budget for 2001 is approximately \$10 million less than the overall company budget was in 1991.
- D) The science department staff has previously made false claims about other company operations.
- E) The company president, due to pressure from shareholders, has promised to continue to increase spending on research and development.

2. The striped marmoset normally thrives in an environment abundant in deciduous trees. The lush greenery provided by the trees gives the striped marmoset enough nourishment to keep it healthy during its reproductive cycle, ensuring that newborn striped marmosets will replace any older ones who die off. However, in the Torkanda region, which is known for its large number of deciduous trees, the striped marmoset population is considered endangered.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the apparent discrepancy in the argument above?

- A) Many species of animals that can be found in the Torkanda region, including brown bears and flying squirrels, are considered endangered.
- B) The striped marmoset is thought to be endangered in several regions of South America and Africa.
- C) The long-eared mongoose, which is indigenous to the Torkanda region, is a natural predator of the striped marmoset.
- D) The Torkanda region is known for its harsh winters, where temperatures frequently drop well below freezing.
- E) Striped marmosets have very rapid metabolism, which is aided by the nutrients found in the leaves and shoots of deciduous trees.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

3. It is widely thought that Nashville, Tennessee is the home of country music. What few people recognize, however, is that the “home” of country music is really a far greater area of the South. Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and many of the other southern states have contributed famous musicians, instrumental styles and cultural influences that have been just as critical to the rise of country music as anything that has ever come out of Nashville. So-called country music experts would do well to acknowledge that what is currently popular in Nashville owes a debt of gratitude to the rest of the South.

Which of the following assumptions is central to the argument above?

- A) The only good country music currently being played is being played in the South in general, not in Nashville.
- B) If a musician is from Georgia, then that musician is likely to have influenced country music.
- C) What is considered popular by country fans may not be considered popular by rock fans.
- D) Southern styles and cultures have contributed to what is currently popular country music.
- E) Northern bands cannot influence what music is popular down South.

4. People who dye their hair are generally vain. Gina is a vain person. Gina’s hair color obviously isn’t natural.

Which one of the following statements most closely parallels the reasoning in the argument above?

- A) Trees with truncated leaves are usually tall. The Redwood is a very tall tree. That tree over there is quite tall, so it is probably a Redwood.
- B) Anyone who likes ice cream also likes cake. Tom loves ice cream, so he must also love cake.
- C) Squirrels with gray fur normally cannot fly. Since that squirrel has brown fur, it must be a flying squirrel.
- D) Buildings that are especially big have great views. The Empire State building is so tall that you can see for miles from there. New York is a good city for great views.
- E) Dining room tables tend to be sturdy. The table I bought yesterday is sturdy. That table must be a dining room table.

5. Some people do not like blue cheese, but they don’t know what they are missing. Blue veined cheeses are creamier and more flavorful than traditional white or yellow cheeses. If someone wants to have a truly delicious cheese that is full of flavor, they must try blue cheese.

If all of the statements above are true, which of the following must also be true?

- A) Cheddar, which is a yellow cheese, cannot be truly delicious and full of flavor.
- B) Eating Stilton Blue Cheese will always be more pleasurable than eating any other kind of cheese.
- C) White and yellow cheeses are equally creamy and flavorful.
- D) White wine is the beverage that best complements blue cheese.
- E) Gouda, which is a white cheese, can often be very flavorful and rich.

6. The average fan does not understand how much pain a professional football player must endure. Injuries like sprained knees and jammed fingers do not even warrant a player leaving the game. It may be the fact that players are “supposed to be tough”, but many professional football players live with pain on a daily basis. Yet, most of these players do not miss a play when they get hurt, let alone a game.

Which of the following, if true, gives the most support to the argument above?

- A) Given the money that most professional football players make, they would be wise to just sit out of the game when they get hurt.
- B) The average fan suffers just as many serious injuries as the average football player.
- C) Coaches and owners of professional football teams do not always encourage injured players to continue to play.
- D) Football referees are required by rule to call a timeout if any player is injured on the field.
- E) The vast majority of professional football players who are injured during a game do not leave that particular game for any extended period of time.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

7. Paul: Genetics have a lot to do with the characteristics that children have. Parents who have blue eyes are quite likely to have children that have blue eyes. Similarly, if both parents are tall, then the offspring of those parents will probably be tall. Because of the DNA that is passed from parent to child, children usually have the same physical traits that their parents do.

Sally: That is not true. My parents both have brown hair and my brother, Sean, has blonde hair. Obviously then, genetics are not as powerful as you claim they are.

In addressing Paul's argument above, which of the following methods of reasoning is employed by Sally?

- A) She cites an alternative explanation for the evidence provided in Paul's argument.
- B) She presents an exception to the general rule provided in Paul's argument in an attempt to refute that rule.
- C) She questions Paul's argument on the basis of its appeal to authority.
- D) She contests the validity of the evidence that Paul uses to support his conclusion.
- E) She questions Paul's conclusion because it relies on the use of emotion instead of rational argument.

8. According to the governor's press secretary, the governor's campaign against his opponent in the upcoming election will not focus on his opponent's past legal troubles, even though his opponent has run a very negative campaign against the governor. Rather, the governor's campaign will focus on his record in office, citing the improved economy, decreased unemployment and new transportation services that have occurred during his tenure. By sticking to the positive things that have happened while he has been in office instead of bringing up the negative aspects of his opponent, the governor believes that he will win the election in a landslide.

If the governor is going to win the election in a landslide, which one of the following assumptions must be made?

- A) After being reelected, the governor will have to continue to have successful social programs to maintain his approval rating.
- B) The governor's opponent in the election has a legitimate explanation for his past legal troubles.
- C) The governor's policies in office were the most important factor in reducing unemployment during his tenure.
- D) The voters in the governor's state do not favor negative campaigning over positive campaigning.
- E) Voter turnout seldom has anything to do with the focus of a particular candidate's campaign.

9. Scientists have long searched for signs of life beyond planet Earth, both in our own Milky Way galaxy and in galaxies besides our own. While there is some debate as to whether or not such life exists, there is universal agreement that certain atmospheric conditions must be present if a given planet, asteroid, or other celestial body is indeed to support life forms. These atmospheric conditions necessary to support single cell or multi-cellular organisms can be wide ranging, but generally there has to be water in some form present for life as we know it to exist elsewhere in the universe.

If all of the above statements are true, then which of the following can most logically be inferred?

