

SECTION IV

Time—35 minutes

25 Questions

Directions: The questions in this section are based on the reasoning contained in brief statements or passages. For some questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question. You should not make assumptions that are by commonsense standards implausible, superfluous, or incompatible with the passage. After you have chosen the best answer, blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

1. Politician: Governments should tax any harmful substance that is available to the general public at a level that the tax would discourage continued use of the substance.

Which one of the following is an application of the politician's principle of taxation?

- (A) The tax on products containing sugar is raised in an effort to raise revenue to be applied to the health costs resulting from the long-term use of these products.
- (B) The tax on certain pain relievers that, even though harmful, are available over the counter is raised, since studies have shown that the demand for these products will not be affected.
- (C) The tax on a pesticide that contains an organic compound harmful to human beings is raised to give people an incentive to purchase pesticides not containing the compound.
- (D) The tax on domestically produced alcoholic beverages is not raised, since recent studies show that the tax would have a negative impact on the tourist industry.
- (E) The tax on products that emit fluorocarbons, substances that have proven to be harmful to the earth's ozone layer, is lowered to stimulate the development of new, less environmentally harmful ways of using these substances.

2. The average cable television company offers its customers 50 channels, but new fiber-optic lines will enable telephone companies to provide 100 to 150 television channels to their customers for the same price as cable companies charge for 50. Therefore, cable companies will be displaced by the new television services offered by telephone companies within a few years.

Which one of the following, if true, most helps to strengthen the argument?

- (A) The initial cost per household of installing new fiber-optic television service will exceed the current cost of installing cable television service.
- (B) The most popular movies and programs on channels carried by cable companies will also be offered on channels carried by the fiber-optic lines owned by the telephone companies.
- (C) Cable television companies will respond to competition from the telephone companies by increasing the number of channels they offer.
- (D) Some telephone companies own cable companies in areas other than those in which they provide telephone services.
- (E) The new fiber-optic services offered by telephone companies will be subject to more stringent governmental programming regulations than those to which cable companies are now subject.

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3. A just government never restricts the right of its citizens to act upon their desires except when their acting upon their desires is a direct threat to the health or property of other of its citizens.

Which one of the following judgments most closely conforms to the principle cited above?

- (A) A just government would not ban the sale of sports cars, but it could prohibit unrestricted racing of them on public highways.
 - (B) An unjust government would abolish many public services if these services did not require compulsory labor.
 - (C) A just government would provide emergency funds to survivors of unavoidable accidents but not to survivors of avoidable ones.
 - (D) A just government would not censor writings of Shakespeare, but it could censor magazines and movies that criticize the government.
 - (E) An unjust government would incarcerate one of its citizens even though it had been several years since that citizen harmed someone.
4. Mayor: Citing the severity of the city's winters, the city road commissioner has suggested paving our roads with rubberized asphalt, since the pressure of passing vehicles would cause the rubber to flex, breaking up ice on roads and so making ice removal easier and less of a strain on the road-maintenance budget. However, rubberized asphalt is more expensive than plain asphalt and the city's budget for building and maintaining roads cannot be increased. Therefore, the commissioner's suggestion is not financially feasible.

Which one of the following is assumed by the mayor's argument?

- (A) Using rubberized asphalt to pave roads would not have any advantages besides facilitating the removal of ice on roads.
- (B) The severity of winters in the region in which the city is located does not vary significantly from year to year.
- (C) It would cost more to add particles of rubber to asphalt than to add particles of rubber to other materials that are used to pave roads.
- (D) Savings in the cost of ice removal would not pay for the increased expense of using rubberized asphalt to pave roads.
- (E) The techniques the city currently uses for removing ice from city roads are not the least expensive possible, given the type of road surface in place.

5. Ticks attach themselves to host animals to feed. Having fed to capacity, and not before then, the ticks drop off their host. Deer ticks feeding off white-footed mice invariably drop off their hosts between noon and sunset, regardless of time of attachment. White-footed mice are strictly nocturnal animals that spend all daytime hours in their underground nests.

