

# Preparing for the LSAT



# Webinar Overview

- What is on the LSAT? What is it testing?
- Materials you will want to have to prepare
- Tutoring and other supplementary preparation
- Why improving on the LSAT is more challenging than improving on other tests
- How to form a long term strategy and study plan
- Small, everyday habits to improve LSAT performances
- Pretests, PrepTest conditions, and How to Review
- Basic tips to improve in LR, LG, and RC
- We'll stop for question breaks every half hour.
- I'll stick around a little after the webinar is over to go over more participant questions.
- Thanks for being here!

# What is on the LSAT? What is it testing?

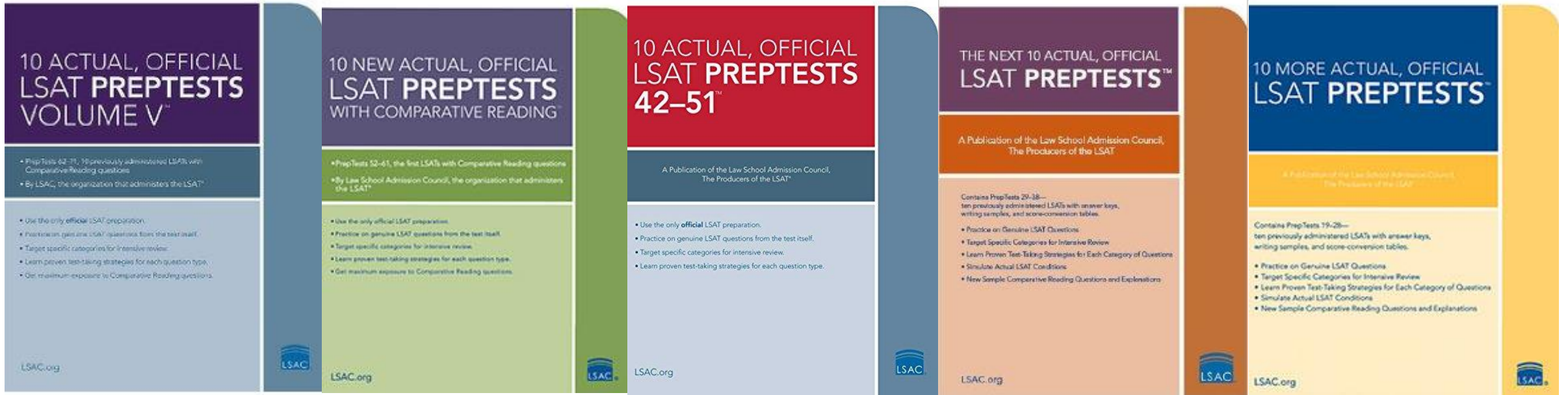
- The LSAT is a *skills* test with a small amount of *content*.
- On the SAT, you may remember the Verbal section tested vocabulary and reading comprehension:
  - Reading Comprehension tests skills with a little bit of content
  - Vocabulary tests content with a little bit of skill
- The LSAT tests only a few skills, and it tests them frequently:
  - Arguments: Argument structure. How arguments work
  - Reading Comprehension: Process written information answer questions.
  - Deductive logic: Organizing variables in a scheme and drawing conclusions about it
  - Formal logic: Translating English statements into logic in order to find inferences or missing assumptions.

# Why Is This Important for Law School?



- It's not clear – high performance on the LSAT and *first year* grades are correlated.
- ....But, it's probably true high performance on the GRE, or even the ACT, and first year grades would be correlated.
- The LSAT forces test-takers to read and respond in high pressure situations. This is probably similar to the everyday reality of some lawyers, and it is true that both in law school and the legal profession you will do *a lot* of reading.
- Why the LSAT? We don't know. Until we can take the GRE instead, we'll do the best we can...

# What Materials Should You Use To Prepare?



- Recommended in order from left to right (Newest to older, there should be a new 10 volume test coming out any day now).
- Probably want one of these for every 4 weeks you're studying (round up).
- Other materials? Sure, but we're not going to recommend any specifically.

