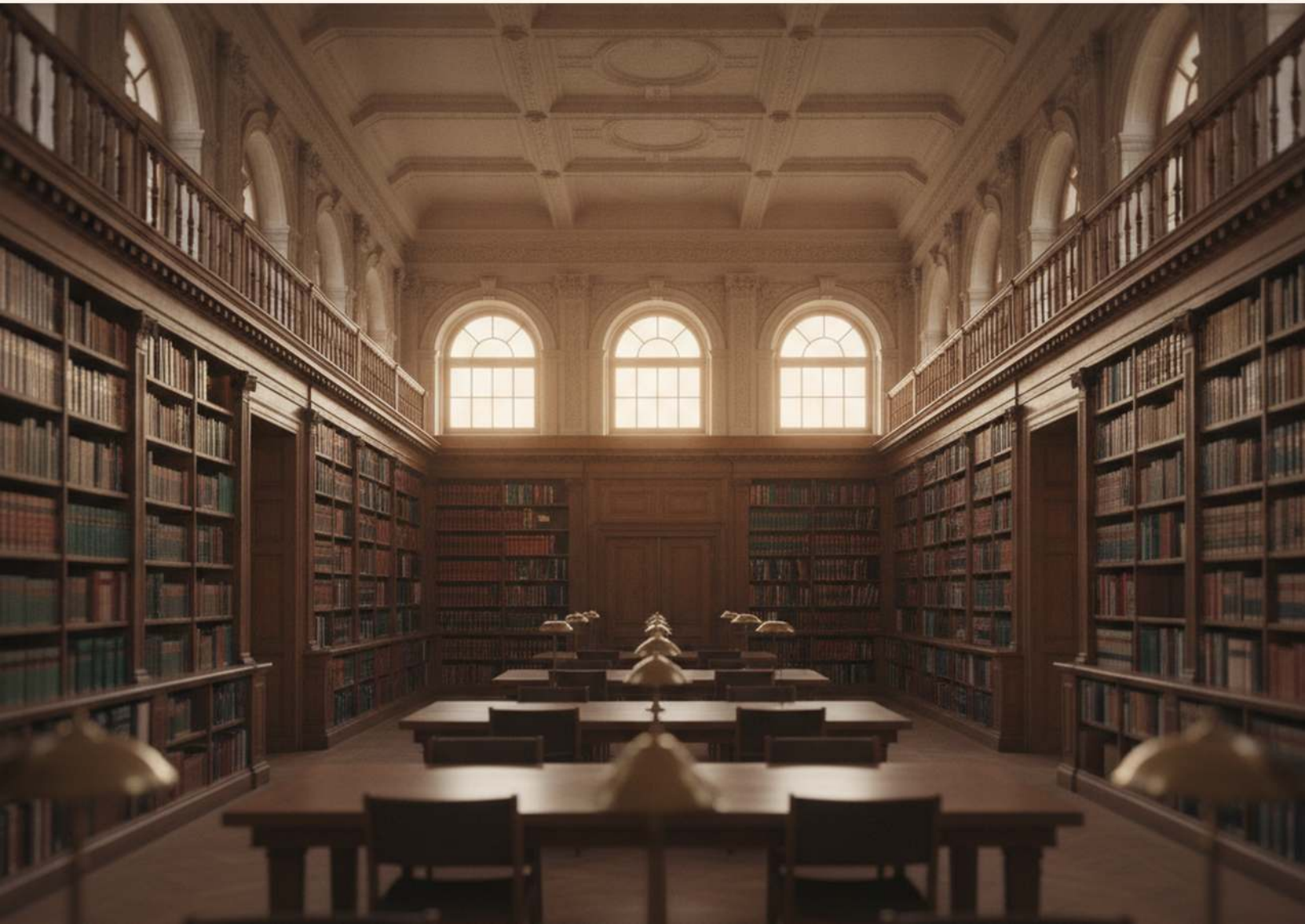
THE COMPLETE LSAT PREP GUIDE

Logical Reasoning + Reading Comprehension | Study Plans | 2026-2027 Edition



Contents

How to Use This Book 4

Disclaimer 7

The LSAT in 2026-2027 8

Logical Reasoning: The Core Skill 15

Reading Comprehension: The Other Half 33

Timing and Pacing Strategy 41

Study Plans 45

Test-Day Playbook 49

Practice Set 1: Logical Reasoning 54

Practice Set 2: Reading Comprehension 66

Your Wrong-Answer Journal and Score Tracker 75

Next Steps 80

When you read a stimulus, name its pattern in three words ("causal story," "survey says"). Your brain will start retrieving the right assumption automatically - which is exactly what fast, accurate LR feels like from the inside.

The trap answer playbook: how wrong answers are built

LSAT wrong answers are not random. Test-makers build them from a small catalog of traps, and each trap is designed to catch a specific bad habit. Learn the catalog and you will start eliminating with confidence instead of guessing between two survivors.

1. The out-of-scope answer. Mentions something from the stimulus but answers a different question than the one asked. Example: on a Weaken question, a choice that strengthens instead. Defense: re-read the question stem before finalizing. Many "silly mistakes" are really stem misreads.

2. The half-right, half-wrong answer. Starts exactly like the correct answer, then adds or changes one word that breaks it. These are the most dangerous traps because they reward partial reading. Defense: read every answer choice to the end, especially the ones that start well.

