

# Binary Solution Frequently Asked Questions

## **1. What is the LSAT?**

The LSAT is a half-day standardized test administered four times each year at designated testing centers throughout the world. Most law schools throughout the US and Canada use the LSAT results as part of their admission process. All LSAC-member schools require applicants to take the LSAT.

The test consists of five 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions. Four of the five sections contribute to the test taker's score. These sections include one reading comprehension section, one analytical reasoning section, and two logical reasoning sections. The un-scored section typically is used to pretest new test questions or to pre-equate new test forms. The placement of this section, which is commonly referred to as the variable section, varies for different administrations of the test. A 35-minute writing sample is administered at the end of the test. The writing sample is not scored by LSAC, but copies are sent to all law schools to which you apply. The score scale for the LSAT is 120 to 180.

The LSAT is designed to measure skills that are considered essential for success in law school: the reading and comprehension of complex texts with accuracy and insight; the organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it; the ability to think critically, and the analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others.

## **2. When should I take the LSAT?**

To maximize your chances of acceptance, we recommend taking the LSAT no later than October (or September) of the year that you are applying in. There are four (4) test dates every year: February, June, October/September and December. First-tier schools start reviewing applications by Thanksgiving. Applications that are submitted early get viewed more favorably than later applications because admissions is a human process: the people who read applications are not easy to impress *after* they have read thousands of applications.

Law schools accept on first-come, first-serve basis (known as rolling admissions), so by the time the application deadline arrives many of the seats in the entering class have been filled. On occasion, the entire first year class has been selected before the deadline for submitting applications has arrived.

Now if an applicant's numbers are stellar (i.e., above the published average for the school), that applicant may be admitted even if the application is submitted right before the deadline. But if one does not have the numbers (i.e., either their LSAT or GPA is below the school's reported mean) - then one is strongly advised to sit out the year rather than apply both late and with low numbers.

## **3. When should I begin preparing for the LSAT?**

The rule of thumb is to begin as soon as possible. But many people have made meteoric rises (20 points or more) in a few weeks, while others may take a year to show a modest improvement (no more than 6 points). The typical profile is four months to achieve 10-15 points. Since taking and reviewing all the tests would require at least 150 hours, and attending the course requires another 100 hours, one would need to budget about 300 hours to prepare for the LSAT.

#### **4. How does Binary Solution compare to other forms of preparation?**

Binary Solution is unlike any other course or book on the LSAT, because we offer a complete AND general solution to the LSAT. All other methods provide piecemeal solutions to the LSAT, so they always approach the exam by (1) classifying the questions according to ‘difficulty’ and (2) providing methods for the ‘accessible’ questions, while ignoring the ‘killer’ questions. Skipping difficult questions then becomes the cornerstone of their method. In order to decide which questions should be skipped, these methods introduce arbitrary classifications, and ask students *to rank LSAT questions while taking the LSAT*. That idea is impossible even in theory—because the time it takes to evaluate a question usually exceeds the time it takes to solve it.

In contrast, we offer a total solution, so we never ask you to skip a question. Since our methods work on any question, we do not rank LSAT exercises according to difficulty-- we simply solve all of them. As minimalists, we have no need for complex classification systems, but instead reduce the exam to its basic ‘*either/or*’ nature. All LSAT questions measure some aspect of legal reasoning, and we provide concrete steps for decoding the uniform logic of the test.

Binary Solution communicates all of its method through a single text, while other courses use numerous books to communicate fewer ideas. In addition to their convoluted multi-book presentation, competing methods can even lower scores by suggesting approaches with a high failure rate. The problem with their explanations to specific LSAT questions is that they cannot be applied to the entire body of LSATs. Meanwhile, Binary builds an understanding of the exam that begins with a particular question and develops into a general solution. A single, well-constructed *Casebook* is all we need to present the theory behind the construction of any LSAT.

It is no coincidence that both the form and the content of the Binary Solution resembles a law school class—we had no choice but to build a law school course because the LSAT is measuring some of the skills required by law school. So, while our students build their LSAT scores they are also erecting a foundation for the study and practice of law. We are the only LSAT course that is recommended by law school deans as an introduction to the law school curriculum.

The in-class experience we offer is unique because:

- 1) All of our classes are taught by our course author who has been teaching and developing Binary Solution since 1991
- 2) All of our classes use computers to deliver course materials. Every class involves a digital projection of actual LSAT questions that the course author annotates with a tablet computer. Solutions are delivered on the page- so students can simultaneously view the test question and the solution. Class notes are also preserved digitally so our students can download the class notes, exactly as they were written by the course author.