# The Newest Tests

A Publication of the Law School Admission Council, The Producers of the LSAT®		A Publication of the Law School Admission Council, The Producers of the LSAT®		A Publication of the Law School Admission Council, The Producers of the LSAT®		A Publication of the Law School Admission Council, The Producers of the LSAT®		A Publication of the Law School Admission Council, The Producers of the LSAT®	
THE OFFICIAL LSAT PREPTEST®		THE OFFICIAL LSAT PREPTEST®		THE OFFICIAL LSAT PREPTEST®		THE OFFICIAL LSAT PREPTEST®		THE OFFICIAL LSAT PREPTEST®	
• PrepTest 80 • Form 6LSN121		• PrepTest 79 • Form 6LSN120		• PrepTest 78 • Form 7LSN122		• PrepTest 77 • Form 5LSN116		• PrepTest 76 • Form 5LSN115	
80		79		78		77		76	
DECEMBER 2016		SEPTEMBER 2016		JUNE 2016		DECEMBER 2015		OCTOBER 2015	
LSAC.org		LSAC.org		LSAC.org		LSAC.org		LSAC.org	

- 81 was June 2017, so the 72-81 book should be out soon. Get it when it comes out!
- If it's not out soon, these are going to be the last tests you should take in the weeks leading up to test day
- They cost around \$8-\$10 *each*.



# Tutoring and Other Supplementary Materials

- “Never train alone: it reinforces your mistakes”
- Think about baseball/softball. You can go to batting cages and practice your accuracy and power, but it’s hard to see *what* you are doing *while* you are doing it.



# Tutoring and Other Supplementary Materials

- Two solutions: You can record yourself and review your stance, posture, swing, etc., or you can get someone to watch you bat and do the same analysis in real time.
- Recording yourself is similar to reviewing your practice tests (we'll cover that later)
- Getting a coach is similar to getting a tutor!
- Tutors can help share strategies and insights about the material and your test-taking that you wouldn't have realized without their insights.





# Why Improving on the LSAT Is Not Easy

- Because the LSAT is a skills-based test, Test Day is more analogous to a sporting event or a skilled performance.
- You can't "cram" for your recital or for a big game. Imagine doing your routine 30 times the night before your performance – you'd get tired, you'd reinforce bad mistakes.



# Why Improving on the LSAT Is Not Easy

- Preparation is gradual – time spent studying should be evenly distributed.
- The LSAT tests relatively few skills – improvement is incremental. There is rarely a “eureka” moment, studying for the LSAT can feel like a grind.
- Okay, so now that that’s out of the way, let’s talk a bit about how to actually study...



# Long Term Preparation and Strategy

- Register for the test you plan to take (don't pay the late fee!)
- Designate one day a week as a “day off”
- *Every other day* designate time for LSAT.
- Plan to spend at least an hour a day, six days a week, on LSAT preparation.

# Long Term Preparation and Strategy

- Keep the following time commitments in mind:
- One day per week (at least) is a practice test. This can take between 2.5 and 3.5 hours, depending on how many sections (4, 5, or 6) you are doing.
  - This time needs to be uninterrupted and mostly silent! Make sure you can be somewhere for that kind of environment! It's not helpful to have your room mates watching TV while you're trying to test!
- The day after the test, review the test! This should take *at least* two hours, and a good rule is that it should take at least as long as the test itself took.
- One day a week, spend 2-3 hours meeting with a study partner/group or a tutor
- Every other day, do a timed section from the books and review it.

# How Long Should You Prepare?

- We recommend anywhere from 1.5 to 4 months to prepare for the test. We've seen success on either side of that number, but 1.5 months (6 weeks) is really the minimum we can safely recommend, and if you study for more than 4 months you risk running out of materials.
- Start slow, end slow. Build in intensity in your preparation as you go until the week before the test, then start to ease off a little bit.
- If time allows, in the 2-4 weeks before the test, take two tests a week.
  - Do not take two tests on the same day! Once you complete a test, take the rest of the day off.
  - Try not to review a test on the same day you take it. If you have to, give yourself a few hours between completing the test and beginning your review
  - Try not to take tests on consecutive days.
  - Remember to give yourself a day off each week!



# Everyday Habits to Improve Your LSAT Score

**READ**



# Everyday Habits to Improve Your LSAT Score

- If you don't already, designate *at least* 30 (but more reasonably 60) minutes per day to reading difficult material.
- The reading should be fun – you don't want to be discouraged because the material is boring or too difficult. This can be a challenge!
- But it shouldn't be easy either. If you love Shakespeare, do it, but if you're turned off by the hard language, find something else.





# Everyday Habits to Improve Your LSAT Score

- In other words, reading *Harry Potter* isn't exactly going to prepare you for the LSAT, but reading philosophy, history, and *Moby Dick* will.
- Remember that the LSAT tests, ***above all else***, reading speed and retention. Reading material that is more difficult than the material on the LSAT RC section will make the RC section seem really easy by comparison!
- Try to read on paper! The LSAT – for now, at least – is administered in a pencil-and-paper and format. Reading on your Kindle or tablet isn't unhelpful, but it's less familiar than the good ol' paper LSAT.



