

## 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. Combustion of gasoline in automobile engines produces benzene, a known carcinogen. Environmentalists propose replacing gasoline with methanol, which does not produce significant quantities of benzene when burned. However, combustion of methanol produces formaldehyde, also a known carcinogen. Therefore the environmentalists' proposal has little merit.

Which one of the following, if true, most supports the environmentalists' proposal?

- (A) The engines of some automobiles now on the road burn diesel fuel rather than gasoline.
- (B) Several large research efforts are underway to formulate cleaner-burning types of gasoline.
- (C) In some regions, the local economy is largely dependent on industries devoted to the production and distribution of automobile fuel.
- (D) Formaldehyde is a less potent carcinogen than benzene.
- (E) Since methanol is water soluble, methanol spills are more damaging to the environment than gasoline spills.

2. Economist: To the extent that homelessness arises from a lack of available housing, it should not be assumed that the profit motive is at fault. Private investors will, in general, provide housing if the market allows them to make a profit; it is unrealistic to expect investors to take risks with their property unless they get some benefit in return.

Which one of the following most accurately describes the role played in the economist's argument by the phrase "To the extent that homelessness arises from a lack of available housing"?

- (A) It limits the application of the argument to a part of the problem.
- (B) It suggests that the primary cause of homelessness is lack of available housing.
- (C) It is offered as evidence crucial to the conclusion.
- (D) It expresses the conclusion to be argued for.
- (E) It suggests a possible solution to the problem of homelessness.

3. Physical education should teach people to pursue healthy, active lifestyles as they grow older. But the focus on competitive sports in most schools causes most of the less competitive students to turn away from sports. Having learned to think of themselves as unathletic, they do not exercise enough to stay healthy.

Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the statements above, if they are true?

- (A) Physical education should include noncompetitive activities.
- (B) Competition causes most students to turn away from sports.
- (C) People who are talented at competitive physical endeavors exercise regularly.
- (D) The mental aspects of exercise are as important as the physical ones.
- (E) Children should be taught the dangers of a sedentary lifestyle.

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Questions 4–5

Political opinion and analysis outside the mainstream rarely are found on television talk shows, and it might be thought that this state of affairs is a product of the political agenda of the television stations themselves. In fact, television stations are driven by the same economic forces as sellers of more tangible goods. Because they must attempt to capture the largest possible share of the television audience for their shows, they air only those shows that will appeal to large numbers of people. As a result, political opinions and analyses aired on television talk shows are typically bland and innocuous.

4. An assumption made in the explanation offered by the author of the passage is that
  - (A) most television viewers cannot agree on which elements of a particular opinion or analysis are most disturbing
  - (B) there are television viewers who might refuse to watch television talk shows that they knew would be controversial and disturbing
  - (C) each television viewer holds some opinion that is outside the political mainstream, but those opinions are not the same for everyone
  - (D) there are television shows on which economic forces have an even greater impact than they do on television talk shows
  - (E) the television talk shows of different stations resemble one another in most respects
5. The explanation offered by the author of the passage makes the assumption that
  - (A) television station executives usually lack a political agenda of their own
  - (B) bland and innocuous political opinions and analyses are generally in the mainstream
  - (C) political analysts outside the mainstream are relatively indifferent to the effect their analyses have on television viewers
  - (D) most television viewers are prepared to argue against allowing the expression of political opinions and analyses with which they disagree
  - (E) the political opinions of television station executives are not often reflected in the television shows their stations produce

6. Some judges complain about statutes that specify mandatory minimum sentences for criminal offenses. These legal restrictions, they complain, are too mechanical and prevent judges from deciding when a given individual can or cannot be rehabilitated. But that is precisely why mandatory minimum sentences are necessary. History amply demonstrates that when people are free to use their own judgment they invariably believe themselves to act wisely when in fact they are often arbitrary and irrational. There is no reason to think that judges are an exception to this rule.

Which one of the following sentences most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?