As a practical matter, we offer

- 1) More hours of instruction and more in-class testing than any other program.
- 2) *Flex-Schedule* which allows students to repeat or substitute classes and to take up to 12 In-Class Tests. Students are not limited to a single course calendar, but can draw from any course we offer within a particular testing term.
- 3) *Free Retake* program which gives students an opportunity to attend a second semester of the course without incurring an additional registration fee.

Although we acknowledge that many LSAT authors and instructors offer valuable pieces of advice on the LSAT we believe that both the form and the content of Binary Solution are superior to any other course of study. The value of our program has been acknowledged by many members of the legal community. In academic circles, we are widely considered to be the gold standard of LSAT preparation and we have always enjoyed excellent university relations. Binary Solution began as a research project and continues to view research and academia as its primary purpose.

### **5. What score improvement can I expect?**

The average score improvement for our course is 12 points on a 120 to 180 scale. Score improvement is a function of many things (eg, practice, application of advice, affinity for subject matter, focus, etc. ), but our students attribute the bulk of their improvement to our methods. Score improvement also depends on starting score. A low score can be easily raised, while a very high score leaves little room for improvement. High scorers are still advised to take Binary Solution because: (i) it will stabilize their scores and not leave their performance to chance and (ii) it is the only course that can add value to a high score. It is common that competing methods cannot help the best candidates improve.

### **6. How long has Binary Solution been preparing students to take the LSAT?**

Binary Solution has been preparing students to take the LSAT since 1991. The number of students enrolling in the Binary Solution LSAT Course has increased every year since the company's inception. In 1997, our founder was invited to teach Binary Solution at Columbia Law School. Since 1998, the course has been offered at NYU. Fueled by aggressive word of mouth and a reputation for results, the Binary Solution has helped over 3000 people prepare for the LSAT.

### **7. How was the Binary Solution developed?**

Binary Solution began as an independent research project that was conducted by our founder, Eva Lana. In 1991, Ms. Lana's decoding of the LSAT led to a complete deconstruction of the exam. She identified and classified all of the issues on the LSAT and devised methods for their solution. Ms. Lana created a binary model of the exam that has predicted the path of the LSAT in recent years.

### **8. Who teaches the Binary Solution course?**

The course is taught exclusively by the author, Eva Lana. Ms. Lana is a Harvard graduate, a National Scholar and an Intel winner (biochemical research). Her past experience includes working for one of the two largest prep test companies, where she received the highest evaluations for both SAT and LSAT instruction. Her work in LSAT and secondary school tests lead to record high test scores for participating schools and minority candidates. As a consultant to Kellis Parker, Sulzbacher Professor at Columbia Law School, she developed the first Binary Solution *Casebook* and the cross application of binary principles to the study and practice of law. Significant legal cases included (1) successful defense of Landmarks Harlem case (NY Times coverage) and (2) staying a deportation within seven days.

### **9. Will I have the opportunity to ask my Binary Solution instructor questions?**

The course author/instructor answers each question individually via phone, in person or via e-mail. Students are also given opportunities to ask questions during the lectures and test review sessions.

## **10. What materials do I receive when I enroll in the course?**

The materials for the Binary Solution LSAT Course include our *Binary Solution Casebook for the Deconstruction 2006 edition* and all full access to all new online Digital Materials, as well as any updates to the Casebook that are made in response to changes in the LSAT. The Casebook is a living work- derived from the past 15 years of LSATs and organized to facilitate issue-spotting skills. The Casebook predicts the direction of the LSAT and is sensitive to any shifts in the LSAT.

## **11. How do I receive my course materials?**

Course materials are distributed at the first lecture. All updates are distributed in class as handouts and posted as links on our website.

## **12. Do I need any background knowledge before starting the course?**

We build the solution from the ground up and do not assume any prior knowledge. The *Casebook* is a sufficient text for understanding the LSAT because it explains and predicts every of type LSAT question. By studying the Casebook you will gain a *general method* of solution that is *applicable to all LSAT questions*.

## **13. What external resources will I need?**

Students must purchase LSATs and bring the appropriate LSAT to the In-class tests. All LSATS can be obtained from the test writers at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org). A timer is also helpful (any kitchen timer will work as long as it counts 35 minute intervals and is silent). Finally, internet and email access are essential (if you cannot gain access to the internet on a regular basis- please contact our office before registering- 888-884-LSAT).

## **14. What is the homework for each class?**

(a) THEORY PHASE (12 lectures):

Each lecture covers either one or several chapters of the *Casebook*. These chapters are listed on the class schedule next to the lecture topic and on the Course Syllabus. One may want to preview the chapter but it is not necessary to prepare for class. The material is delivered by the author, so it is clear and complete.