# How to Take PrepTests

- Take them at the same time of day as your actual LSAT. This probably means 9:00 AM (sorry everyone), but it could mean 1:00 PM if you plan to take the June test.
- Put your phone in airplane mode. You can use it to time the sections, but you shouldn't be receiving texts and emails during the test. Remember, on test day, you won't have a phone.

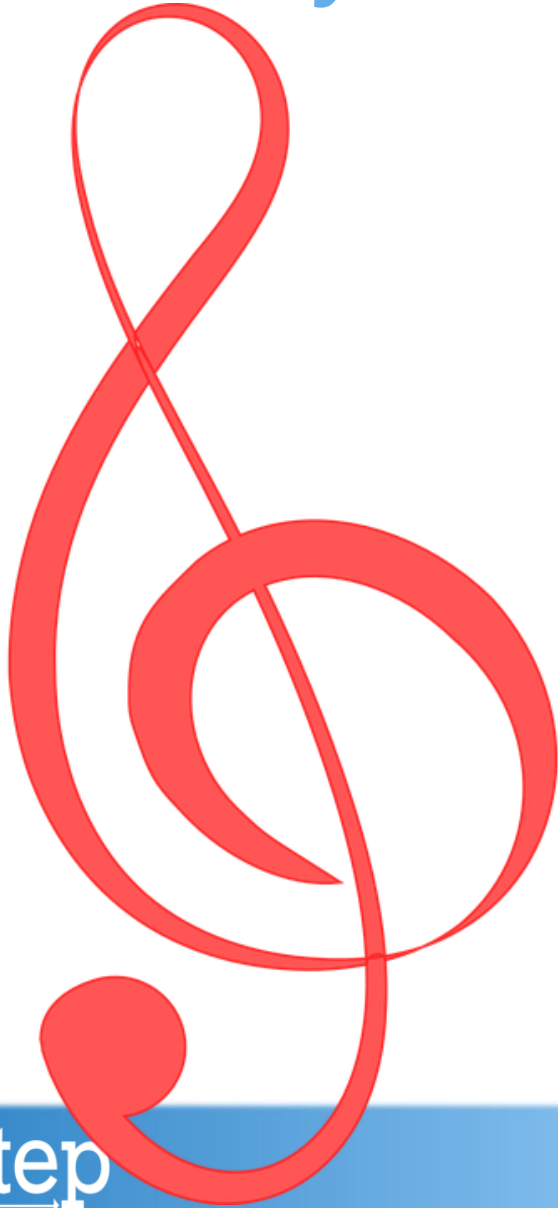


# How to Take PrepTests

- Be sure to get a watch. Practice with a watch.
- Use the Bubble Sheet.
- Take your break after section 3 (even if you're doing a 4 section test)
- Use a notation system! (Talk about that next slide, this is important)



# Notation Systems



- Notation systems are how you “record” your performance for review
- When you review a practice test, you want to review everything you got wrong. But also, you want to review material you may have gotten correct but gave you trouble.
- While taking the test, take quick notes on problems that give you trouble.

# Notation Systems

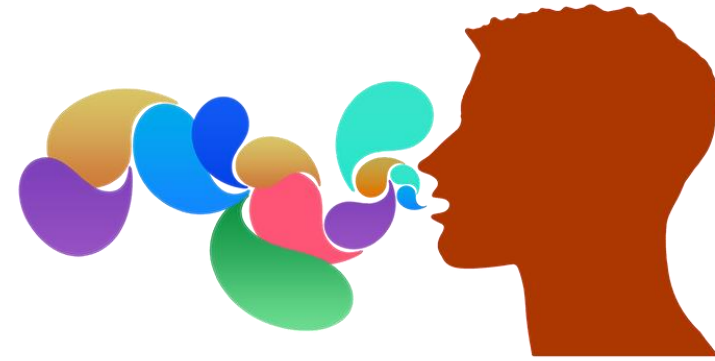


- For example....
  - G – if you totally guessed on a question, mark a G next to it. You may get it right! But you still want to review.
  - 50/50 – if you had it down to two and guessed. Make sure to go back and check why the other answer was right/tempting
  - TC – Time Consuming. If a question took you much longer than others did, review that question carefully.
- These are just suggestions. But take a few seconds on each second to take notes as you progress to make sure your test review is comprehensive!



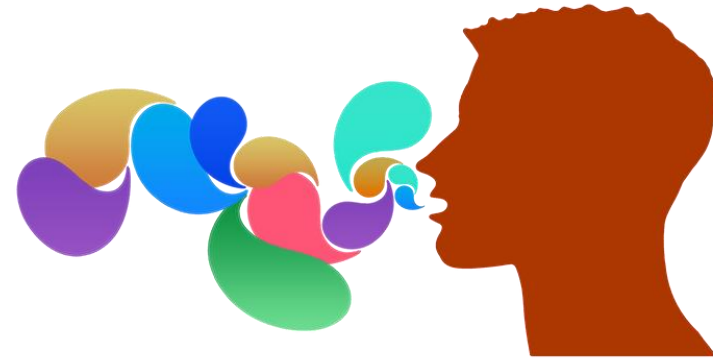
# How To Review Your Practice Tests

- Go over every question you got wrong and every question that you marked.
- Do this leisurely! The test is stressful but this doesn't have to be.
- Redo every question marked or incorrect without time pressure.
- Ask yourself:
  - Why was the answer I chose wrong (or – why did I mark this? What was difficult about this?)
  - How does the right answer best respond to the prompt and question?
  - Does this fit into any broader trends in my incorrect or marked questions?



# How To Review Your Practice Tests

- Occasionally there are weird and unique LSAT questions, but these are rare:
- The LSAT tests the same skills *over and over*. Taking time to go in-depth on questions you got wrong helps you see how the LSAT constructs these questions (over and over) and how they write incorrect answers.
- The LSAT is like a language, and taking/reviewing tests is like immersion in that language.





# Practice Test Progression

- The first test you take in your LSAT preparation should be a **timed, 4-section test**. This is your “diagnostic” or your “baseline score.” It’s how well you do without any preparation or practice.
- The second test you take in your LSAT preparation should be an **untimed, 4-section test**. Do one test untimed. “Walk the course before you run it.” Experience what it’s like to do an entire LSAT before you try it under time conditions.
- The next series of tests you take are **timed, 4-section tests**.

# Experimental and Writing Sections in PTs

- Maybe 4-6 weeks before your test date, start doing **timed, 5-section tests**. Draw the fifth section from an older test (the 19-28 or 29-38 book are great for this). Randomly determine where in the test this is (don't just put it last! Roll a die to see if it'll be section 1-5). Be sure to review the experimental section, as it is a real LSAT section.
- For the final 2 tests, include the Writing Section. The Writing Section is not a big deal, but you want to do one or two Writing Sections before test day.

# Some Notes on Old Tests

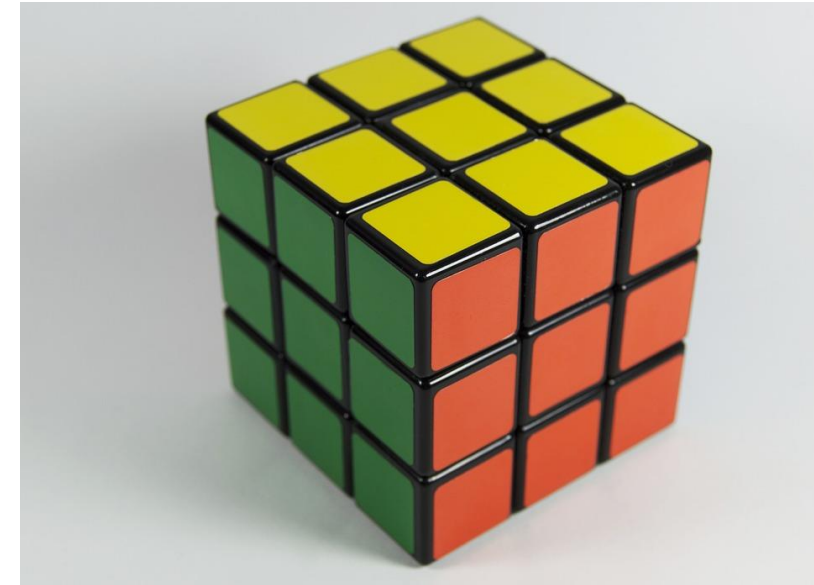
- For the most part, older pretests are very similar to the most recent ones; the tested skills are identical, but there are a few things that have changed.
  - 1) In general, the test has gotten harder.
  - 2) Logic Games are now spread over two pages. On your LSAT, each Game has two pages, but older tests are still printed with one game per page. Feel free to use **one side of scratch paper** for each game.
  - 3) Older LR sections will occasionally have a single prompt followed by two questions. This never happens anymore. Every prompt in LR is now followed by exactly one question.
  - 4) Older LG sections will have a “Rule Change” question, like “If the rule ‘A before B’ is replaced by the rule ‘B before A.’” Modern tests never ask this question anymore. Instead, they will ask “Rule Substitution” questions, which ask you to replace a rule that was given in the setup with a rule that will have the **exact same** effect.

