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# **1.5-MONTH LSAT STUDY PLAN** USING THE POWERSCORE BIBLES

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# **6-WEEK LSAT STUDY PLAN**

## **General Thoughts**

Successfully preparing for the LSAT is about consistency and diligence. Even though the test measures *how* you think and not *what* you know, training yourself to think like the test makers requires time.

Simply put: this isn't a test where cramming proves effective! Instead, your efforts need to be extensive, where you make the most of every study opportunity. For this plan to be effective, you need to dedicate at least 15-20 hours of test prep time each week (and hopefully much more!).

Six weeks is definitely on the shorter side as far as study plans go, but it's doable provided you're realistic. With this plan and some hard work, you have more than enough time to complete your full set of PowerScore materials. The good news is that success on this test isn't solely a numbers game; although the number of hours you spend training is surely important, what matters even more is how you train.

# How to Use This Study Plan

Each week's assignments are categorized into one of three types: Logical Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, and Practice Tests. This will give you a good sense of exactly what you need to cover during a particular week. Although we encourage you to complete the tasks in the order given, you may adjust the schedule and content to your own needs as you progress.

To help you prioritize your tasks based on your specific areas of weakness, we have labeled many of the assignments in this plan as "Optional."

- If you are already somewhat strong in one of the areas, say, Reading Comprehension, you can omit the Optional portions of the plan tailored to that section and devote that time to further study in another section.
- If you find that you have room for improvement in a given area consider any "Optional" assignment tailored to that section to be mandatory.

A chart is provided for each week outlining the materials to be used and sections for your notes and progress reports. We strongly encourage you to keep detailed information in order to accurately measure your progress as well as track any uncompleted assignments. Keep notes about:

- exactly what you complete and when
- any elements you don't complete that should be a priority the following week
- your performance and general throughts on each

We also strongly encourage you to create a detailed **LSAT Study Bible** to accompany the notes in this study plan in order to better understand the concepts covered and your progress through the material. *Begin this immediately!* Instructions on exactly how to construct your Study Bible are provided <u>here</u>.

Finally, the coming weeks will undoubtedly test your resolve—both mentally and physically—so it is extremely important that you fully understand the nature of this test and what even incremental improvements mean. This <u>blog post</u> should help to motivate you as you continue to prepare, so give it careful consideration.

# **Recommended Materials**

The plan assumes you have the Recommended Materials listed below and you are encouraged to consider the optional/supplementary materials as well.

#### **Real LSATs from LSAC:**

• LawHub Advantage, an LSAC subscription service with access to 70+ Official LSAT PrepTests

#### **PowerScore Materials:**

- LSAT Bibles: Logical Reasoning Bible and Reading Comprehension Bible
- LSAT Workbooks: <u>Logical Reasoning Bible Workbook</u> and <u>Reading</u> <u>Comprehension Bible Workbook</u>
- The PowerScore LSAT <u>Analytics Course</u>.
   Subscribe for access to our full online practice platform containing over 90 official practice LSATs, individual test sections and concept drills, and detailed performance analytics.



## **Free Resources**

#### <u>Webinars</u>

Our free webinars and in-person seminars are a great opportunity to learn from PowerScore's LSAT and admissions experts. Attendees receive special course discounts, so enroll today!

#### The LSAT PodCast

Hosted by our very own Dave Killoran and Jon Denning, the PowerScore LSAT PodCast offers hours of extra instruction. Topics range from specific LSAT concepts and strategies to test changes and LSAC news to admissions advice and frequently-asked student questions. Don't miss an episode!

#### LSAT and Law School Admissions Discussion Forum

Our LSAT Discussion Forum offers you a chance to interact with instructors, other students, and even our course developers and authors in a dynamic, collaborative environment! You can ask questions about everything from test concepts to admissions, and read through thousands of discussions on key techniques and strategies. The Forum provides a wealth of information that's sure to help you out as you prepare!

#### LSAT and Law School Admissions Blog

Our team of Course Developers, including PowerScore Bibles author Dave Killoran, update our blog several times per week with articles discussing LSAT trends, strategy breakdowns, study advice, application recommendations, and much more!