3. The extreme answer. Uses "always," "never," "all," "none," or "only" where the stimulus only supports something qualified. Correct LSAT answers are usually careful and measured; wrong answers overclaim. Defense: highlight or note extreme words in answer choices and demand textual justification for each one.

4. The true-but-irrelevant answer. States something factually correct (or consistent with the stimulus) that does nothing to answer the question. These prey on the habit of picking answers that "sound right." Defense: ask "so what?" - if the choice does not move the specific logical needle the stem asks about, it is wrong no matter how true it is.

5. The reversed-logic answer. Gets the direction backwards: strengthens when you need weaken, describes the flaw in reverse, confuses necessary with sufficient. Common in Assumption and Flaw questions. Defense: after choosing, state in one sentence what your answer *does* and check it matches the stem's verb.

6. The shell-game answer. Uses the stimulus's key terms but rearranges their relationships. "Most A are B" becomes "most B are A." These punish skimmers. Defense: track exactly which term is the subject and which is the predicate, especially with quantifiers.

7. The appeal-to-outside-knowledge answer. Sounds right because it matches what you know about the world, but is not supported by the stimulus. The LSAT punishes expertise - answer from the text, never from your knowledge. Defense: for every answer, point to the specific words in the stimulus that support it. No words, no pick.

Weaken - worked example

> Stimulus: The town of Millbrook fluoridated its water supply in 2018. Since then, cavities among Millbrook schoolchildren have fallen 25 percent. Fluoridation clearly caused the improvement.
>
> Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?
>
> (A) Millbrook also launched a free school dental-checkup program in 2018.
>
> (B) Fluoridation is opposed by some residents.
>
> (C) Several nearby towns that did not fluoridate their water saw no change in cavity rates over the same period.
>
> (D) The 25 percent figure has not been independently verified.
>
> (E) Some children in Millbrook drink bottled water.

Analysis: The argument assumes nothing else changed in 2018. Choice (A) supplies a direct alternative cause operating at exactly the same time - the dental-checkup program could fully explain the cavity drop. Choice (C) does the opposite: a comparison group without fluoridation saw no improvement, which strengthens the argument. (B) is irrelevant opinion. (D) quibbles with the number without offering an alternative. (E) would, if anything, suggest the measured effect is understated. Answer: (A).

Necessary Assumption - worked example

> Stimulus: The museum's new exhibit drew twice as many visitors as last year's exhibit. The new exhibit featured interactive displays, which last year's did not. So the interactive displays must be what attracted the larger crowds.
>
> The argument depends on the assumption that
>
> (A) interactive displays are more expensive to install than traditional displays.
>
> (B) no other significant difference between the two exhibits accounts for the attendance gap.
>
> (C) visitors prefer interactive displays to all other museum features.
>
> (D) last year's exhibit was poorly advertised.
>
> (E) the museum's total attendance has been rising for several years.

Analysis: Negate (B): some other significant difference *does* account for the gap - say, the new exhibit ran during tourist season, or featured a famous artist. Then the evidence no longer supports crediting the interactive displays, and the conclusion collapses. So (B) is

caused the drop, it should have appeared in the residential neighborhoods too. Its absence there isolates the lighting as the difference-maker. It rules out city-wide alternative explanations in one stroke.

- (A) Other cities' purchases tell us nothing about whether the lights caused *Riverton's* drop. Irrelevant.
- (B) This weakens: it supplies an alternative cause (more downtown patrols) operating at exactly the same time.
- (C) Residents feeling safer is consistent with less crime, but feelings are not evidence of causation, and this does not connect the feeling to the lighting.
- (D) Cost savings are irrelevant to whether the lighting caused the crime drop.

Question 2 - Answer: (B). The nutritionist moves from correlation (tea drinkers have less heart disease) to causation (tea protects the heart). The hidden assumption is that nothing else distinguishes tea drinkers from non-drinkers. Choice (B) supplies the alternative cause: tea drinkers also exercise more and eat better - habits that could plausibly account for their lower rates of heart disease. The correlation is explained without any effect from the tea. This is the textbook weaken move for observational claims.

- (A) A side effect of caffeine does not address whether tea protects against heart disease.
- (C) "Some studies inconclusive" is weak - inconclusive results do not contradict the nutritionist's claim.
- (D) The premise says tea drinkers *tend* to have lower rates, not that none get heart disease. Individual exceptions are fully consistent with the argument.
- (E) A general decline in heart disease does not explain the *difference* between tea drinkers and non-drinkers.

Question 3 - Answer: (A). Apply the Negation Test. Negate (A): customers who mention battery life in reviews do *not* represent phone buyers generally. If reviewers are unrepresentative - say, only tech enthusiasts mention battery life while ordinary buyers care about price - then the evidence (reviews mention battery life) gives no reason to think longer battery life will win back market share. The argument collapses. So (A) is required.

- (B) "The only way" is far stronger than the argument needs. The memo recommends longer battery life as the route to regaining share; it does not need battery life to be the only thing that could ever raise a phone's sales. Negate (B) - other things can also increase sales - and the memo's reasoning is untouched.
- (C) The argument is about what *we* should do; it does not require the competitor to stand still.
- (D) Reviewer knowledge is irrelevant - the issue is representativeness, not expertise.