- (A) People believe that they have good judgment but never do.
- (B) Mandatory minimum sentences are too mechanical and reduce judicial discretion.
- (C) Judges should be free to exercise their own judgment.
- (D) Judges are often arbitrary and irrational.
- (E) Mandatory minimum sentences are needed to help prevent judicial arbitrariness.

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## Questions 7–8

**Conservationist:** The population of a certain wildflower is so small that the species is headed for extinction. However, this wildflower can cross-pollinate with a closely related domesticated daisy, producing viable seeds. Such cross-pollination could result in a significant population of wildflower-daisy hybrids. The daisy should therefore be introduced into the wildflower's range, since although the hybrid would differ markedly from the wildflower, hybridization is the only means of preventing total loss of the wildflower in its range.

7. Which one of the following principles, if valid, most helps to justify the conservationist's reasoning?

- (A) It is better to take measures to preserve a valued type of organism, even if those measures are drastic, than to accept a less valuable substitute for the organism.
- (B) It is better to preserve a type of organism that is in danger of extinction, even if surviving organisms of that type are not vigorous, than to allow something more vigorous to replace it.
- (C) It is better to change a type of organism that would otherwise be lost, even if the changes are radical, than to lose it entirely.
- (D) It is better to destroy one of two competing types of organisms, even if both are irreplaceable, than to allow both of them to be lost.
- (E) It is better to protect an endangered type of organism, even if doing so has some negative effects on another type of organism, than to do nothing at all.

8. Which one of the following is an assumption on which the conservationist's reasoning depends?

- (A) The wildflower currently reproduces only by forming seeds.
- (B) The domesticated daisy was bred from wild plants that once grew in the wildflower's range.
- (C) Increasing the population of the wildflower will also expand its range.
- (D) Wildflower-daisy hybrids will be able to reproduce.
- (E) The domesticated daisy will cross-pollinate with any daisylike plant.

9. Because of increases in the price of oil and because of government policies promoting energy conservation, the use of oil to heat homes fell by 40 percent from 1970 to the present, and many homeowners switched to natural gas for heating. Because switching to natural gas involved investing in equipment, a significant switch back to oil in the near future is unlikely.

The prediction that ends the passage would be most seriously called into question if it were true that in the last few years

- (A) the price of natural gas to heat homes has remained constant, while the cost of equipment to heat homes with natural gas has fallen sharply
- (B) the price of home heating oil has remained constant, while the cost of equipment to heat homes with natural gas has risen sharply
- (C) the cost of equipment to heat homes with natural gas has fallen sharply, while the price of home heating oil has fallen to 1970 levels
- (D) the cost of equipment to heat homes with oil has fallen sharply, while the price of heating with oil has fallen below the price of heating with natural gas
- (E) the use of oil to heat homes has continued to decline, while the price of heating oil has fallen to 1970 levels

10. Parents should not necessarily raise their children in the ways experts recommend, even if some of those experts are themselves parents. After all, parents are the ones who directly experience which methods are successful in raising their own children.

Which one of the following most closely conforms to the principle that the passage above illustrates?

- (A) Although music theory is intrinsically interesting and may be helpful to certain musicians, it does not distinguish good music from bad: that is a matter of taste and not of theory.
- (B) One need not pay much attention to the advice of automotive experts when buying a car if those experts are not interested in the mundane factors that concern the average consumer.
- (C) In deciding the best way to proceed, a climber familiar with a mountain might do well to ignore the advice of mountain climbing experts unfamiliar with that mountain.
- (D) A typical farmer is less likely to know what types of soil are most productive than is someone with an advanced degree in agricultural science.
- (E) Unlike society, one's own conscience speaks with a single voice; it is better to follow the advice of one's own conscience than the advice of society.

11. Sometimes when their trainer gives the hand signal for “Do something creative together,” two dolphins circle a pool in tandem and then leap through the air simultaneously. On other occasions the same signal elicits synchronized backward swims or tail-waving. These behaviors are not simply learned responses to a given stimulus. Rather, dolphins are capable of higher cognitive functions that may include the use of language and forethought.

