

SYLLABUS

The Yoho LSAT Preparation Course

September, 2005

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Introduction

The LSAT is a test of general reasoning ability. Luckily, the types of reasoning tasks on the LSAT are limited in number and so the test is *highly* predictable. In essence, the questions with which a test-taker will be greeted on test day simply are modified versions of the same LSAT questions that are available on practice tests.

Proper preparation, then, has the following components:

- * Coming to understand why the right answers are right and the wrong answers are wrong.
- * Applying a sensible procedural approach to the test that will maximize one's score. And,
- * Practicing applying these procedures after the course to *real* LSAT questions until one's practice scores peak.

A *good* preparation course supplies information about the first two of these. A good *test-taker* handles the third.

About the Instructor

Dr. James Yoho has been teaching well-regarded test preparation since 1996 at the request of such institutions as Penn State, La Salle, Lehigh, Marist, Binghamton, Rutgers, and Temple. He has coached some 4,000 students on standardized tests of general reasoning ability

(like the LSAT). He also has 12 years of experience teaching at colleges and universities, including two law schools, and served as a university pre-law adviser for seven years. He holds a law degree from the University of Illinois and a doctorate in government from the University of Virginia. Well-published in law, political science, and test preparation, his principal research interests are in the areas of American constitutional law, interest groups, and the strategic dynamics of standardized tests.

Course Outline

First Quarter

- * *An introduction to the LSAT and how it fits into the larger picture of law school admissions*
 - * The three basic component of effective LSAT preparation
 - * Other factors in doing well on the LSAT
 - * Upcoming LSAT administration dates
 - * How to register
 - * A short history of the LSAT
 - * A few web sites of interest (all free) to law school wannabes
 - * Law school application trends
 - * Some numbers on the “success rate” and matriculation
 - * Factors in law school admissions
 - * The basic structure of the LSAT
 - * The meaning of the scaled score
 - * The relationship between the raw score, the scaled score, and the percentile
 - * The number of correct answers that one needs to average on a given type of section in order to reach a particular percentile
 - * Grade inflation over the years
 - * How LSDAS calculates your cumulative undergraduate grade point average
 - * Suggestions for your personal statement
 - * A suggested procedure for obtaining letters of recommendation

- * *How to approach test questions in general*
 - * General strategies for the LSAT
 - * Some norming data
 - * The components of an LSAT question
 - * The four most common mistakes on the LSAT
 - * Suggestions for managing the text
 - * Suggestions for managing the question directions
 - * Suggestions for managing the answer options
 - * A summary of how to handle pacing
 - * How to control anxiety
 - * How to practice and improve
 - * Where to get practice tests

- * *Start on the Logical Reasoning question type*
 - * The basics of Logical Reasoning
 - * The categorization of Logical Reasoning questions
 - * The most useful Logical Reasoning typology (in the questions' approximate order of significance)
 - * The nature and structure of arguments
 - * Review of sample questions

Second Quarter

- * *Finish the Logical Reasoning question type*
 - * Take a timed 35-minute practice section
 - * When you're done taking the practice section
 - * Once we're done reviewing the practice section
- * *Start on the Reading Comprehension question type*
 - * The basics of Reading Comprehension
 - * Yet another diatribe about pacing
 - * The categorization of Reading Comprehension passages
 - * The categorization of Reading Comprehension questions
 - * The most useful Reading Comprehension typology (in the questions' approximate order of significance)
 - * The "most thorough" approach to a Reading Comprehension passage
 - * Start review of sample section

Third Quarter

- * *The writing sample*
 - * The keys to a good writing sample
 - * The "decision" essay type
 - * The "argument" essay type
 - * Concerning writing mechanics
- * *Finish the Reading Comprehension question type*
 - * Finish review of sample section
 - * The "medium thorough" approach to a Reading Comprehension passage
 - * The "really quick" approach to a Reading Comprehension passage
- * *Start on the Analytical Reasoning question type*
 - * The basics of Analytical Reasoning
 - * Difficulty patterns
 - * A final diatribe about pacing
 - * Suggestions for the Analytical Reasoning question type
 - * Review of sample questions

Fourth Quarter

- * *Finish the Analytical Reasoning question type:*
 - * Categorizing Analytical Reasoning problems
 - * The most useful Analytical Reasoning typology, in approximate order of significance
 - * Review of entire Analytical Reasoning sample section

- * *Conclusion:* What should happen from now until test day