- A) The recent discovery that Mars was once covered with polar icecaps indicates that Mars may be capable of supporting life.
- B) Scientists searching for life elsewhere in the universe tend to believe that such life does exist.
- C) The discovery of life on a celestial body, in our own galaxy or in another galaxy, must coincide with an abundance of water on that celestial body.
- D) There has never been any water detected on Pluto, so it is impossible for Pluto to support any life form.
- E) Scientists currently have adequate technological equipment to detect the presence of various life forms on distant planets.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

10. The Center for Disease Control has recently released data regarding the number of people in our state who have tested positive for lead poisoning in the past few months. For last month, of the 10 cases where individuals tested positive for this particular illness, a full 30% of the positive test results were registered in Fulton County. Clearly, the people of Fulton County are at a high risk of contracting lead poisoning.

Which of the following most closely identifies the faulty reasoning employed by the argument above?

- A) The Center for Disease Control only reported data regarding the number of people in the state who have tested positive for lead poisoning without citing any reasons why those people tested positive.
- B) The people who tested positive for lead poisoning in Fulton County may not be representative of the population of Fulton County in general.
- C) The other 70% of the reported cases of lead poisoning from last month could have all occurred in a single county.
- D) Lead poisoning is a disease that takes years to develop, so recent testing only reveals the presence of lead from several years ago.
- E) The Center for Disease Control assumes without warrant that cases of lead poisoning will be spread evenly throughout the state.

11. Redwood Police Chief: The parents of Redwood need to do a better job of keeping an eye on what their children are doing with their free time. Unattended children spend a lot of time playing violent video games. As the number of children in our town who play these so-called “games” has increased, so has the number of violent crimes committed by juveniles. The type of cartoon violence glorified by these video games gives children the impression that it is acceptable to behave in a similarly violent fashion in public. If the parents of this town do not restrict the use of these video games by their children, we may soon have a full-fledged crime epidemic.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the police chief’s argument above?

- A) The best selling video game at the local video game distributor is Happy Jack, a non-violent game that requires the player to collect different gifts for the title character.
- B) Due to budget cuts in this year’s town budget, the police force has been reduced by over 25%.
- C) Many of the violent crimes that have recently been committed in Redwood by juveniles have actually been committed by juveniles from the neighboring town of Garrison.
- D) Most violent video games come with a warning on the label that lets parents know about the level of violence contained in the game.
- E) Many of the children of Redwood who play violent video games are actually at or near the top of their class in school.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

12. There is a common misconception that fish never sleep. This misguided notion is based on the fact that fish always have their eyes open. Actually, it is a physiological condition that fish simply do not have eyelids like humans do, so in reality fish are unable to “close” their eyes at all and thus appear to constantly be awake.

Which of the following best identifies the conclusion of the argument above?

- A) Animals that do not have eyelids are not necessarily always awake.
- B) Many common misconceptions about fish are the result of physiological aspects of the species.
- C) The fact that human beings have eyelids enables them to close their eyes and thus look like they are asleep when they are sleeping.
- D) It is more difficult for fish to fall asleep than it is for humans since fish do not have eyelids.
- E) While fish cannot close their eyes, they do in fact sleep.

13. Psychiatrists have for years sought ways to treat schizophrenia, one of the most common mental illnesses among people in the United States. Various methods, including psychotherapy, electric shock and medications have been employed with some success, but the most promising means of treating schizophrenia seems to be the combination of clinical treatment and a regimen of depressant-based drugs.

Which of the following assumptions is central to the argument above?

- A) The combination of a regimen of depressant-based drugs and clinical treatment is more likely to effectively treat schizophrenia than the use of psychotherapy alone.
- B) The use of a combination of treatments has proven successful in treating other forms of mental illness.
- C) Schizophrenic patients have a lot of trouble administering their own medications in the absence of a trained medical professional.
- D) Psychotherapy has generally been more successful in treating schizophrenia than electric shock has.
- E) Depressant-based drugs that are required for the treatment of schizophrenia can be obtained cheaply by schizophrenic patients.

STOP

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.
DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.

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Answer Key

Section I

1. C
2. E
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. C
7. B
8. D
9. C
10. D
11. E
12. A

Section II

1. D
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. E
6. B
7. D
8. B
9. C
10. A
11. E
12. B

Section III

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. B
8. C
9. A
10. D
11. E
12. B
13. B

Section IV

1. C
2. C
3. D
4. E
5. A
6. E
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. E
13. A

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To convert Your Score to the 120-180 Scaled Score

| Scaled Score: | Your Score: | Percentile Rank: |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| 175-180 | 47-50 | 99 |
| 170-174 | 45-47 | 98 |
| 168-169 | 44 | 96-97 |
| 166-167 | 43 | 93-95 |
| 164-165 | 41-42 | 91-92 |
| 162-163 | 39-40 | 87-90 |
| 160-161 | 38 | 83-86 |
| 158-159 | 36-37 | 76-82 |
| 156-157 | 34-35 | 71-75 |
| 154-155 | 32-33 | 63-70 |
| 152-153 | 30-31 | 56-62 |
| 150-151 | 28-29 | 47-55 |
| 148-149 | 26-27 | 38-46 |
| 146-147 | 24-25 | 32-37 |
| 144-145 | 22-23 | 26-31 |
| 142-143 | 20-21 | 21-25 |
| 140-141 | 18-19 | 15-20 |
| 138-139 | 16-17 | 10-14 |
| 136-137 | 15 | <10 |
| 134-135 | 14 | <10 |
| 132-133 | 13 | <10 |
| 130-131 | 12 | <10 |
| 126-129 | 10-11 | <1 |
| 120-126 | 0-9 | <1 |

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Answers and Explanations for Sample LSAT:

Section I

Answer Key 1-6:

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

Introduction

Before examining this logic game, it is important to understand *why* logic games are so difficult for the vast majority of test-takers, and *how* you can learn to become proficient at them.

Why

Logic games are, hands down, the hardest LSAT section for the virtually every test taker. You are not alone! The reason this is true is that the games are completely unlike the types of questions you deal with in a normal academic situation. The games are closer to brain teasers than they are to normal school work. *No one* is naturally good at these games. No one has ever 'aced' the games without first practicing extensively.

Logic games are important because they are 25% of your LSAT score. Without doing well on the games, you will never do well on the LSAT. The games are also important because hard work here will pay-off with the biggest gains. Working hard to understand the games will put you well ahead of most LSAT takers. This is why it is important to focus disproportionately more of your prep-time on the games.

How

There are two vital skills you must have to do well on the logic games.

First, you must know which diagram to use to solve your problem. There are only a handful of basic diagrams that the LSAT will test. The diagram types go by a variety of names, depending on which LSAT course or book you are looking at, but at heart, they are all fundamentally the same. Learning the correct diagrams to use in a given situation is the vital first step. Interestingly, increasingly in recent years the LSAT mixes elements of two diagrams in a single problem to make it more complete.