Which one of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) Mammals have some resemblance to one another with respect to bodily function and brain structure.
  - (B) The dolphins often exhibit complex new responses to the hand signal.
  - (C) The dolphins are given food incentives as part of their training.
  - (D) Dolphins do not interact with humans the way they interact with one another.
  - (E) Some of the behaviors mentioned are exhibited by dolphins in their natural habitat.
12. Editorialist: Drivers with a large number of demerit points who additionally have been convicted of a serious driving-related offense should either be sentenced to jail or be forced to receive driver re-education, since to do otherwise would be to allow a crime to go unpunished. Only if such drivers are likely to be made more responsible drivers should driver re-education be recommended for them. Unfortunately, it is always almost impossible to make drivers with a large number of demerit points more responsible drivers.

If the editorialist’s statements are true, they provide the most support for which one of the following?

- (A) Drivers with a large number of demerit points who have been convicted of a serious driving-related offense should be sent to jail.
- (B) Driver re-education offers the best chance of making drivers with a large number of demerit points responsible drivers.
- (C) Driver re-education is not harsh enough punishment for anyone convicted of a serious driving-related offense who has also accumulated a large number of demerit points.
- (D) Driver re-education should not be recommended for those who have committed no serious driving-related offenses.
- (E) Drivers with a large number of demerit points but no conviction for a serious driving-related offense should receive driver re-education rather than jail.

#### Questions 13–14

Plant Manager: We could greatly reduce the amount of sulfur dioxide our copper-smelting plant releases into the atmosphere by using a new process. The new process requires replacing our open furnaces with closed ones and moving the copper from one furnace to the next in solid, not molten, form. However, not only is the new equipment expensive to buy and install, but the new process also costs more to run than the current process, because the copper must be reheated after it has cooled. So overall, adopting the new process will cost much but bring the company no profit.

Supervisor: I agree with your overall conclusion, but disagree about one point you make, since the latest closed furnaces are extremely fuel-efficient.

13. The point about which the supervisor expresses disagreement with the plant manager is
- (A) whether the new copper-smelting process releases less sulfur dioxide gas into the atmosphere than the current process
  - (B) whether the new copper-smelting process is more expensive to run than the current process
  - (C) whether the new process should be adopted in the copper-smelting plant
  - (D) whether closed copper-smelting furnaces are more fuel-efficient than open furnaces
  - (E) whether cooling and reheating the copper will cost more than moving it in molten form
14. The plant manager’s argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which one of the following grounds?
- (A) The overall conclusion is about a net effect but is based solely on evidence about only some of the factors that contribute to the effect.
  - (B) The support for the overall conclusion is the authority of the plant manager rather than any independently verifiable evidence.
  - (C) The overall conclusion reached merely repeats the evidence offered.
  - (D) Evidence that is taken to be only probably true is used as the basis for a claim that something is definitely true.
  - (E) Facts that are not directly relevant to the argument are treated as if they supported the overall conclusion.

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15. Ambiguity inspires interpretation. The saying, “We are the measure of all things,” for instance, has been interpreted by some people to imply that humans are centrally important in the universe, while others have interpreted it to mean simply that, since all knowledge is human knowledge, humans must rely on themselves to find the truth.

The claim that ambiguity inspires interpretation figures in the argument in which one of the following ways?

- (A) It is used to support the argument’s conclusion.
  - (B) It is an illustration of the claim that we are the measure of all things.
  - (C) It is compatible with either accepting or rejecting the argument’s conclusion.
  - (D) It is a view that other statements in the argument are intended to support.
  - (E) It sets out a difficulty the argument is intended to solve.
16. Franklin: It is inconsistent to pay sports celebrities ten times what Nobel laureates are paid. Both have rare talents and work hard.

Tomeka: What you’ve neglected to consider is that unlike Nobel laureates, sports celebrities earn millions of dollars for their employers in the form of gate receipts and TV rights.