## Week 1: Six weeks to the LSAT

Your first week of study is extremely important. It serves as an introduction to the LSAT itself, and establishes a baseline as you take a timed practice test. Further, you will begin exploring Logical Reasoning, examining concepts such as the Basics of Logical Reasoning, the Question Stem and Answer Choices, Must Be True and Most Strongly Supported questions, Main Point Questions, and Conditional Reasoning. Each of these elements is absolutely critical to a strong Logical Reasoning performance, so be extremely diligent this week as you begin your preparation.

This week will also provide your first look at Reading Comprehension. It is an exceptionally labor-intensive week, so plan accordingly.

#### Practice Tests

Start your week by taking a practice LSAT. Before you begin this exam however, read the following information to better understand exactly *how you should take a practice test*.

We encourage you to begin with an official LSAT. Take a recent PT in our <u>Analytics Course</u> that you haven't previously seen. Take this exam under the same timed conditions you will face on test day (35 minutes per section unless you have specific accommodations).

This timed test will establish a baseline score, and give you an initial sense of both the test and your natural strengths and weaknesses. Do NOT let the results discourage you! They are in no way indicative of your potential or what your final score will be. It's merely a chance for you to familiarize yourself with the experience of taking a real LSAT under timed (test-day) conditions.

Upon completion of the exam, you'll receive a comprehensive analysis of your performance via our *Analytics Course Platform.* Be sure to save these results and use them to help guide the early stages of your prep.

#### Logical Reasoning

- To begin your Logical Reasoning studies, read Chapters One through Four of the <u>Logical Reasoning Bible</u>. This reading selection takes you from an Introduction and Overview of the LSAT in Chapter One, through discussions of the Logical Reasoning section in general in Chapters Two and Three, and into Must Be True questions in Chapter Four.
- Once you feel comfortable with the first four chapters, read Chapter Six on Conditional Reasoning. Conditional Reasoning is a particularly challenging concept for many students, so it is imperative that you spend sufficient time with it, as it will figure heavily in both the Logical Reasoning and Logic Games sections of the LSAT.
- After you finish Chapter Six in the Logical Reasoning Bible, complete the LR Question Type Training drills Must Be True Questions: Volume 1. These can be found in your <u>Analytics Course</u>. Together, Chapter Six and the drills discuss and test Must Be True/Most Strongly Supported questions, the most common LR question type and a prominent feature in Reading Comprehension as well.

Note: as you work through the Must Be True questions in the Type Training drills, you will encounter a number or stimuli featuring Conditional Reasoning.

- Next, read Chapter Five in the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. This chapter covers Main Point questions, a common question type in both the Logical Reasoning and Reading Comprehension sections.
- After reading Chapter Five in the *Logical Reasoning Bible,* return to the *Analytics* Drill Sets page and take **Main Point Questions, V1**. These drills will help you develop your skills at recognizing and understanding argumentation.

#### Reading Comprehension

- Begin by reading Chapters Two through Four of the <u>Reading Comprehension Bible</u>. Skip the section in Chapter Three that covers argumentation. Note that you can also skip Chapter One, as that is an overview of the test that you have already encountered in the Logical Reasoning Bible.
- Continue by working through Chapters Five, Six, and Seven of the *Reading Comprehension Bible*. Here you will encounter many key concepts such as Diagramming and how to best attack the various question types and answer choices. Finally, you will work through a summary chapter where all of the ideas you have seen so far get incorporated into a single, overarching approach.
- Next, go back to *Analytics* to practice some *Passage Type Training* by completing the first half of the Reading Comprehension drill sets called **Humanities: Volume 1**, ending with PT 12, October 1994, Passage #1: Modern Architecture, Questions 1-7.
- We encourage our students to become active readers of publications and journals the tone and style of which closely aligns with passages on the LSAT. This will help you more quickly acclimate to the nature of passages created by the test makers. Some examples of worthwhile sources of additional reading include: The Economist, Scientific American, The Wall Street Journal or New York Times, and other economically-, legally-, or scientifically-oriented texts.

#### Practice Tests

• Finish your first week by taking a PrepTest. Take all the sections in a row, without a break.

Week 1 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
PrepTest		
LRB Ch1		
LRB Ch2		
LRB Ch3		
LRB Ch4		
LRB Ch6		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch5		
LR Drills		
	1	
RCB Ch2		
RCB Ch3		
RCB Ch4		
RCB Ch5		
RCB Ch6		
RCB Ch7		
RC Drills		
	1	
PrepTest		



## Week 2: Five weeks to the LSAT

This will probably be the most difficult week of your study plan, so clear your schedule and prepare to devote at least 25-30 hours to solid prep time. You will continue your Logical Reasoning studies with questions in the Second and Third Families (Weaken, Strengthen, Justify, and Assumption), and you will also take a comprehensive look at Causality on the LSAT. Your Reading Comprehension assignment will take you through Comparative Reading.