Second, you must become adept at using the *explicit* facts/conditions you have been given to draw *implicit* deductions. If you do not make these extra deductions, your diagram will remain too skeletal and will not help you answer questions.

Explanations for Questions 1-6:

Like all logic games on the actual LSAT, there are some extra deductions that can be made from the set-up of this game. Making extra deductions is one of the two keys to success in this section. Here, there were *three* extra deductions that could have been made.

Whenever you are given an if/then rule, such as, "if Gina meets in the morning, then Kaspar meets in the evening," you can form the contrapositive of that statement by reversing and negating both terms. More plainly, the contrapositive of rule #5 is if Kaspar *does not* meet in the evening, then Gina *does not* meet in the morning (extra deduction #1), and the contrapositive of rule #6 is if Harry does not meet in the afternoon, then Jon does not meet in the afternoon (extra deduction #2).

The other big deduction that you needed to make concerns the number of students who could meet in the different meeting times. Given that there are eight students, no student can meet by themselves but at least one student must attend each of the meetings, and the same number of students must meet in the morning and the evening, there are only two possible scenarios: 2 students meet in the morning, 4 meet in the afternoon, and 2 meet in the evening, or 3 students meet in the morning, 2 meet in the afternoon, and 3 meet in the evening (extra deduction #3). Recognizing these kinds of limitations makes working through the logic games section much quicker and much easier.

The second key to the logic games is using the correct diagram. You always should use a diagram to keep track of the information in a logic game. In this case, a very simple line diagram was sufficient:

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u> </u> Morning | <u> </u> Afternoon | <u> </u> Evening |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|

You could then fill in the students in each question as the question stems dictate.

1. With “possible arrangement” questions, the trick is to first eliminate answer choices that violate the explicit rules. In this question, answer choice A violates rule #4 (Kaspar and Marc cannot attend the same meeting), answer choice B violates rule #1 (the teaching assistant will not meet with only one student at a time), answer choice D violates rule #7 (the number of students that meet in the morning must be the same as the number of students that meet in the evening), and answer choice E violates rule #6 (if Jon meets in the afternoon, then Harry

meets in the afternoon. Answer choice C is the only choice that does not violate the rules, so that is an acceptable arrangement of student meetings.

- When you are given a hypothetical in the question stem, determine what you can deduce from the hypothetical information. In this case, if Jon meets in the afternoon, then Harry meets in the afternoon, so that would mean that you now have at least Harry, Jon and Kaspar in the afternoon.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| | H, J, K | |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

Given the deduction about the number of students who could be in each meeting (3,2,3 or 2,4,2), this allows you to deduce that in this question, you have to have the 2 in the morning, 4 in the afternoon, 2 in the evening set up, and thus E, there are exactly four students in the afternoon meeting, must be true. Remember that things that could be true, (all of the other answer choices COULD be true), do not HAVE to be true. Only E here HAS to be true. This precise language is a common LSAT feature that you will become more familiar with as you take more practice tests.

- Follow the chain of deduction from the hypothetical statement. Here, the question stem tells you that Gina meets in the morning and Leon and Nino meet in the evening.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| G | | L,N |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

Now, rule #5 says that if Gina meets in the morning, then Kaspar meets in the evening.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| G | | K,L,N |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

At this point, since there are three students in the evening meeting, you must have the 3,2,3 set up of students in the morning, afternoon and evening, which means that the evening session is now complete. The next deduction to make is that rule #3 says that Frank and Jon cannot attend the same meeting, so try putting Frank in the morning and Jon in the afternoon and vice versa to see how many possibilities there are.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| F,G | J | K,L,N |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

In this scenario, since Jon meets in the afternoon, Harry must meet in the afternoon, and the only remaining student, Marc, must meet in the morning.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| F,G,M | H,J | K,L,N |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

Thus, with Frank in the morning and Jon in the afternoon, there is only one possibility. If you try the other scenario, with Jon meeting in the morning and Frank meeting in the afternoon, then either Harry or Marc could meet in either the morning or the afternoon.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| G,J,H/M | F,H/M | K,L,N |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

Thus, with Jon meeting in the afternoon and Frank meeting in the morning, there are two possibilities for the afternoon meeting, one with Frank and Harry and one with Frank and Marc. Accordingly, there are a total of three possible arrangements for the afternoon meeting if Gina meets in the morning and Leon and Nino meet in the evening, and B is the correct response.

4. Again, follow the chain of deduction from the hypothetical statement. If Frank and Harry both meet in the morning, your original diagram will look like this:

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| F,H | | |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

The trick to this question is to remember the contrapositive of rule #6. Given the rule if Jon meets in the afternoon, then Harry meets in the afternoon, the contrapositive (which must also be true) is if Harry does not meet in the afternoon, then Jon does not meet in the afternoon (extra deduction #2). Further, rule #3 says that Frank and Jon cannot attend the same meeting, so that means that Jon cannot attend the morning meeting. If Jon cannot attend the morning meeting or the afternoon meeting, then he must attend the evening meeting, and A is the correct response.

5. Pay particular attention to the language in the question stem. If Gina and Leon are the ONLY students who meet in the morning, then from extra deduction #3 you can deduce that you must have the 2,4,2 set up for the students in the morning, afternoon and evening meetings. Now, you have to split up Frank and Jon, and you have to split up Kaspar and Marc. One way to write this into your diagram is this:

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| G,L | F/J,K/M | F/J,K/M |
| ————— | ————— | ————— |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

This shows you that you have to have either Frank or Jon, and either Kaspar or Marc in the evening, so since you have the 2,4,2 set up, that means that the evening meeting is complete and the remaining students, Harry and Nino, must meet in the afternoon.

| | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| G,L | F/J,K/M,H,N | F/J,K/M |
| ————— | ————— | ————— |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

Accordingly, it CANNOT be true that Nino meets in the evening, answer choice D.