Franklin’s and Tomeka’s statements provide the most support for holding that they disagree about the truth of which one of the following?

- (A) Nobel laureates should be taken more seriously.
- (B) Nobel laureates should be paid more than sports celebrities.
- (C) Sports celebrities and Nobel laureates work equally hard for their employers.
- (D) There is no rational basis for the salary difference between sports celebrities and Nobel laureates.
- (E) The social contributions made by sports celebrities should be greater than they currently are.

17. Studies of the reliability of eyewitness identifications show little correlation between the accuracy of a witness’s account and the confidence the witness has in the account. Certain factors can increase or undermine witness’s confidence without altering the accuracy of the identification. Therefore, police officers are advised to disallow suspect lineups in which witnesses can hear one another identifying suspects.

Which one of the following is a principle underlying the advice given to police officers?

- (A) The confidence people have in what they remember having seen is affected by their awareness of what other people claim to have seen.
- (B) Unless an eyewitness is confronted with more than one suspect at a time, the accuracy of his or her statements cannot be trusted.
- (C) If several eyewitnesses all identify the same suspect in a lineup, it is more likely that the suspect committed the crime than if only one eyewitness identifies the suspect.
- (D) Police officers are more interested in the confidence witnesses have when testifying than in the accuracy of that testimony.
- (E) The accuracy of an eyewitness account is doubtful if the eyewitness contradicts what other eyewitnesses claim to have seen.

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18. All actions are motivated by self-interest, since any action that is apparently altruistic can be described in terms of self-interest. For example, helping someone can be described in terms of self-interest: the motivation is hope for a reward or other personal benefit to be bestowed as a result of the helping action.

Which one of the following most accurately describes an error in the argument's reasoning?

- (A) The term "self-interest" is allowed to shift in meaning over the course of the argument.
  - (B) The argument takes evidence showing merely that its conclusion could be true to constitute evidence showing that the conclusion is in fact true.
  - (C) The argument does not explain what is meant by "reward" and "personal benefit."
  - (D) The argument ignores the possibility that what is taken to be necessary for a certain interest to be a motivation actually suffices to show that that interest is a motivation.
  - (E) The argument depends for its appeal only on the emotional content of the example cited.
19. In the decade from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, large corporations were rocked by mergers, reengineering, and downsizing. These events significantly undermined employees' job security. Surprisingly, however, employees' perception of their own job security hardly changed over that period. Fifty-eight percent of employees surveyed in 1984 and 55 percent surveyed in 1994 stated that their own jobs were very secure.

Each of the following contributes to an explanation of the surprising survey results described above EXCEPT:

- (A) A large number of the people in both surveys work in small companies that were not affected by mergers, reengineering, and downsizing.
- (B) Employees who feel secure in their jobs tend to think that the jobs of others are secure.
- (C) The corporate downsizing that took place during this period had been widely anticipated for several years before the mid-1980s.
- (D) Most of the major downsizing during this period was completed within a year after the first survey.
- (E) In the mid-1990s, people were generally more optimistic about their lives, even in the face of hardship, than they were a decade before.

20. Amphibian populations are declining in numbers worldwide. Not coincidentally, the earth's ozone layer has been continuously depleted throughout the last 50 years. Atmospheric ozone blocks UV-B, a type of ultraviolet radiation that is continuously produced by the sun, and which can damage genes. Because amphibians lack hair, hide, or feathers to shield them, they are particularly vulnerable to UV-B radiation. In addition, their gelatinous eggs lack the protection of leathery or hard shells. Thus, the primary cause of the declining amphibian population is the depletion of the ozone layer.

Each of the following, if true, would strengthen the argument EXCEPT:

- (A) Of the various types of radiation blocked by atmospheric ozone, UV-B is the only type that can damage genes.
- (B) Amphibian populations are declining far more rapidly than are the populations of nonamphibian species whose tissues and eggs have more natural protection from UV-B.
- (C) Atmospheric ozone has been significantly depleted above all the areas of the world in which amphibian populations are declining.
- (D) The natural habitat of amphibians has not become smaller over the past century.
- (E) Amphibian populations have declined continuously for the last 50 years.