Due to the conceptually-heavy aspect of this week's assignments, this is the only week without assigned timed practice tests. However, if time permits, it is never too soon to take a practice test giving yourself a little extra time in each section. Having more time to complete each section can provide a unique insight into the areas you need to improve on the most.

#### Logical Reasoning

- For Logical Reasoning, you should first read Chapter Seven in the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. This chapter examines Weaken questions, which constitute the only question type in the Family #3: Hurt category (as discussed in Chapter Three).
- Next, work through Chapter Eight of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. Chapter Eight covers both basic and advanced Causal Reasoning, a very common type of reasoning on the test (and particularly prevalent in Weaken and Strengthen questions).
- Complete the *Question Type Training* drills in **Weaken Questions: V1** in *Analytics,* which feature a significant amount of Cause and Effect Reasoning.
- After you learn about Causality in Weaken questions, proceed to Chapter Nine of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. This chapter addresses Strengthen questions, and you will encounter Causality frequently as well (causal reasoning appears in the majority of Strengthen questions).
- Next work through the *Analytics* drills in **Strengthen Questions: V1**, to reinforce your abilities as outlined in the *Logical Reasoning Bible* for this question type.
- After you have completed your Strengthen assignments, proceed to Chapter Ten of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. Here you will see another Help Family question type, Justify the Conclusion.
- Next, practice the Analytics drills in Justify Questions: V1
- Your last Logical Reasoning assignment of the week is Assumption questions, discussed in Chapter Eleven of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. This is one of the most challenging question types for many test takers, so take your time as you work through the ideas presented to ensure a complete understanding of them.
- Finally, to hone your question type skills for Assumption questions, return to *the Analytics Course* and complete the drill set **Assumption Questions: V1**.

#### Reading Comprehension

- Read Chapter Eight of the *Reading Comprehension Bible*. This chapter addresses Comparative Reading Passages and thus is vitally important to fully understand.
- In the *Analytics Course,* complete the second half of the Reading Comprehension *Passage Type* drill sets **Humanities: V1**.
- (Optional): You may also want to complete the first half of Chapter One: Practice Drills in the *Reading Comprehension Bible Workbook*, beginning with the Active Reading Drill and stopping after the VIEWSTAMP Analysis: Main Point Identification Drill. Note that this is not necessary if you are feeling comfortable with your Reading Comprehension performance at this point.

#### Practice Tests

• Take a *Prep Test.* Give yourself extra time within each section. Doing this can help isolate specific concepts and paradigms you may be struggling with. When speed is not the focus of your practice test, rushing or guessing should play no role in determining your score. Any mistakes you make will likely result from a conceptual misunderstanding of the material being tested. Use them to your advantage!

Week 2 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
LRB Ch7		
LRB Ch8		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch9		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch10		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch11		
LR Drills		
	1	
RCB Ch8		
RC Drills		
RCBW Ch1		
	1	
PrepTest		

# **Feeling Stuck?**

Self-study isn't for everyone. Sometimes you need a little help to get through a tough concept, or to gain those last few points you need for your target school.

#### Work with a Tutor

Many students find that even 5 or 10 hours of targeted personal tutoring can really enhance their self-study. Tutoring packages include comprehensive materials and online resources that are only available to students who take a course or enlist <u>the help of a tutor</u>.





# Week 3: Four weeks to the LSAT

This week you will continue building your conceptual foundation for Logical Reasoning.

You will also need to take two full, timed practice tests. If possible, make the practice tests the final two tasks this week, and be sure to consider our recommendations if you are unclear on the proper way to <u>self-administer an</u> <u>exam</u>. Remember: each practice test must be thoroughly reviewed as you consider your evolving strengths and weaknesses. The emphasis is still on conceptual understanding, so if you are unable to take both practice tests, take only one of them. The rest of the assignments still take priority.