6. Don't become unglued when a logic game changes one of the conditions or rules. It is a rare occurrence. Remember that the rest of the conditions or rules will still apply. So in this question, the only rule that changes is that it is now OK for the teaching assistant to meet with only one student at a time. However, the teaching assistant still has to meet with at least one student during each meeting time, so he has to meet with at least one student in the morning and at least one student in the evening. Since there are eight total students, that leaves six students maximum that could meet in the afternoon. But will that violate any other rules? As long as the one student who meets in the morning is a member of the restricted mutually exclusive pairs of Frank/Jon and Kaspar/Marc, and the same is true for the evening, then no other rules would be violated and the answer is C. One sample diagram with six students meeting in the afternoon appears below:

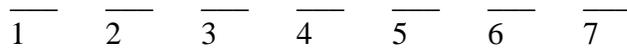
| | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| F | G,H,J,K,L,N | M |
| ————— | ————— | ————— |
| Morning | Afternoon | Evening |

Answer Key 7-12:

- 7. B
- 8. D
- 9. C
- 10. D
- 11. E
- 12. A

Explanations for Question 7-12:

Before you go to the first question, you should decide on what type of diagram you are going to use and see if there are any extra deductions that can be made from the given information. In a game that requires you to put items in order (such as cars on a showroom floor in spaces 1-7 from left to right), a line diagram, just a simple series of dashes, is the best diagram to use:



As for the extra deductions here, rule #4 is a classic if/then statement. Given “if the Mearcint is placed in space three then the Le is placed in space five,” you can form the contrapositive (reverse and negate both terms) and say that if the Le is not placed in space five, then the Mearcint is not placed in space three. There are no other major deductions to be made, but pay attention to rule #3. Since you know that there are only two options for the Faeri (space one or space seven), if you could eliminate one of those options on a given question (suppose the question stem says that the Volant is in space one), then you know the Faeri must be placed in the other space (space seven in the example just given). This “two option” scenario for a given character is a fairly common occurrence in many logic games.

- 7. With the “possible order” or “acceptable arrangement” question type, simply eliminate any answer choices that violate the rules and the one that’s left is the correct response. Here, answer choice A violates rule #1 (the Jalar and the Le cannot be in adjacent spaces), answer choice C violates rule #3 (the Faeri must be in one of the end spaces), answer choice D violates rule #4 (if the Mearcint is in space three, then the Le is in space five), and answer choice E violates rule #2 (the BOWIE and the Volant must be in adjacent spaces). Thus, answer choice B is an acceptable arrangement of the cars on the showroom floor.

8. Often, early questions in a logic game test your basic understanding of the rules of the game. This question is a classic example. Many students fail to make the extra deduction based on rule #4 (the contrapositive discussed above, that if the Le is not in space five, then the Mearcint is not in space three). This question really just asks if you made that deduction, for if you did, then it is clear to see that if the Le is in space seven (i.e. NOT in space five), then the Mearcint cannot be in space three, and thus answer choice D must be false.
9. This is a difficult question, because the fact that the Jalar is in space 1 only allows you to deduce for sure that the Faeri is in space seven (the Faeri must be in an end space, and remember the “two option” scenario discussed above?). So all you know for sure at this point is this:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | | | | | | | F |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |

Can you make any other concrete deductions at this time? Not really, so what you have to do is check each answer choice to see if it has to happen. The way to do this is to see if it DOESN'T have to happen. So start with answer choice A. Could the BOWIE be in a space other than space two? Sure, put the BOWIE in space three and the Volant in space two, and no rules will be violated.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | V | B | | | | | F |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |

You don't even have to try answer choice B, because you already know that the Faeri has to be in space seven. Move on to answer choice C. Could you put the Mearcint in space three? Well, if you do, then according to rule #4 the Le would have to go in space five:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | | M | | L | | F |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

Does this violate any of the rules? Yes it does. According to rule #2, the BOWIE and the Volant must be in adjacent spaces on the showroom floor. Since you only have spaces two, four and six left in this scenario, you don't have two adjacent spaces to place the BOWIE and the Volant. Thus, the Mearcint cannot be in space three and answer choice C must be true.

10. Sometimes, a new fact may allow you to fill in nearly the entire diagram. That is the case here. If the Faeri is in space one and the Mearcint is in space three, then from rule #4 you can deduce that the Le must be in space five:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| F | | M | | L | | | |
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | |

Now, you need two adjacent spaces to place the BOWIE and the Volant, so they must go in spaces six and seven in either order:

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| F | | M | | L | B/V | B/V |
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> |

Continue down the list of rules to see if there are any rules you haven't used yet. Rule #1 says that the Jalar and the Le cannot be in adjacent spaces, so that means that the Jalar must be in space two and the only remaining car, the Porti, must be in space four:

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| F | J | M | P | L | B/V | B/V |
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> |

You have now filled in the entire diagram with the only question being whether the Bowie is in space six and the Volant is in space seven or vice versa. Look at the answer choices. The only one that COULD be false is D. The BOWIE could be in space seven and the Volant could be in space six. D is the correct response.

11. The “complete and accurate list” question often appears later in the set of a logic game. Don't lose your cool, just look at the space in question and determine which cars COULD be placed there without violating the rules. If the Volant is in space seven, then you can deduce that the Bowie is in space six (rule #2) and the Faeri is in space one (rule #3):

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| F | | | | | B | V |
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> |

The only remaining rules are that the Jalar cannot be adjacent to the Le and if the Mearcint is in space three, then the Le is in space five. As long as you separate the Jalar and the Le (either spaces two and four, two and five, or three and five), and you have the Le in space five if the Mearcint is in space three, then you will not violate any rules. A quick run through the different possibilities then will show that any of the four remaining cars (Jalar, Le, Mearcint, Porti) COULD be

in space four without violating the rules, so answer choice E is a complete and accurate list of cars, any one of which could be in space four.

12. Take a multiple hypothetical one step at a time. First, if the car dealer wants to put the Faeri and the Porti as far apart as possible on the showroom floor, then he would put one of them in space one and one in space seven:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----|
| F/P | | | | | | | F/P |
| $\overline{1}$ | $\overline{2}$ | $\overline{3}$ | $\overline{4}$ | $\overline{5}$ | $\overline{6}$ | $\overline{7}$ | |

Next, the dealer wants to put the Jalar and the Le as far apart as possible, so he would place one of them in space two and the other one in space six:

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| F/P | J/L | | | | J/L | F/P |
| $\overline{1}$ | $\overline{2}$ | $\overline{3}$ | $\overline{4}$ | $\overline{5}$ | $\overline{6}$ | $\overline{7}$ |

Would any rules be violated by any of these combinations or can you make any further deductions? No rules are violated by the placement of any of these cars, but since the Le is not in space five, then by extra deduction #1, the contrapositive of rule #4, the Mearcint cannot be in space three. But since there are only spaces three, four and five left, and you still need two adjacent spaces for the Bowie and the Volant, that means that the Mearcint must be in space five, and the Bowie and the Volant are in spaces three and four, in either order:

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| F/P | J/L | B/V | B/V | M | J/L | F/P |
| $\overline{1}$ | $\overline{2}$ | $\overline{3}$ | $\overline{4}$ | $\overline{5}$ | $\overline{6}$ | $\overline{7}$ |

The only car whose exact placement can be determined is the Mearcint, which must be in space five. The other answer choices are all things that COULD be true, but none of them HAVE to be true. Answer choice A is correct.