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21. All too many weaklings are also cowards, and few cowards fail to be fools. Thus there must be at least one person who is both a weakling and a fool.

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

- (A) All weasels are carnivores and no carnivores fail to be nonherbivores, so some weasels are nonherbivores.
  - (B) Few moralists have the courage to act according to the principles they profess, and few saints have the ability to articulate the principles by which they live, so it follows that few people can both act like saints and speak like moralists.
  - (C) Some painters are dancers, since some painters are musicians, and some musicians are dancers.
  - (D) If an act is virtuous, then it is autonomous, for acts are not virtuous unless they are free, and acts are not free unless they are autonomous.
  - (E) A majority of the voting population favors a total ban, but no one who favors a total ban is opposed to stiffer tariffs, so at least one voter is not opposed to stiffer tariffs.
22. Critic: Most chorale preludes were written for the organ, and most great chorale preludes written for the organ were written by J. S. Bach. One of Bach's chorale preludes dramatizes one hymn's perspective on the year's end. This prelude is agonizing and fixed on the passing of the old year, with its dashed hopes and lost opportunities. It does not necessarily reveal Bach's own attitude toward the change of the year, but does reflect the tone of the hymn's text. People often think that artists create in order to express their own feelings. Some artists do. Master artists never do, and Bach was a master artist.

If the critic's statements are true, then on the basis of them which one of the following CANNOT be true?

- (A) Bach believed that the close of the year was not a time for optimism and joyous celebration.
- (B) In composing music about a particular subject, Bach did not write the music in order to express his own attitude toward the subject.
- (C) In compositions other than chorale preludes, Bach wrote music in order to express his feelings toward various subjects.
- (D) Most of Bach's chorale preludes were written for instruments other than the organ.
- (E) Most of the great chorale preludes were written for instruments other than the organ.

23. Quasars—celestial objects so far away that their light takes at least 500 million years to reach Earth—have been seen since 1963. For anything that far away to appear from Earth the way quasars do, it would have to burn steadily at a rate that produces more light than 90 billion suns would produce. But nothing that burns at a rate that produces that much light could exist for more than about 100 million years.

If the statements above are true, which one of the following must also be true on the basis of them?

- (A) Instruments in use before 1963 were not sensitive enough to permit quasars to be seen.
- (B) Light from quasars first began reaching Earth in 1963.
- (C) Anything that from Earth appears as bright as a quasar does must produce more light than would be produced by 90 billion suns.
- (D) Nothing that is as far from Earth as quasars are can continue to exist for more than about 100 million years.
- (E) No quasar that has ever been seen from Earth exists any longer.

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24. Medical researcher: As expected, records covering the last four years of ten major hospitals indicate that babies born prematurely were more likely to have low birth weights and to suffer from health problems than were babies not born prematurely. These records also indicate that mothers who had received adequate prenatal care were less likely to have low birth weight babies than were mothers who had received inadequate prenatal care. Adequate prenatal care, therefore, significantly decreases the risk of low birth weight babies.

Which one of the following, if true, most weakens the medical researcher's argument?

- (A) The hospital records indicate that many babies that are born with normal birth weights are born to mothers who had inadequate prenatal care.
- (B) Mothers giving birth prematurely are routinely classified by hospitals as having received inadequate prenatal care when the record of that care is not available.
- (C) The hospital records indicate that low birth weight babies were routinely classified as having been born prematurely.
- (D) Some babies not born prematurely, whose mothers received adequate prenatal care, have low birth weights.
- (E) Women who receive adequate prenatal care, are less likely to give birth prematurely than are women who do not receive adequate prenatal care.