Which one of the following conclusions can be properly drawn from the statements above?

- (A) Deer ticks all attach themselves to white-footed mice during the same part of the day, regardless of day of attachment.
 - (B) Deer ticks sometimes drop off their hosts without having fed at all.
 - (C) Deer ticks that feed off white-footed mice drop off their hosts in the hosts' nests.
 - (D) White-footed mice to which deer ticks have attached themselves are not aware of the ticks.
 - (E) White-footed mice are hosts to stable numbers of deer ticks, regardless of season of the year.
6. Monarch butterflies spend the winter hibernating on trees in certain forests. Local environmental groups have organized tours of the forests in an effort to protect the butterflies' habitat against woodcutters. Unfortunately, the tourists trample most of the small shrubs that are necessary to the survival of any monarch butterflies that fall of the trees. Therefore, the tour groups themselves are endangering the monarch butterfly population.
- Which one of the following would it be most useful to know in evaluating the argument?
- (A) the amount of forest land suitable for monarch butterfly hibernation that is not currently used by monarch butterflies for hibernation
 - (B) the amount of wood cut each year by woodcutters in forests used by monarch butterflies for hibernation
 - (C) the amount of plant life trampled by the tourists that is not necessary to the survival of monarch butterflies
 - (D) the proportion of the trees cut down by the woodcutters each year that are cut in the forests used by monarch butterflies for hibernation
 - (E) the proportion of hibernating monarch butterflies that fall of the trees

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7. If you know a lot about history, it will be easy for you to impress people who are intellectuals. But unfortunately, you will not know much about history if you have not, for example, read a large number of history books. Therefore, if you are not well versed in history due to a lack of reading, it will not be easy for you to impress people who are intellectuals.

The argument's reasoning is flawed because the argument overlooks the possibility that

- (A) many intellectuals are not widely read in history
 - (B) there are people who learn about history who do not impress intellectuals
 - (C) it is more important to impress people who are not intellectuals than people who are intellectuals
 - (D) there are other easy ways to impress intellectuals that do not involve knowing history
 - (E) people who are not intellectuals can be impressed more easily than people who are intellectuals
8. People always seem to associate high prices of products with high quality. But price is not necessarily an indicator of quality. The best teas are often no more expensive than the lower-quality teas.

Which one of the following, if true, does most to explain the apparent counterexample described above?

- (A) Packing and advertising triple the price of all teas.
- (B) Most people buy low-quality tea, thus keeping its price up.
- (C) All types of tea are subject to high import tariffs.
- (D) Low-quality teas are generally easier to obtain than high quality teas.
- (E) The price of tea generally does not vary from region to region.

9. The only physical factor preventing a human journey to Mars has been weight. Carrying enough fuel to propel a conventional spacecraft to Mars and back would make even the lightest craft too heavy to be launched from Earth. A device has recently been invented, however, that allows an otherwise conventional spacecraft to refill the craft's fuel tanks with fuel manufactured from the Martian atmosphere for the return trip. Therefore, it is possible for people to go to Mars in a spacecraft that carries this device and then return.

Which one of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The amount of fuel needed for a spacecraft to return from Mars is the same as the amount of fuel needed to travel from Earth to Mars.
 - (B) The fuel manufactured from the Martian atmosphere would not differ in composition from the fuel used to travel to Mars.
 - (C) The device for manufacturing fuel from the Martian atmosphere would not take up any of the spaceship crew's living space.
 - (D) A conventional spacecraft equipped with the device would not be appreciably more expensive to construct than current spacecraft typically are.
 - (E) The device for manufacturing fuel for the return to Earth weighs less than the tanks of fuel that a conventional spacecraft would otherwise need to carry from Earth for the return trip.
10. Unplugging a peripheral component such as a "mouse" from a personal computer renders all of the software programs that require that component unusable on that computer. On Fred's personal computer, a software program that requires a mouse has become unusable. So it must be that the mouse for Fred's computer became unplugged.

The argument is most vulnerable to which one of the following criticisms?

