

How to Tackle the LSAT

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Standing at the starting line in the process of being a pre-law student can be terrifying and overwhelming. There is figuring out what to major in, applying for law schools, and taking the LSAT. I remember taking the LSAT for the very first time and, as I prepare to take it again in the Summer of 2023, I have found some tips and formed opinions that I wish to share from my experience with studying and taking the LSAT.

Before You Begin Studying

I personally suggest that you first grab a journal, a friend, relative, or even yourself, and go through all of the things that make you nervous about the LSAT. Make a list, ask for advice or comfort. Are you concerned about the length of the test? Your personal schedule conflicting with your study schedule? Is it self-doubt of your capabilities? Once you bring to the forefront what is getting you down about the LSAT, you can tackle each part of your list like so:

The length of the test is just like any other long exam you may have taken such as an SOL, an SAT, or an AP exam. You can get a brand new planner, or one you already own, and mark down everything you do each month. Then, make a study plan. Do you want to dedicate two hours a day for three days of the week? Personalize your plan, anything works as long as you do it so it is not overwhelming and leading you to burn out. You can conquer your self-doubt by giving yourself grace and realize that you are human. You do not have to be perfect to get a wonderful, outstanding score. Write yourself endearing sticky-notes on your mirror to boost confidence! If you are religious, prayer is a wonderful outlet! No matter what, there is no reason to doubt yourself because you are all more than capable of taking this test.

In addition, make sure that you register for the LSAT as soon as possible. Then, you have a goal to work towards. It is better to see the finish line than feel like it is beyond your reach.

Go through the various LSAT prep programs. Read reviews, Reddit groups and the description of each plan. I have thoroughly enjoyed Khan Academy's free LSAT prep program. You can take a diagnostic test, enter your test date, and expected score, and Khan Academy will personalize drills and practices on a study schedule. They also schedule out practice tests as you advance through stages!

Personal LSAT Experience

When I first took the exam, I was not prepared. I was so scared to take the LSAT that I shied away from studying. I severely doubted myself as a student and testtaker. Although, since I have taken it, and plan to take it again, the fear surrounding this unknown and long exam is behind me. Pretend it is another at-home practice test. Eat your usual breakfast. Get a great night's sleep.

You can take this test more than once... I am! Law schools do not frown upon it. If taking the exam once is enough and you are happy with your score... keep it! If not, do not worry; I am with you, and you are not alone. We will take the exam again and again and become stronger each time.

"It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela