1. THE CORE MINDSET: "LOGIC IS MATH"
Stop reading for "the story." Start reading for **structure**. Every statement in Section 1 is either a data point or a distraction. If it is not explicitly proven, it is **mathematically zero**.

Premise + Assumption = Conclusion

- **Premise:** The raw facts provided in the text.
- **Assumption:** The unstated "bridge" (The most common trap area).
- **Conclusion:** The final claim that **must** follow from the facts.

2. THE "MUST BE TRUE" FILTER (ELIMINATING TRAPS)
The HPAT tricks your "common sense." Use this filter to audit every answer choice:

Result	Rule	Action
Must be True	Inescapable logic; no other possibility exists.	**Select** ✓
Could be True	Likely, but requires an outside assumption.	**Eliminate** ✗
Probably True	High probability, but lacks 100% proof.	**Eliminate** ✗
Must be False	Contradicts the premises provided.	**Eliminate** ✗

3. THE 65-MINUTE TRIPLE-PASS EXECUTION
Control the clock; don't let it control you. Never solve questions in the order they appear.
☐ **Pass 1: The "Points Bank" (0–25 Mins)**
- **Action:** Spend 2 mins labeling all 42 questions (Easy, Medium, Hard).
- **Target:** Graphs, Charts, and Short Syllogisms (Easy).
- **Goal:** 15–20 high-accuracy marks. **Build momentum.**

☐ **Pass 2: The "Heavy Lift" (25–55 Mins)**
- **Target:** Moderate-length text passages (Medium).
- **Tactics:** Aggressive Elimination. Cross out **Extreme Language** (*Always, Never, Only*) unless explicitly supported.
- **Goal:** 10–12 more correct marks.

◑ **Pass 3: The "Deep Clean" (55–65 Mins)**
- **Target:** Dense philosophical texts or complex 3D puzzles (Hard).
- **Tactics:** Educated guessing. Pick a "letter of the day" for unsolved bubbles.
- **Goal:** Snatch 3–5 "bonus" points.

4. THE "RED ZONE" (NEVER DO THESE)
- ✗ **Never** reread long passages. If you didn't get it the first time, guess and move.
- ✗ **Never** chase 100% certainty. The HPAT is a game of "best available logic."
- ✗ **Never** spend 3+ minutes on one question. It steals points from the end of the test.

5. DAILY "DRILL" CHECKLIST
- [ ] **The 2-Minute Sort:** Practice categorizing 10 questions into E, M, and H without solving.
- [ ] **The Assumption Hunt:** Read a passage and state the hidden assumption *out loud*.

- [ ] **The "Why it's Wrong" Drill:** Write exactly why the 3 incorrect options failed the "Must be True" filter.

HASINI PROBLEMS and TIPS

1. Your volatility suggests you are sometimes bringing **outside knowledge** into the test. In Section 1, if it's not in the text, it doesn't exist.

- **The Rule:** Imagine the passage is a bubble. If an answer choice requires you to step one inch outside that bubble to make it work, it is a **trap**.
- **Why this helps you:** Your 19th-percentile mocks likely happened because you chose answers that "made sense in real life" but weren't strictly proven by the text.

2. When you see words like *"All," "Some," "No,"* or *"Most,"* do not try to hold the logic in your head. Your brain will fail under exam pressure.

- **The Action:** Draw quick circles on your scratch paper to visualize the relationships.

The Trap: Most students miss the "Some" vs "All" distinction. Circles make this error impossible to make.

HPAT SECTION 1 – ONE-PAGE PRACTICAL TIPS

(From real candidates who scored 70+ in Section 1)

🧠 GENERAL APPROACH (MOST IMPORTANT)

- **Do the easiest questions first**
  Section 1 is about **triage**, not order. Scan and start with what looks easiest.
- **Be quick, but never rushed**
  Rushing causes more lost marks than slow pacing.
- **Don't panic if one question type dominates**
  Some years Section 1 is heavy on data interpretation or problem solving — this is normal and scaled.

☐ LOGICAL REASONING QUESTIONS

- For **long passages**, **read the question first**, then the passage
  → This stops rereading and helps you focus on what matters.
- Watch for **correlation vs causation**
  This is one of the most common traps.
- If you find yourself rereading passages:
  - Slow down slightly
  - Summarise the main point in **one sentence**
- Background reading (news articles) helps build stamina and focus
- Reducing social media before the exam improves concentration and reduces rereading

☐ PROBLEM SOLVING QUESTIONS (CRITICAL)

- **WRITE EVERYTHING DOWN**
  Never try to hold information in your head.
- Convert all information into:
  - **Tables**
  - **Grids**
  - **Venn diagrams**
- This:
  - Saves time
  - Prevents trap answers
  - Lets you answer multiple questions quickly from one setup
- Once the table is built, questions often become easy
- Do **not** reread the question repeatedly — this is a time killer

📌 Without a diagram or table, problem solving becomes much harder under pressure.

📊 DATA INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

- Before answering anything:
  - Check **axes**
  - Check **units**
  - Check **actual numbers**
- Be especially careful with:
  - Multi-axis graphs
  - Unusual formats (3-axis, overlapping data)
- Practice matters more than theory here
- Don't assume trends — **read exactly what's shown**

⏱ TIME MANAGEMENT & TRIAGE

- Scan Section 1 and **start with the easiest questions**
- Build confidence early
- Leave harder questions for later when you have spare time
- Hard questions are **not worth more** — don't let them drain time

🧘 MENTAL CONTROL (UNDERVALUED BUT HUGE)

- Section 1 is the **most time and energy intensive section**
- Stress causes:
  - Rushing
  - Silly mistakes
  - Poor comprehension
- Helpful habits:
  - Light exercise
  - Short meditation
  - Calm breathing before mocks/exam

- A calm mind performs better than a rushed one

🎯 FINAL KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Triage first, solve second**
- **Write information down — always**
- **Tables and diagrams save massive time**
- **Understand data before answering**
- **Stay calm — rushing hurts more than skipping**