- (A) It contains a shift in the meaning of "unusable" from "permanently unusable" to "temporarily unusable."
- (B) It treats an event that can cause a certain result as though that event is necessary to bring about that result.
- (C) It introduces information unrelated to its conclusion as evidence in support of that conclusion.
- (D) It attempts to support its conclusion by citing a generalization that is too broad.
- (E) It overlooks the possibility that some programs do not require a peripheral component such as a mouse.

Questions 11–12

- P: Complying with the new safety regulations is useless. Even if the new regulations had been in effect before last year's laboratory fire, they would not have prevented the fire or the injuries resulting from it because they do not address its underlying causes.
- Q: But any regulations that can potentially prevent money from being wasted are useful. If obeyed, the new safety regulations will prevent some accidents, and whenever there is an accident here at the laboratory, money is wasted even if no one is injured.
11. A point at issue between P and Q is whether
- (A) last year's fire resulted in costly damage to the laboratory
 - (B) accidents at the laboratory inevitably result in personal injuries
 - (C) the new safety regulations address the underlying cause of last year's fire
 - (D) it is useful to comply with the new safety regulations
 - (E) the new safety regulations are likely to be obeyed in the laboratory
12. Q responds to P's position by
- (A) extending the basis for assessing the utility of complying with the new regulations
 - (B) citing additional evidence that undermines P's assessment of the extent to which the new regulations would have prevented injuries in last year's laboratory fire
 - (C) giving examples to show that the uselessness of all regulations cannot validly be inferred from the uselessness of one particular set of regulations
 - (D) showing that P's argument depends on the false assumption that compliance with any regulations that would have prevented last year's fire would be useful
 - (E) pointing out a crucial distinction, overlooked by P, between potential benefits and actual benefits

13. Historian: The ancient Greeks failed to recognize that, morally, democracy is no improvement over monarchy. It is wrong for an individual to have the power to choose the course of action for a government, so it is no less wrong to grant this power to society, which is just a collection of individuals.

The pattern of flawed reasoning in the argument above is most similar to that in which one of the following?

- (A) There is no point in trying to find someone else to solve that problem. If Robin cannot solve it, then none of Robin's friends would be able to solve it.
- (B) We should not pick Hank for the relay team. He has not won a race all season, so there is no reason to expect him to help the relay team win.
- (C) Laws that contain exemptions for some individuals based on no relevant consideration are fundamentally immoral. If it is wrong for a given person to commit an act, then it is wrong for anyone else in similar circumstances to commit the act.
- (D) There is no point in asking the club to purchase tents and make them available for use by club members. No member of the club can afford one of those tents, so the club is unable to afford any either.
- (E) Agreeing with all of the other members of society does not guarantee that one is correct about an issue. With many topics it is possible for society to be mistaken and hence every individual in society to be likewise mistaken.

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14. In 1712 the government of Country Y appointed a censor to prohibit the publication of any book critical of Country Y's government; all new books legally published in the country after 1712 were approved by a censor. Under the first censor, one half of the book manuscripts submitted to the censor were not approved for publication. Under the next censor, only one quarter of the book manuscripts submitted were not approved, but the number of book manuscripts that were approved was the same under both censors.

It the statements in the passage are true, which one of the following can be properly concluded from them?

- (A) More books critical of Country Y's government were published before the appointment of the first censor than after it.
 - (B) The first censor and the second censor prohibited the publication of the same number of book manuscripts.
 - (C) More book manuscripts were submitted for approval to the first censor than to the second.
 - (D) The second censor allowed some book manuscripts to be published that the first censor would have considered critical of Country Y's government.
 - (E) The number of writers who wrote published manuscripts was greater under the first censor than under the second.
15. It is often said that beauty is subjective. But this judgment has to be false. If one tries to glean the standard of beauty of earlier cultures from the artistic works they considered most beautiful, one cannot but be impressed by its similarity to our own standard. In many fundamental ways, what was considered beautiful in those cultures is still considered beautiful in our own time.

Which one of the following statements, if true, most weakens the argument?