#### Reading Comprehension

- Read Chapter Nine of the *Reading Comprehension Bible* on Common Passage Themes
- Read Chapter Ten of the *Reading Comprehension Bible*. This discussion of Section Strategy and Time Management will take you to the end of the Reading Bible's conceptual analyses.
- (Optional): Complete the rest of Chapter One: Practice Drills in the *Reading Comprehension Bible Workbook* (if you used this resource as suggested last week, this means beginning with the Passage Elements and Formations Recognition Drill). Note, again, that this is not necessary if you are feeling comfortable with your Reading Comprehension performance at this point.

#### Logical Reasoning

- Read Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. The question types discussed— Method of Reasoning and Flaw in the Reasoning—are very closely related, so it is useful to pair these two chapters with one another.
- Complete the Logical Reasoning *Question Type* drill sets **Method of Reasoning and Method-AP Questions: V1** and **Flaw in the Reasoning Questions: V1** in *Analytics* to reinforce those question types. Together they will make up a significant portion of your LR score, so it is imperative that you are comfortable with them prior to test day.
- Read Chapter Sixteen of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. This chapter covers Parallel Reasoning questions, which can be extremely time-consuming without the proper approach. These questions also pair nicely with the other two types discussed this week, Method and Flaw.
- Return to Analytics and complete the Parallel Reasoning and Parallel Flaw: V1 drill set.
- (Optional): Finally, complete Chapters One and Two of the Logical Reasoning Bible Workbook. While this is an optional assignment, it is highly recommended for anyone still experiencing significant difficulty with the Logical Reasoning section of the test.

#### Practice Tests

• Take two PrepTests under normal testing conditions. Make sure to include breaks.

Week 3 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
RCB Ch9		
RCB Ch10		
RCBW Ch1		
	•	
LRB Ch14		
LRB Ch15		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch16		
LR Drills		
LRBW Ch1		
LRBW Ch2		
	*	
PrepTest		
PrepTest		



## Week 4: Three weeks to the LSAT

At this point you should have completed all of the assigned tasks for the first three weeks. If you are still behind, prioritize any missed work and attempt to get caught up. This is another work-intensive week so prepare yourself to devote a sufficient amount of time to your studies.

#### Reading Comprehension

- Start the week in Analytics and complete the Diversity I, II, and III: V1 RC Passage Type drill sets.
- (Optional): Complete the individual passages in Chatper Two of the *Reading Comprehension Bible Workbook,* and carefully review the detailed analysis given for each.

#### Logical Reasoning

- Begin by reading Chapter Twelve of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. Here you will see Resolve the Paradox questions.
- After you work through Chapter Twelve of the LRB, return to *Analytics* and complete the **Resolve the Paradox: V1** LR *Question Type* drill set.
- Read Chapters Eighteen through Twenty of the Logical Reasoning Bible, covering some of the more
  unusual question types on the exam. After each chapter, work through the relevant Volume1 LR drill
  sets in Analytics (Evaluate the Argument, Cannot Be True, and Point at Issue/Point of Agreement
  Questions). Because you are now working through some of the most obscure questions on the test, this
  assignment should be prioritized lower than the more common concepts if you find that you are still
  struggling with fundamentals.
- Next, work through Chapter Seventeen of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*, discussing the use of Numbers and Percentages on the LSAT.
- To help tackle this increasingly common type of evidence in Logical Reasoning questions, complete the **Numbers and Percentages Questions: V1** *Analytics* drills.
- (Optional): Finally, complete the optional assignment of Chapters Three and Four of the *Logical Reasoning Bible Workbook*.

#### Practice Tests

• Take two PrepTests under normal testing conditions. Make sure to include breaks.

Week 4 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
RC Drills I		
RC Drills II		
RC Drills III		
RCBW Ch2		
LRB Ch12		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch18		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch19		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch20		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch17		
LR Drills		
LRBW Ch3		
LRBW Ch4		
	· 1	
PrepTest		
PrepTest		



# Week 5: Two weeks to the LSAT

At this point you have reviewed most of the major concepts, so timing starts to take a greater role in your preparation. The focus will gradually move towards working through as many tests as possible under timed conditions, in order to acclimate you to the rigors of the LSAT.