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Section II

Answer Key

1. D
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. E
6. B
7. D
8. B
9. C
10. A
11. E
12. B

Introduction

The Logical Reasoning questions are a very important part of your LSAT strategy for the simple reason that they account for 50 of the 100 possible points. Although daunting at first, these problems become easier as you learn to recognize and answer the recurring question types. Also, some of these recurring question types will also appear in the Reading Comprehension section, so once you develop the correct skills, you will be able to use them in both sections. It is important to have the correct strategy when you take this section. You must develop your personal strategy by understanding how you perform on each question type. For example, part of many test-takers' strategy is to skip parallel reasoning questions until the end of the section. This is often a good strategy, since this kind of question is very time-consuming, and the percentage of times the average test-taker gets them correct means that the time is better spent on other problems.

Explanations for Questions 1-12

1. Remember that you are trying to support the argument that the low patient/staff interaction rating that Roseville hospital received is because of the low ratio of doctors to patients in that hospital. One way to strengthen this argument is to refute other possible explanations for the low rating. If answer D is true, and Roseville has more nurses per patient than any other hospital in Cedar, then that eliminates one possible explanation for the low amount of patient/staff interaction – that there aren't enough nurses in Roseville. This then supports the argument that it is the low number of doctors that is responsible for the low rating. Look out for answers like B and E. What happened in another state or another hospital is outside the scope of what happened at Roseville. This is a very common type of wrong answer on the LSAT.
2. With point at issue questions, you should look for the answer choice that exemplifies the point that the two sides disagree about. In this example, the

mayor suggests that he has rid the city of drug use and litter, while the citizen argues that all he has done is move those problems from the city parks to other locations within the city. Hence, the point at issue between them is answer C, whether or not problems like drug use and litter still exist in the city. Watch out for answers on this question type like answer A. Both the mayor and the citizen address the cleanliness of the parks, but they agree that the parks are cleaner, so that is not a point at issue between them.

3. An assumption is an unstated premise that logically connects the conclusion and the evidence of the argument. Here, the scientists conclude that people who eat high fiber diets will have higher levels of “good” cholesterol in their systems based on evidence about how feeding lab rats high fiber diets produced this same effect. To logically connect these two statements, the scientists must assume that the bodies of humans will respond to a high fiber diet in the same way that the bodies of the lab rats did. Hence, answer choice C is the best response. With assumption questions, avoid answer choices that introduce key terms that were not present in the argument itself, such as answer choice A here that introduces the new term good health. Such choices should be eliminated.
4. Flaw in the argument questions ask you to identify what logical mistakes the author has made in coming to their conclusion. Here, Tracey concludes that Joe’s Camera Mart is intentionally selling defective products to its costumers because the camera she bought had some mechanical problems. The flaw in Tracey’s argument is that she does not consider the possibility that Joe’s Camera Mart may have been unaware of the defects and thus was not intentionally selling bad cameras. The answer choice that points this out is answer choice A.
5. Parallel Reasoning questions frustrate many an LSAT student, because the wrong answer choices often seem very similar to the passage, and the correct answers seem very alien. It is important that you understand that certain types of questions, including parallel reasoning questions, are in the LSAT to hurt your score by slowing you down. In Get Prepped classes you learn how to approach parallel reasoning problems so that they don't hurt your score. The trick to these questions is to look at the structure of the argument. Here, the given argument says that a general group (dogs) will not do something (enter a home) when a particular condition exists (they feel threatened), and then presents a specific example about one member of that group (Daisy) who perceives the particular condition (Daisy is afraid of Cujo), and thus will not do the action (enter the neighbor’s home). Don’t be fooled by answer choices that use similar terms. Many test takers may have been tempted by answers A or D, since cats and birds are animals like dogs, but neither of these choices uses reasoning similar to the given argument. Answer choice E is the only one that uses reasoning parallel to the given argument: A general group (singers) will not do something (go onstage) when a particular condition exists

(they think the crowd is hostile), and one member of that group (Tina) perceives the condition (Sean heckles her every time he is there), and thus will not do the action (go onstage). E is the best choice.

6. This is an example of an inference question that uses formal logic. When formal logic is involved, try to separate out each statement and evaluate them individually. Here, since all snowmobilers prefer packed snow to fresh powder, and the management at Poppy Ski Ranch prepares that facility every morning with packed snow while the management at Terry Ski Ranch prepares that facility every morning with fresh powder, you can logically deduce that any snowmobiler (who all prefer packed snow to fresh powder) will prefer to snowmobile at Poppy Ski Ranch (where they have packed snow) over Terry Ski Ranch (where they have fresh powder). Thus, answer choice B is the best response. Be careful of answer choice A. Just because some skiers prefer fresh powder to packed snow does not allow you to logically deduce that some prefer the other way around. That is a common logical fallacy. The other three choices are logically false.
7. Questions that ask you to weaken the argument are very common on the LSAT. On these question types, look for the answer choice that most directly refutes the conclusion of the argument. Here, the ocean divers conclude that the ship they found in the sedentary layer of the Atlantic Ocean could not be the *Visalia* because that ship is known to have set sail in 850 A.D., and anything that would have come to rest in the sedentary layer of the Atlantic Ocean prior to 900 A.D. would have been completely covered by 1000 A.D. when that layer had fully developed. So, you should look for an answer choice that suggests that this wreckage could be that of the *Visalia*. If it is possible that some ships that have been discovered in the sedentary layer of the Atlantic Ocean were stuck on the layer of rock above the sedentary layer for hundreds of years, then it is possible that while the *Visalia* set sail in 850 A.D., it could have sunk and come to rest on that layer of rock for some time before later coming to rest in the sedentary layer below. Thus, the conclusion that the ship the ocean divers found is definitely not the *Visalia* is weakened, and D is the best choice. One way to eliminate answer choices on some logical reasoning questions is to look for answers that basically say the same thing. If two choices say the same thing, one of them cannot be correct while the other is incorrect. On this question, answer choices B and E both basically suggest that the *Visalia* sank, so neither of those choices could be the right answer.
8. The city council of Easton proposes that the parking garage, which will bring in \$400,000 in revenue in its first year, will provide them enough money to pay for the \$250,000 reconstruction of Highway 4. For this conclusion to be valid, however, the city council must be assuming that the cost of building the parking garage will not be more than \$150,000, otherwise the net gain within the first year of operation of the garage will not be enough to pay for the full

reconstruction. B is the best response. All of the other answer choices address issues that are outside the scope of whether or not building the garage will provide sufficient funds in the first year to pay for the reconstruction of Highway 4.