- (A) Few contemporary artists have been significantly exposed to the art of earlier cultures.
- (B) The arts held a much more important place in earlier cultures than they do in our culture.
- (C) Our own standard of beauty was strongly influenced by our exposure to works that were considered beautiful in earlier cultures.
- (D) Much of what passes for important artistic work today would not be considered beautiful even by contemporary standards.
- (E) In most cultures art is owned by a small social elite.

16. Nutrition education in schools once promoted daily consumption of food from each of the "four food groups": milk, meat, fruit and vegetables, and breads and cereals. This recommendation was, however, dangerous to health.

Each of the following, if true, provides support for the critique above EXCEPT:

- (A) The division into four groups gave the impression that an equal amount of each should be consumed, but milk and meat tend to contain fats that promote heart disease and cancer and should be eaten in lesser amounts.
- (B) The omission of fish, which contains beneficial oils, from the names of groups in the list gave erroneous impression that it is less healthy as a food than is red meat.
- (C) A healthy diet should include the consumption of several different fruits and vegetables daily, but the recommendation was often interpreted as satisfied by the consumption of a single serving of a fruit or vegetable.
- (D) The recommendation that some food from the fruit and vegetable group be consumed daily constituted a reminder not to neglect this group, which provides needed vitamins, minerals, and fiber.
- (E) Encouraging the daily consumption of some product from each of the four food groups gave the impression that eating in that manner is sufficient for a healthy diet, but eating in that manner is consistent with the overconsumption of sweets and fats.

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17. The Green Ensemble, a nonprofit theater group, has always been financially dependent on contributions from corporations and would have been forced to disband this year if any of its corporate sponsors had withdrawn their financial support. But the Green Ensemble has not only been able to continue in operation throughout the year, but has recently announced its schedule for next year.

Which one of the following is a conclusion that can be properly drawn from the information above?

- (A) None of the Green Ensemble's corporate sponsors withdrew their financial support of the group this year.
 - (B) Earlier this year the Green Ensemble found other sources of funding for next year, making the group less dependent on corporations for financial support.
 - (C) During this year corporate funding for the Green Ensemble has been steadily increasing.
 - (D) This year corporate funding was the source of more than half of the Green Ensemble's income.
 - (E) Corporate funding for nonprofit theater groups like the Green Ensemble has recently increased.
18. Book publishers have traditionally published a few books that they thought were of intrinsic merit even though these books were unlikely to make a profit. Nowadays, however, fewer of these books are being published. It seems, therefore, that publishers now, more than ever, are more interested in making money than in publishing books of intrinsic value.

Which one of the following statements, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) Book publishers have always been very interested in making money.
- (B) There has been a notable decline in the quality of books written in recent years.
- (C) In the past, often books of intrinsic value would unexpectedly make a sizable profit.
- (D) There have always been authors unwilling to be published unless a profit is guaranteed.
- (E) In recent years, profits in the book publishing industry have been declining.

19. Most people feel that they are being confused by the information from broadcast news. This could be the effect of the information's being delivered too quickly or of its being poorly organized. Analysis of the information content of a typical broadcast news story shows that news stories are far lower in information density than the maximum information density with which most people can cope at any one time. So the information in typical broadcast news stories is poorly organized.

Which one of the following is an assumption that the argument requires in order for its conclusion to be properly drawn?

- (A) It is not the number of broadcast news stories to which a person is exposed that is the source of the feeling of confusion.
 - (B) Poor organization of information in a news story makes it impossible to understand the information.
 - (C) Being exposed to more broadcast news stories within a given day would help a person to better understand the news.
 - (D) Most people can cope with a very high information density.
 - (E) Some people are being overwhelmed by too much information.
20. Art Historian: Robbins cannot pass judgment on Stuart's art. While Robbins understands the art of Stuart too well to dismiss it, she does not understand it well enough to praise it.