#### Logical Reasoning

- Read Chapter Twenty-One of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. This chapter covers Principle Questions—not a distinct "type" per se, but rather a commonly-featured idea that often employs conditional reasoning.
- Next, work through the Principle Questions: V1 drills in Analytics.
- Begin reviewing fundamental concepts in Logical Reasoning by completing the LR *Question Type* drills in both **Conditional Reasoning Questions: V1** and **Cause and Effect Reasoning Questions: V1** in *Analytics*. Here you will encounter questions which will provide you with an excellent way to go over these key concepts well before the test, and should also reinforce a number of question types studied previously.
- Read Chapter Thirteen of the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. Here you will see Formal Logic, a rare, but challenging concept with which many test takers struggle. However, if you are falling behind in your studies, you can save this assignment for later, as Formal Logic is quite uncommon (1-2 questions per LSAT, typically) and your time may be better spent elsewhere.
- Once you have completed the chapter on Formal Logic in the Reasoning Bible, work through **Formal** Logic: V1 in *Analytics* to reinforce your skills.
- (Optional): Complete Chapters Five and Six of the *Logical Reasoning Bible Workbook*.

#### Reading Comprehension

- Complete the RC *Passage Type* drills in *Analytics* for **Law Related: V1**, **Regulation: V1**, **Social Science: V1**, and **Hard Science: V1**.
- Complete the entire Passage ReChallenge section of the *Reading Comprehension Bible* doing each ReChallenge Set as a timed exercise. Thoroughly review the explanations.

#### Practice Tests

• Take three PrepTests under normal testing conditions. Make sure to include breaks.

Week 5 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
LRB Ch21		
LR Drills		
LR Drills		
LR Drills		
LRB Ch13		
LR Drills		
LRBW Ch5		
LRBW Ch6		
RC Drills		
RCB ReChallenge		
PrepTest 84		
PrepTest 85		
PrepTest 86		



# Week 6: One week to the LSAT

This week is about both conceptual and mental preparation. You should plan to take 2-3 practice tests as outlined below, allowing ample time for review; however, be sure that you do not attempt a test the day before the exam. This is intentional: the goal is to avoid burnout the week before the test. Instead, focus on building your confidence and visualizing a strong performance on test day.

#### Logical Reasoning

• Read Chapter Twenty-Two in the *Logical Reasoning Bible*. This final chapter presents a detailed discussion of Section Strategy and Time Management, which should correspond closely to similar closing chapter in the *Reading Comprehension Bible*. This will also take you to the end of this book.

As always, be sure to return to it as you continue to take tests and identify areas of weakness, even during your final week. For instance, if you find that a particular question type or idea is still consistently giving you trouble, use the Reasoning Bible to review that concept/type and attempt to eliminate any remaining difficulties. It's not too late to still make improvements!

#### Reading Comprehension

• (Optional): Work through the full Reading Comprehension sections in Chapters Three and Four of the *Reading Comprehension Bible Workbook,* and thoroughly review the explanations provided for each.

#### Practice Tests

• Take three PrepTests under normal testing conditions. Make sure to include breaks.

#### Other

During the final stretch to your test, you should make sure that you are as mentally prepared as possible for the pressures of test day. To help you reach a state of pure mental confidence and balance, we've compiled a list of some of our favorite LSAT mentality resources. Set aside some time before the test to think about how you will approach the LSAT when it begins and especially how you will react if you encounter any difficulties. It's an essential step, and one that can dramatically impact your score. Although all of these articles are important, we strongly recommend you watch the Test Mentality webinar and follow the specific recommendations in that discussion.

#### The Ultimate Test Mentality Resource List

The final weeks before test day require a different strategy. We have some articles on our <u>Last Minute LSAT</u> <u>Advice</u> page that you might find helpful, including a discussion of <u>final week prep</u> and the difference between LSAT <u>Cancellations</u>, <u>Withdrawals</u>, <u>and Absences</u> if you're having cold feet.

There are several worthwhile articles discussing important issues beyond strategies and mental preparation, such as the logistics of test day itself, and how to prepare yourself for the test with proper diet and nutrition:

What to Do the Day Before and Morning of the LSAT

#### Thought for Food: Eating Your Way to a 180 on the LSAT

Finally, on the day before the LSAT, relax! Do something that makes you happy and don't worry about the LSAT (assuming you know where your testing center is or your room is prepared for the ProctorU virtual proctor system). It is imperative that you are fully rested before the exam, so avoid any strenuous activities, whether physical or mental. So don't run a half-marathon, and don't attempt any full practice tests!

Week 6 Assignments		
Assignment	Completed?	Notes
LRB Ch22		
RCBW Ch3		
RCBW Ch4		
PrepTest		
PrepTest		
PrepTest		
Test Mentality		

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