9. Some LSAT questions are confusing just because they discuss strange topics or use scientific terminology. Try to focus on the ideas beneath the difficult language. Here, the argument seems to be suggesting that the tree in South America is somehow related to the *Berrylius Lenore*, because the South American tree also has very thick bark and anecdotal evidence suggests it has been used for medicinal purposes of pain relief. However, just because two things have two similar characteristics does not mean that they are necessarily related. Thus, answer choice C is the best response. Be careful on inference questions with answer choices that use extreme language. Answer choice A (must) and answer choice D (only) are good candidates to eliminate since this is an inference question.
10. When an LSAT question asks you to resolve a paradox, first determine what the paradox is. Here, the paradox seems to be that even though the ticket prices for the Topeka Wheat Germ baseball games have gone up 25% from last year to this year, attendance has also increased 20%. Logically, one would expect an increase in ticket prices to lead to a decrease in attendance. Next, look for an answer choice that would explain the paradox. If the Wheat Germ team was not very good last year, but is far more competitive this year, that could explain why more people would go to the games, and A is hence the best response. Be careful with choice C. Just because unemployment in Topeka is down from last year to this year does not necessarily indicate that people will spend the extra money on going to baseball games. That is getting to far away from the facts we had.
11. This question is basically looking for you to provide the conclusion. It's a little tricky but stick with what you've got. The argument tells you that the museum charter, first and foremost, obligates the curator to purchase works of art based on their known origin and the preeminence of the artist who created them. Since the curator knows that the oil painting has been verified as being by the master Matisse, while the sculpture and the bas-relief have not been certified, if she follows the charter, she must purchase the work whose origin she knows and she knows to be by a master artist. E is the correct answer. C is kind of a trick – the charter says that first and foremost, the curator should purchase works of known origin by preeminent artists, but that does not mean that she has no latitude to use her judgment in certain situations.
12. Extreme claims are often the easiest to refute. Since the used car salesman has claimed that you will not find *this* car in better condition for less than he is offering to sell it for at anywhere else in the country, all you have to do is show one example of another used car lot where a 1999 Nispa Sonta is in

better condition than his and selling for a lower price. If B is true, and the used car lot across town has the same car with fewer miles that gets better gas mileage for less money, then the used car salesman's claim is seriously weakened and B is the best response.

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SECTION III

Introduction

Reading Comprehension is for most test-takers the hardest subject area to improve their score. Depending on your reading speed, you may find after experimentation that you should only attempt 3 of the 4 reading passages. To decide which passage to skip, you may want to skip the passage with the fewest associated questions, or the passage with unfamiliar subject matter. To do well in this section, it is vital to understand that there are only a handful of question types that you will see. Once you understand that you will only see these specific types of questions, it becomes much easier to 'filter-out' the extra details and wording that the LSAT passages are filled with. The first passage set was a comparative reading set. In it, two short paragraphs on a subject are followed by questions. The comparative reading section was added to the test in June 2007, so if you use pre-2007 LSATs to practice, you will not see comparative reading questions.

Answer Key 1-7:

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. B

Explanations for Questions 1-7

1. Attitude questions are usually pretty easy. You have a pretty good idea of the author's attitude by the time you finish the passage. Since there are two authors, both descriptions in the answer choice must be accurate. This actually makes it more difficult to select an incorrect answer. What does author A think and how does he approach the subject? Author A sets out his argument in clear terms, but is not worked-up about the subject; the same cannot be said for author B, who is very worked-up. A is the correct answer. Yes, this is an accurate description. Author A carefully makes his case. Author B is a strong proponent for his proposal.
2. Inference questions account for one in five reading comprehension questions. Inference questions are typically the most difficult, because, unlike detail questions, the answer is not expressly stated in the passage. These questions require you to make a sound conclusion based on the facts. Since the question stem did not direct us to a specific part of the passage, read the answer choices quickly to find the most attractive choices, then refer to the passages to check them against the facts you must use to make the conclusion. Look for an answer choice that represents an overlap of the two passages. C is correct.

Underlying both arguments is the assumption that a new taxation system would be an improvement over the current system. So we can infer that they both believe a new system is needed.

3. Main idea questions are the most common, and often the easiest to answer. To answer them, identify the central, most important, message. Be careful; at least one wrong answer choice will seem pretty good. This wrong choice might be a possible inference one could draw. It might accurately describe some aspect of the passage or a portion of the main idea but fail to entirely capture the main point of the passage. Eliminate answers that focus on specific information or only part of the passage. Why did author A write the passage? What did he hope to accomplish? D is correct. A consumption tax, or VAT, would raise revenue and would be “fairer” and “save time and money”.
4. Detail questions are very common. The information you need is expressly stated in the passages. It is just waiting for you to dig it up. This is easier said than done. There are so many facts in the average passage that it is can be difficult to locate the one you want. If you have a good mental map of what each paragraph discusses, you can at least narrow your search to the correct paragraph. After you scan the answer choices, skim the two passages looking for something that could be a guideline. When you find something that is mentioned by both passages, you have found the correct answer. C is correct. Under both proposals, the payroll tax would be eliminated.
5. This question tests your overall understanding of the passages. Since you now have a good grasp of both passages, it is not necessary to refer to the passages. As mentioned in question 1, it is actually more difficult to incorrectly answer a question when the correct answer has to correctly describe both passages. A is correct. Passage A does discuss the European model of taxation. Passage B does frame the argument for tax reform with references to the American Revolution.
6. Now we are looking for something in both of the passages that the authors would not want. As you review the answer choices, consult the passages if necessary. D is correct. Both passages mention savings and investments. And both of them would exempt earnings on savings; passage A because a consumption tax would not tax earnings at all, and passage B because income from savings and capital gains would be specifically exempted from income taxation.
7. Detail questions are very common. The information you need is expressly stated in the passage. It is just waiting for you to dig it up. As you scan the answer choices, refer to the passages to look for an overlap. B is correct. Both of the passages explicitly state that their proposal is “fair”; presumably they consider fairness to be an important characteristic.