25. Formal performance evaluations in the professional world are conducted using realistic situations. Physicians are allowed to consult medical texts freely, attorneys may refer to law books and case records, and physicists and engineers have their manuals at hand for ready reference. Students, then, should likewise have access to their textbooks whenever they take examinations.

The reasoning in the argument is questionable because the argument

- (A) cites examples that are insufficient to support the generalization that performance evaluations in the professional world are conducted in realistic situations
- (B) fails to consider the possibility that adopting its recommendation will not significantly increase most students' test scores
- (C) neglects to take into account the fact that professionals were once students who also did not have access to textbooks during examinations
- (D) neglects to take into account the fact that, unlike students, professionals have devoted many years of study to one subject
- (E) fails to consider the possibility that the purposes of evaluation in the professional world and in school situations are quite dissimilar

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.



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

Paul Boyer and Bill Leap, "Culture with Literacy." © 1993 by Tribal College.

Francis Haskell, "Art & the Apocalypse." © 1993 by NYREV, Inc.

Eugene Linden, "Can Animals Think?" © 1993 by Time Inc.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## LSAT WRITING SAMPLE TOPIC

Janet and Joe Wilson want to open a restaurant in Clearmont, a city of about a million people. The restaurant would feature country French cooking. The Wilsons are considering the two locations described below. Using the following guidelines, write an argument in favor of one of the locations.

- The Wilsons have only a modest amount of capital to start their restaurant and therefore need to generate income fairly quickly.
- The Wilsons want the restaurant to be distinctive enough to attract a steady clientele.

The Wilsons could take a 5-year lease, at \$1200 per month, on a storefront property on Main Street in Clearmont's theater district. Within ten blocks of this location are four theaters, three movie houses, and ten other restaurants. Only one of the ten restaurants serves French food. The Wilsons have spoken with the owner of the French restaurant and the restaurant appears to be doing well financially. The space they are considering has an exterior like any other plate-glass storefront and an interior of one large room. The Wilsons would like to have an outdoor café, and the sidewalk is wide enough to accommodate a dozen outside tables. Parking is a problem, but there is plenty of public transportation. Because of its downtown location, the restaurant should have no trouble attracting a first-class kitchen and serving staff.

The Wilsons could also take a three-year lease, at \$900 per month, on a charming farmhouse; the lease would include an option to buy the property at the end of those three years. The farmhouse, which is about fifteen minutes from downtown Clearmont, has lovely views and adequate parking, but no area available for outdoor tables. During peak rush hours, getting from Clearmont to the expressway that goes near the farmhouse can be slow, but at other times it is a quick and direct drive to this location. The area ground the farmhouse is largely undeveloped, but it is beginning to attract antique and specially craft shops. There is only one other nearby restaurant and it caters to vegetarians. The Wilsons could have a large garden and grow their own herbs, vegetables, and flowers. If the Wilsons choose this site, a local food critic, who writes a weekly column in the newspaper, is interested in joining them in a partnership.

[illegible]

**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 XXIX**

<u>REPORTED SCORE</u>	<u>LOWEST RAW SCORE</u>	<u>HIGHEST RAW SCORE</u>
180	99	101
179	98	98
178	97	97
177	96	96
176	95	95
175	94	94
174	93	93
173	92	92
172	91	91
171	90	90
170	89	89
169	87	88
168	86	86
167	85	85
166	83	84
165	82	82
164	80	81
163	78	79
162	77	77
161	75	76
160	73	74
159	72	72
158	70	71
157	68	69
156	67	67
155	65	66
154	63	64
153	61	62
152	60	60
151	58	59
150	56	57
149	55	55
148	53	54
147	51	52
146	50	50
145	48	49
144	46	47
143	45	45
142	43	44
141	42	42
140	40	41
139	39	39
138	37	38
137	36	36
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135	33	33
134	32	32
133	30	31
132	29	29
131	28	28
130	27	27
129	25	26
128	24	24
127	23	23
126	22	22
125	21	21
124	19	20
123	18	18
122	17	17
121	16	16
120	0	15