The art historian's argument depends on the assumption that

- (A) in order to pass judgment on Stuart's art, Robbins must be able either to dismiss it or to praise it
- (B) if art can be understood well, it should be either dismissed or praised
- (C) in order to understand Stuart's art, Robbins must be able to pass judgment on it
- (D) Stuart's art can be neither praised nor dismissed
- (E) if Robbins understands art well, she will praise it

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Questions 21–22

Words like “employee,” “payee,” and “detainee” support the generalization, crudely stated, that words with the ending *-ee* designate the person affected in the specified way by an action performed by someone else. The word “absentee” seems to be a direct counterexample: it ends in *-ee*, yet, if it makes sense here to speak of an action at all—that of absenting oneself, perhaps—the word can refer to the person who actually performs that action. Clearly, however, putting forward the following resolves the impasse: if a word with the ending *-ee* refers to one party in a two-party transaction, it refers to the party at which the other party’s action is directed.

21. The argument does which one of the following in dealing with the counterexample it offers?
- (A) provides additional support for the original generalization in part by showing that the supposed force of the counterexample derives from a misanalysis of that example
 - (B) dismisses the counterexample on the grounds that its force, compared to the weight of the supporting evidence, is insignificant
 - (C) concedes that the proposed counterexample is an exception to the generalization but maintains the generalization on the grounds that all generalizations have exceptions
 - (D) narrows the scope of the generalization at issue in such a way that the putative counterexample is no longer relevant
 - (E) shows how replacing the notion of being affected in the specified way by an action with that of having someone’s action directed at oneself reveals the counterexample to be spurious
22. The reasoning in the argument could have remained unchanged in force and focus if which one of the following had been advanced as a counterexample in place of the word “absentee”?
- (A) honoree
 - (B) appointee
 - (C) nominee
 - (D) transferee
 - (E) escapee

23. Much of today’s literature is inferior: most of our authors are intellectually and emotionally inexperienced, and their works lack both the intricacy and the focus on the significant that characterize good literature. However, Hypatia’s latest novel is promising; it shows a maturity, complexity, and grace that far exceeds that of her earlier works.

Which one of the following statements is most strongly supported by the information in the passage?

- (A) Much of today’s literature focuses less on the significant than Hypatia’s latest novel focuses on the significant.
- (B) Much of today’s literature at least lacks the property of grace.
- (C) Hypatia’s latest novel is good literature when judged by today’s standards.
- (D) Hypatia’s latest novel is clearly better than the majority of today’s literature.
- (E) Hypatia’s latest novel has at least one property of good literature to a greater degree than her earlier works.

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24. Scientists, puzzled about the development of penicillin-resistant bacteria in patients who had not been taking penicillin, believe they have found an explanation. The relevant group of patients have dental fillings made of mercury-containing amalgam, and the bacteria the patients develop are immune to mercury poisoning. Scientists have concluded that the genes causing resistance to penicillin are closely bundled on the chromosomes of bacteria with the gene that produces immunity to mercury poisoning. Exposure to the mercury kills off bacteria that lack the relevant immunity gene, and leaves room for those that possess both the mercury-immunity gene and the penicillin-resistance gene to flourish.

Which one of the following most accurately characterizes the role played in the passage by the unstated assumption that some patients who take penicillin develop bacteria with an immunity to penicillin?

- (A) It is a hypothesis that is taken by the scientists to be conclusively proven by the findings described in the passage.
- (B) It is a generalization that, if true, rules out the possibility that some people who do not take penicillin develop bacteria resistant to it.
- (C) It is a point that, in conjunction with the fact that some patients who do not take penicillin develop penicillin-resistant bacteria, generates the problem that prompted the research described in the passage.
- (D) It is the tentative conclusion of previous research that appears to be falsified by the scientists' discovery of the mechanism by which bacteria become resistant to mercury poisoning.
- (E) It is a generalization assumed by the scientists to conclusively prove that the explanation of their problem case must involve reference to the genetic makeup of the penicillin-resistant bacteria.