Answer Key 8-13:

- 8. C
- 9. A
- 10. D
- 11. E
- 12. B
- 13. B

Explanations for Questions 8-13:

8. The authors' primary purpose is basically why the author has written the passage. The point of the author here seems to be to present the widely held view about the works of 19th century author Timothy Nielsen and then assess that view in light of the recent contradictory opinion set forth by reviewer Scott Baisch in *Timothy Nielsen: Separating the Man from the Myth*. The author gives a fair discussion of the valid points that Baisch may have and then indicates that even so, Nielsen's impact is not tarnished. The answer that best captures this structure of the passage and its purpose is C. Be careful of choices that are close but distort what happens in the passage. B might sound good, but the passage focuses on Nielsen's impact on other writers, not society in general.
9. This is an explicit detail question, where the test makers want you to cite something directly from the passage. The first paragraph sets up the idea that most reviewers praise the innovation of Nielsen's work and the influence it has had on other authors. Then the author juxtaposes that with the opinion of Baisch, who suggests that the opinion of those critics is wrong. Thus, Baisch differs from those other critics in that he doesn't believe that Nielsen's novels are original or that they have had a lasting impact on writers who have followed. A is the best choice. When passages present different opinions from different sources, make sure you are answering the question asked with the right opinion. Answer choice B is the opinion of the other critics, not Baisch, so that is a trick answer choice.
10. With inference questions like this one, don't go too far beyond what is stated in the passage. The author uses *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as an example of a book that preceded *A Long Cold Winter* but used a similar narrative style as a means of giving some credence to the beliefs set forth by Baisch. Take note that this is in the third paragraph where the author does give some examples to support the thesis presented by Baisch. So, even though many critics believe that *A Long Cold Winter* was innovative, the inference in paragraph three is that it is quite similar in the use of narrative to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Thus, D is inferable and the correct response. Notice the moderate language as well: *may have had an impact*. That is the kind of language that you will find in good inference answer choices on the LSAT, and it stands in contrast to the use of

extreme language like *never* in answer choice E. Look out for answer that use extreme language, they are rarely if ever correct.

11. How does the author feel about the review of Nielsen's work by Baisch? Well, the author gives it some validity in the third paragraph and then turns around in paragraph four and supports the more commonly held view of other critics. So, *Timothy Nielsen: Separating the Man from the Myth* may have some points, but it does not negate the notion that Nielsen really has had a lasting influence on other writers. Answer choice E expresses that idea the best. Watch out for answer choice D. In the end, the author of the passage does not wholly support the work of Baisch, so D cannot be correct.
12. Why does the author discuss Irving and Leonard? They are examples in the fourth paragraph of 20th century authors who have directly cited Nielsen as having influenced their work. That is the whole point of that paragraph. With explicit detail questions, the language of the right answer should be very close to the language of the passage, and answer choice B here is a very close paraphrase. Avoid choices like D and E that bring up issues that were never discussed in the passage and are thus totally outside the scope.
13. This is a question type that comes up every so often on the LSAT. It is asking you to identify the author's attitude. How does the author feel about the work of Nielsen and its effect on other writers? The author gives some credit to the contrary views expressed by Baisch, but concludes that those views do not detract from Nielsen's legacy. The choice that best represents that attitude is qualified support, choice B. Again, extreme-sounding choices like C, "fervent admiration," should be avoided.

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SECTION IV

Answer Key:

1. C
2. C
3. D
4. E
5. A
6. E
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. E
13. A

Explanations for Questions 1-13

1. This is a classic weaken the argument question. The author of the argument concludes that the science department's claim that less money is being spent on research and development is false because the percentage of the company's budget that is being spent on research and development has actually increased over the past 10 years. Thus, to weaken the argument, you want an answer choice that says while the percentage may have increased, the actual *amount* spent on research and development has gone down. Percent and amount are two different things that are often confused on the LSAT. Here, if the company budget in 2001 is actually \$10 million less than it was in 1991 as answer choice C states, then even though the percent of the budget spent on research and development has gone from 45% to 60%, the actual dollar amount spent may have gone down as the science department claims. C is the best response. Remember to look out on weaken/strengthen questions for answers that do the opposite of what you are looking for. E indicates that there will be a continued increase in spending on research and development, which actually strengthens the argument instead of weakening it.
2. With "resolve the discrepancy" questions, begin by defining the apparent paradox. The paradox here is that while the striped marmoset normally thrives in areas with abundant deciduous trees, yet it is endangered in the Torkanda region, which is known for its large number of such trees. Next, look for an answer choice that could explain why that paradox might exist. Here, if a natural predator of the striped marmoset lives in the Torkanda region, that could explain why the striped marmoset is endangered in an area

where it should be expected to thrive. C is the correct answer. Look out for answer choices that seem to be about the right topic, but are actually outside the scope of the argument. Answer choice A talks about other endangered animals in the Torkanda region, but not the striped marmoset that is the subject of this argument. Answer choice B talks about the striped marmoset being endangered in areas outside the Torkanda region. Both of these choices may sound good, but they are both outside the scope and thus incorrect. Answer choice D could possibly explain why the animal fares worse there (possibly because the cold winter kills more animals), but it is only a possibility, and this makes it a more indirect conclusion than answer choice C.

3. To properly identify the assumption in a logical reasoning argument, first identify the conclusion and the evidence in the argument and then determine what the missing link between them is. Here, the conclusion is the last sentence, that what is currently popular in country music in Nashville has actually come from other areas of the South. The evidence is that other areas of the South have contributed famous musicians, musical styles and cultural influences that have been important in the rise of country music's popularity. The connection between those two statements then is that those contributions have in fact influenced what is currently considered popular in country music. Hence, D is the best choice. Be careful of answer choices that go to far or use extreme language. The author here certainly seems to favor the South in general over Nashville, but to say that the *only* good country music currently being played is in the South in general and not in Nashville is too extreme. Good assumptions tend to be fairly moderate.
4. Parallel reasoning questions are the bane of many LSAT taker's experience, but they don't need to be. The way to attack this question type is to try to represent the argument in generic terms one statement at a time. The first sentence basically says a general group (people who dye their hair) usually has a general quality (vanity). The second sentence then says that a specific person (Gina) has that general quality (vanity), so in the third sentence that specific person (Gina) must be a member of the general group (people who dye their hair). Don't be fooled by the language in the third sentence. Gina's hair color obviously isn't natural is just another way of saying that she dyes her hair – the correct answer does not have to use the same negative way of expressing the notion that the specific individual is a member of the general group. Also, don't get hung-up looking for an answer choice dealing with people because people were discussed in the passage. In answer choice E, dining room tables (a general group) tend to be sturdy (usually have a general quality), the table I bought yesterday (specific item) is sturdy (has the same general quality), so that table (the specific item) must be a dining room table (a member of the general group). E has parallel reasoning to the given and is the correct response. Look out for answers that have two out of three sentences parallel but switch the third. The first two sentences of answer choice A, for example, match the reasoning of the given, but the third

sentence does not. Answer choice B fails because like and love are two different levels of preference. Answer choice C fails because the fact that the squirrel is not of the kind that normally can't fly, doesn't mean that it can therefore fly.