# Basic Preparation Notes on Logic Games

- Except for that one untimed test, always do your LG sections timed. When you review, go back and do each game untimed.
- Learn how to diagram the three basic game skills:
  - **Sequencing:** place variables in an order
  - **Grouping:** sort variables into two or more categories
  - **Matching:** assign one or more groups of variables to a separate group of variables.
- By the time test day is coming around, make sure you've reviewed some rare game types to evaluate how comfortable you are diagramming schemes you may not be familiar with.
- Make sure you've looked at a few hybrid games as well; the LSAT will combine the three key skills listed above in any combination of two. You will see grouping/linear, etc.
- Our course covers how to diagram each of these and more! So it may be a good place to start.

# Basic Preparation Notes on Logical Reasoning

- Learn the question types. There's only around 10 types, and the LSAT asks the exact same questions, time and again, for the different types.
- *Most* LR questions test the same skill – how does an argument prove (or fail to prove) its conclusion? Mastering this skill goes hand in hand with mastery of this section.
- Make sure you've figured out question types that you dislike, or questions you tend to get wrong. Do these questions *last*.
- Learn the basics of conditional logic for formal logic LR questions. Knowing how to diagram the contrapositive can make an incomprehensible series of statements easy to parse .



# Basic Preparation Notes: Reading Comprehension

- Read every day! Be sure you are regularly digesting text of equal or greater difficulty than the material that appears on the LSAT.
- Learn some note taking and highlighting strategies and try them under test like circumstances.
- No method works for everyone, but actively writing/highlighting while you're reading will help you stay focused. Practice and perfect your approach.
- This is a very difficult section regarding time; decide whether you'll try three passages done well, or go for all four passages.





# Open Q&A



# Free LSAT Office Hours

**LSAT Formal Logic and  
Grouping Games**

***August 24th @ 7pm ET***

**Conclusions and Assumptions  
in Logical Reasoning**

***September 21st @ 7pm ET***

**Reading Comprehension  
Passages and Questions**

***October 26th @ 7pm ET***

# Have you heard about our free course?

- Includes 20+ hours of lesson videos providing comprehensive LSAT review
- Includes handouts for additional practice
- Beta program currently running – participate for your chance to win free books and other prizes

# The Next Step Tutoring Process

- Free consultation
- Personalized tutor matching
- Customized plan that changes as you improve



# Unbeatable Value

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- Customized Study Plans
- Superior Quality
- Unbeatable Value

## Next Step Test Prep

16 Hours Tutoring

\$1,499

24 Hours Tutoring

\$2,099

## Princeton

24 Hours  
Tutoring

\$3,600+

## Kaplan

15 Hours  
Tutoring

\$2,599

# Is tutoring right for you?



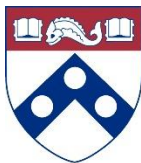
THU 8/4	FRI 8/5	SAT 8/6
9:30 – 10:30 Keynote breakfast for P&G	9 – 10 Welcome/Speed Dating	9 – Day 2 Recap
10:30 – 3p P&G sessions/appointments, see San Diego.	10 – Break	9:30 – 10:30 Morning Keynote
11:30 – 1p P&G sessions/appointments, see San	10:30 – 11:45 Session 1—Cyberbullying OR PR Pitches	10:45 – 12p Session 1—Write Brain or MYOB
	11:45 – 1:15p Lunch	12p – 1:30p Lunch
	1:15p – 2:30p Session 2—Double Slot for Writing or Connecting with Brands	1:30p – 2:45p Change the World—Revolution
	2:45p – 4p Session 3—2nd half writing OR Experience OR Expo/rest/recharge	3p – 4:15p Session 3—Own Your Beauty OR Online Community
4p – 5p Big Toy Book Party	4p – 4:45p Afternoon break	4:15p – 5p Afternoon break
	4:45p – 6p VOTY Community Keynote	5p – 8p The Help Screening/
6p – 8p Expo	6p – 8p VOTY Reception	5p – 6p Closing Keynote
7p – 10p KOYH party?	5:30p – 7:30p Cheap Sally?	
8p – 11p People's Party	7:30p – 9:30p HWTM Party	
8:30p – 11p Goin' Coconuts Luau		
	9p – 12 Sparklecom	8p – 10:30p Social Fiesta
		9p – 11p Aiming Low
		10p – 11:30p Cheeseburg her



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# Questions?

Learn more at:

<http://nextsteptestprep.com/LSAT>

Or contact us anytime at:

[Info@NextStepTestPrep.com](mailto:Info@NextStepTestPrep.com)

888-530-NEXT