(b) APPLICATION PHASE: (up to 12 in class tests):

LSATs are assigned as homework and as in-class tests. The number of LSATs depends on the length of the course. Each course carries a specific LSAT homework calendar/syllabus which is posted on the course schedule page

## **15. What are the Test Reviews?**

Once a student enters the Application Phase, in-class tests are given followed by a live Test Review. At the Reviews, your instructor will go over any question. Reviewing the results immediately after the test has several benefits: (i) it reinforces the appropriate solutions (ii) it improves stamina by forcing students to focus for more than four hours (an actual LSAT is 3hrs and 10 minutes) (iii) gives students the opportunity to have immediate answers to questions.

## **16. What should I bring with me to class?**

Writing materials, such as pencil and paper. Students must bring the *Casebook* to all lectures and the appropriate LSATs to the In-class Tests.

## **17. What if I miss a class? Can I make it up?**

Binary students can attend ANY classes we offer during a specific testing term (Feb, June, Oct, Dec). The posted schedules are recommended sequences, however, students may tailor courses to fit their individual needs. There is no limit to how many classes or tests a Binary student can attend within a testing term. For advice on how to construct your own course of study contact our office: 888-884-LSAT.

## **18. What if I need to retake the course? -**

**We extend the privilege of retaking the course to any of our students for any reason.** Attending even a single class outside of one's original term constitutes a Retake and exhausts the Retake privilege. The retake is free except for the cost of materials, which are provided at or below cost. The Retake option expires after three years following the original date of registration. Subsequent Retakes or Retakes that occur after the expiry date, are all subject to a reduced course fee.

(a) FIRST RETAKE- can attend any Equivalent classes during Retake semester. Materials are priced each semester and online cart will reflect the current material costs. Digital and hard copy are usually billed separately. Retakes who do not want access to any materials will not be charged a fee.

(b) SECOND RETAKE-Live course & material access are covered by a single reduced fee. Online shopping cart will reflect current rate. This reduced registration is available to any alum who has attended two terms of the course.

(c) SUBSEQUENT RETAKES- May be subject to full fee. Contact office for rates..

## **19. How do I register for the Binary Solution LSAT Course?**

You can [register online](#) for any of our LSAT courses. Registration can also be done by phone (888.884.LSAT) or onsite during a Diagnostic/Orientation Session. Generally, a **student must be registered by the first lecture**, but late registrants can join the course with office approval.

**Registration can be paid in full or with a deposit of \$450.00, which will hold a seat in the course. The remaining balance is due before you attend the first lecture.**

We accept the following credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

Checks and money orders may be made payable to *Binary Solution* and must be issued for the full amount. Cash is also accepted.

## **20. What is the tuition for the Binary Solution LSAT Course?**

### **COURSE TUITION:**

➤ The **Standard course fee of \$1,200.00** \_\_\_\_\_

(a) **\$900.00 - Host School Affiliates-** Available to all Alumni and current students of NYU, Columbia and Barnard.

\*\* NYU only: Center for Multicultural Education and Programs (formerly OASIS) are eligible for further discounts.

(b) **\$900.00 - Groups- 3- 5 people**

(c) **\$850.00 - Groups of 6 - 9 people**

(d) **\$800.00 - Groups 10 or more people**

**\*\*Note:** Only one discount can be applied to each student. \_\_\_\_\_

## **21. What is Binary Solution's refund policy?**

You may withdraw and receive a full refund (minus any credit card fees, bank fees, materials fees and administrative fees) by submitting a request, no later than 2 (two) calendar days after your first date of attendance (ie, the first course function you attend). Requests must be submitted in one of the following three ways: email (info@binarysolution.net), fax (646.349.1712) or certified mail (Binary Solution, 511 Avenue of the Americas, No. 266, NYC 10011). Refunds are typically processed within 6-8 weeks.

## **22. Can I attend a class before registering?**

With advance office permission prospective students may gain access to one live class and receive corresponding class notes.

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**NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN UPDATED AS OF DECEMBER 14, 2006**

**23. What does Binary Solution guarantee?**

*We guarantee LSAT preparation that is:*

- 1. COMPLETE:** with respect to subject matter, you will be prepared for every type of question that appears on the LSAT.
- 2. EFFICIENT:** with respect to recommended methods of solution, you will be guided by appropriate techniques that will never ask you to multiply steps.
- 3. PROVEN TO WORK:** all the methods we provide have been shown to generate correct answers for every published LSAT question

*If any of these promises are not met for any LSAT question,  
your tuition will be fully refunded.*