5. This is a typical kind of inference question, the most common question type on the LSAT. Good inferences stick pretty close to the given argument and are usually very moderate. In this example, however, the last sentence of the argument states that if someone wants to try a cheese that is truly delicious and full of flavor, they *must* try blue cheese. When the argument itself uses such extreme language, then you may see a correct choice that is also rather extreme. If someone *must* try blue cheese to try a cheese that is truly delicious and full of flavor, then cheddar, a yellow cheese (a.k.a. *not* blue) cannot be truly delicious and full of flavor and A is logically inferable. All of the other answer choices are things that *could* be true, but none of them can be logically inferred from the given argument. Make sure to make this distinction when selecting an answer on inference questions.
6. The basic premise of this argument is that even when football players are hurt during a game, they usually continue to play, something that the average fan doesn't understand. To strengthen this argument, you want an answer choice that supports the notion that football players do in fact play with pain. If E is true, and most football players who are injured during a game do not miss any significant playing time, then that supports the conclusion and E is the correct response. Sometimes on the LSAT, only one answer choice will adequately address the scope of the argument. Here, answer choice E is really the only one that deals with football players continuing to play when they are hurt, so it must be the right answer.
7. Method of argument questions are not very common on the LSAT, but they can be rather tricky because the language of the answer choices is so vague. The trick here is to define the method of argument before you look at the answer choices so you are not thrown off by their language. Basically, to argue against Paul's position, Sally cites an example that contradicts his position – her brother does not have the same physical traits as her parents. So, Sally is using a single exception to the rule presented by Paul to say that entire rule is not valid. The answer choice that best sums this up is B. Be careful with this question type. All of the other answer choices are methods of argument that are occasionally used on the LSAT, but that doesn't mean that they are right on this question. The "key" words that made C, D, and E wrong were, respectively, "authority," "evidence," and "emotion."
8. This is a tricky assumption question. Sometimes the central assumption that must be true to make the argument logically sound is not apparent on the face of the argument. Here, the governor is supposedly going to focus on positive issues of his tenure in office during his re-election campaign rather than the

negative aspects of his opponent, and by so doing the governor believes that he will win the election in a landslide. However, for the governor to win in a landslide, he obviously has to get a lot more votes than his opponent, so even though voters were never mentioned in the argument, D is still the best response. One way to test an assumption answer choice is to take its opposite. If the opposite of a good assumption were true, it would damage the argument. If voters *did* favor negative campaigning to positive campaigning, then that would suggest that they would be more likely to vote for the governor's opponent than the governor – clearly a situation that damages the governor's chances of winning in a landslide. Watch out for choices that just go too far. The argument certainly seems to suggest that the governor has been somewhat responsible for the good things that have happened in his state, but you do not have to assume that his policies were the *most* important factor as answer choice C states.

9. Remember that good inferences do not go too far beyond the argument and tend to be pretty moderately worded. The argument states that generally some form of water must be present to support life as we know it. So, if Mars was formerly covered with polar ice caps, then there may be water there, which may be able to support life. This is a good, moderately worded inference and A is the correct answer. Look out for C and D here. The argument does not say there *has* to be water to support life, which C seems to infer, and neither does the argument say that the absence of water indicates absolutely that there can be no life, as D implies. Answer choice A was made a bit harder because it mixes the tenses, "was once water (a long time ago)" and "may be capable (today)." To get this answer correct you needed to recognize that C and D had fatal flaws, and so A is the only option. Then you could make the extra assumption that the former ice caps may indicate current water.
10. Faulty reasoning or logical flaw questions ask you to identify the error in the author's argument. A good way to approach this question type is to look at the link between the conclusion and the evidence and ask yourself what problem might exist. Here, the author concludes that Fulton County residents are at a high risk of contracting lead poisoning because 30% of the 10 positive tests reported by the CDC in the last month occurred there. Do the math – 30% of 10 is only three people. Does it make sense that because three people tested positive the whole county is high risk? Not really. This type of logical flaw is known as an unrepresentative sample – the small group discussed does not necessarily represent the larger group it is intended to. The answer choice that best identifies this flaw is B. Answer choice C, if true, would not necessarily mean that Fulton County residents are not at high risk, it would only mean that some other county had an even higher risk. Answer choice D is asking us to go a little deeper and start making assumptions about whether people have moved from county to county over the years and thus there really is no danger. While D could be a possibility, it is not as direct and to the point as choice C is.

11. Remember, to weaken an argument, just try to say that the conclusion is not necessarily true. The police chief of Redwood concludes that if the parents in town do not get their kids to stop playing violent video games, the town may face a crime epidemic. The reason he believes this is that there has been a rise in the children in town playing violent video games and there has been a rise in violent crimes committed in Redwood by juveniles. To weaken the police chief's argument, you need to show that this suggested link is not necessarily accurate. If C is true, and many of the violent crimes recently committed in Redwood by juveniles have actually been committed by children from another town, then the conclusion that parents in town must restrict their kids from playing violent video games to avoid a crime epidemic is seriously weakened, since the actual perpetrators are primarily not the Redwood children. Again, look out for answers that strengthen the argument. If the police force has been reduced by 25% as answer choice B states, then the likelihood of a crime epidemic is increased, strengthening the police chief's argument. Answer choice A tries to distract you by observing that the best selling video game is non-violent. But you see that the police chief did not say the all video games are violent, just that the number of kids of play violent video games has increased. Answer choice C gets more directly to the point, undercutting the police chief's argument by showing that video games of the local kids had no effect on the number of violent crimes.
12. Sometimes, you don't need to think too hard in logical reasoning. This argument states that it is a misconception that fish never sleep, and then the argument gives the reasons why people have that misconception. The conclusion that the argument is trying to make then (although it did not say so explicitly) is simply that fish really do sleep, even if they can't close their eyes. E is the best choice. Don't be fooled by answer choice A. The scope of the argument is specifically fish, not animals in general.
13. Again, for assumption questions, connect the evidence to the conclusion and determine what the unstated premise must be. If the conclusion is that the combination of clinical treatment and a regimen of depressant-based drugs is the *most* promising method of treating schizophrenia, and the evidence is that other methods have had some success, then the assumption must be that the combination of clinical treatment and drugs is more likely to successfully treat schizophrenia than any of those other methods. Thus, A is the best answer choice. Avoid the answer choices that make comparisons that were not made in the argument. There was no comparison drawn between the effectiveness of psychotherapy versus electric shock in the argument, so answer choice D "*more successful... than,*" will not be correct.

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