25. All any reporter knows about the accident is what the press agent has said. Therefore, if the press agent told every reporter everything about the accident, then no reporter knows any more about it than any other reporter. If no reporter knows any more about the accident than any other reporter, then no reporter can scoop all of the other reporters. However, the press agent did not tell every reporter everything about the accident. It follows that some reporter can scoop all of the other reporters.

The argument's reasoning is flawed because the argument fails to recognize that which one of the following is consistent with the facts the argument presents?

- (A) The press agent did not tell everything about the accident to any reporter.
- (B) Even if some reporter knows more about the accident than all of the other reporters, that reporter need not scoop any other reporter.
- (C) Some reporter may have been told something about the accident that the reporter tells all of the other reporters.
- (D) The press agent may not know any more about the accident than the most knowledgeable reporter.
- (E) No reporter knows any more about the accident than any other reporter.

S T O P

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.
DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.

Acknowledgment is made to the following sources from which material has been adapted for use in this test booklet:

Newton N. Minow and Fred H. Cate, "The Search for Justice: Is Impartiality Really Possible?" ©1992 by the Society for the Advancement of Education

Peter Whiteley, "Hopuutungwni: 'Hopi Names' as Literature." ©1992 by the Smithsonian Institution.

DATE _____

LSAT WRITING SAMPLE TOPIC

A local television station is deciding which of the two comparably priced films to purchase for a public interest program. Both films are about homelessness, which has recently become a serious problem in the medium-sized city where the station is located. Write an argument in support of purchasing one of the films rather than the other based on the following considerations:

- The station desires to preserve its reputation for serious reporting.
- The station desires to increase the size and diversity of its viewing audience.

Patsy: Portrait of a Homeless Woman, a thirty minute color movie, is a dramatic portrayal of the life of Patsy Harper. Named after Patsy Cline, she left her home in a small industrial town seeking stardom. While a teenager, Patsy achieved phenomenal success in the country music industry, but mental illness destroyed her career and she lived on the streets for the next two decades. Her recent recovery was worldwide news. The movie stars a popular talk-show host who is outspoken about the concerns of homeless people. The result is a heart-rending depiction of the realities of homelessness.

Can't God Home, a one-hour black-and-white documentary film, explores the issue of homeless people in today's cities. The film received positive reviews in the several medium-sized cities in which it played last year. *Can't Go Home* features narrated documentary footage interspersed with short interviews with homeless people of every imaginable description in diverse urban settings. The film also includes interviews with local and federal agency leaders discussing the social and financial causes of homelessness. *Can't Go Home* is an eye opening, revealing, and well-paced overview of a deep social problem.

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DIRECTIONS:

1. Use the Answer Key on the next page to check your answers.
2. Use the Scoring Worksheet below to compute your Raw Score.
3. Use the Score Conversion Chart to convert your Raw Score into the 120-180 scale.

SCORING WORKSHEET

1. Enter the number of questions you answered correctly in each section

NUMBER
CORRECT

SECTION I..... _____

SECTION II..... _____

SECTION III..... _____

SECTION IV..... _____

2. Enter the sum here: _____ THIS IS YOUR
RAW SCORE.

CONVERSION CHART

**For converting Raw Score to the 120-180 LSAT Scaled Score
LSAT Prep Test XXVII**

<u>REPORTED SCORE</u>	<u>LOWEST RAW SCORE</u>	<u>HIGHEST RAW SCORE</u>
180	97	101
179	95	96
178	94	94
177	93	93
176	92	92
175	91	91
174	90	90
173	88	89
172	87	87
171	86	86
170	85	85
169	83	84
168	82	82
167	81	81
166	79	80
165	78	78
164	76	77
163	75	75
162	73	74
161	72	72
160	70	71
159	69	69
158	67	68
157	65	66
156	64	64
155	62	63
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149	52	53
148	50	51
147	49	49
146	47	48
145	45	46
144	44	44
143	42	43
142	41	41
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132	26	27
131	25	25
130	24	24
129	23	23
128	22	22
127	21	21
126	20	20
125	19	19
124	18	18
123	17	17
122	16	16
121	—*	—*
120	0	15

*There is no raw score that will produce this scaled score for this form.