

**THIS IS A  
NO NONSENSE  
GUIDE TO  
GETTING INTO  
LAW SCHOOL**

**BY HARMAN BATH**

## DISCLAIMER

The statements made hereafter do not expressly or impliedly provide assurances or guarantees that would result in someone's admittance into law school. The statements contained within this book (e-book) are only to serve as guiding principles, upon which you can build your own blueprint for getting into law school. It is encouraged for the reader to do their own research before applying any of the tips disclosed in this book (e-book). This book (e-book) makes reference to several companies, websites, books, and resources. The author makes no claim to be the originator of those materials. Their respective copyrights belong with their owners.



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**Thank you MJ.**

# BEFORE YOU BEGIN

I tried to keep this e-book as short as possible. It is packed with my personal tactics, strategies, and insights.

You'll notice some chapters address specific questions. There I aimed to summarize the gist of my point in the first paragraph of my answer. The subsequent paragraphs unpack the answer in further detail. I have also included hyperlinks for any resources I mentioned for your convenience.

I wrote this e-book over a few days during the winter break of 1L. Use the tips disclosed here at your discretion. Hope this helps.

- Harman Bath

# 1.

## IS THE LSAT NONSENSE?

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If you don't know what the LSAT is, you can find all the information you need [here](#).

I remember reading that the LSAT has no relevance to law school, and I beg to differ. **The LSAT is not nonsense**; it tests some of the fundamental skills you will use as a law student.

For example, parallel reasoning is the bread and butter of common law. In Canada (excluding Quebec), we use a common-law system that works on precedents. This means we look at what the courts have done in the past to inform what they should do today. We find cases with similar facts and apply those to the fact scenario at hand. Of course, it is not that simple, but you'll learn more about this when you get in.

Then we have flaw questions. Law school's use issue-spotting exams, where you find flaws or issues in the fact scenario and then use case law to justify a specific answer.

And, of course, we have reading comprehension. As a law student, you will perpetually be reading. So being able to read quickly and effectively is an invaluable asset.

The LSAT is not nonsense. While there are talks that it might be removed as an application metric in the near future, it still tests skills fundamental to a law student today.



# 2.

## FIVE KEY TIPS FOR THE LSAT

I won't waste your time with the conventional, 'take PTs under timed conditions' shtick. That should be a given. Here are some things I did that you may like to incorporate into your approach.

### 1. Make an excel doc with your hardest questions.

Whenever you do a difficult question, passage, or game, I want you to flag or write it down. The goal here is to re-visit this question multiple times during your prep until you master it. Don't worry about already knowing the solution. If the question is truly hard enough, it will challenge you each time you do it. Just make sure to take at least three days between questions. I just made this number up because it seems reasonable. Find a good gap between attempts and go to town. Oh, and remember to time yourself. Here is an example:

The Monstrosity:	Attempt 1	Attempt 2	...	Attempt 10
LG PT 37 Game 4	12:37	9:15		6:45
RC PT 74 Passage 3	10:17	11:20		8:15
LR PT 84 Question 17	3:14	2:01		0:37

Do hard questions ten times. The red means I got some aspect (even the tiniest detail) wrong. Green means it was 100% right. Note that you might do worse along the way. Just keep trying your best, and forget the rest.

## 2. Master your workflow.

Every good LSAT course, book, or blog will tell you to master the question and master the timing. They are right. Mastering the question starts with mastering the workflow. The simplest way you can start doing this is by writing out the steps you take to answer a question. As you get better at the LSAT, refine this list and make it as precise as possible. I made a word document with all my steps. Perhaps you could do something similar. Here are some examples.

### *Identify the Conclusion:*

1. *ID via Trigger Words (but, however, therefore, thus, etc)*
2. *Confirm selected phrase doesn't support anything else*

### *Parallel Reasoning and Parallel Flaws*

1. *Put original statement into abstract terms*
2. *Make notes of any prescription/description*
3. *Delete any answers that don't have the same power*
4. *Evaluate remaining answers against the abstraction*

What is power? Prescription? Stop right there. These are my notes, and they comprise of jargon that I made up to help me remember what I need to do. No shoe fits like your own, and similarly, no workflow works as well as the one you craft. Yes, borrow from others. Yes, downright use someone else's methodology. However, ensure that you understand why every detail is included in your workflow.

Good workflow lets you answer questions faster. Moreover, it helps you arrive at the correct answer, time and time again. Take the time to develop a robust workflow and watch your accuracy and timing gradually improve.

### 3. Don't waste prep tests.

A prep-test ("PT") is like a chicken wing or a mango peel. You need to clean the bone or extract every last bit of nectar out of it before you even think about doing (eating) the next one.

#### I recommend that you save your PTs for two reasons:

1. You may have to re-write the LSAT.
2. You can learn more from reviewing one PT than doing five.

Let's break this down:

The first reason is simple. If you do all the available PTs, what will you write for your second or third take? I wrote the LSAT three times, and I was grateful I didn't run through them.

The second reason is also simple. YOU NEED TO REVIEW YOUR PTs. The next two tips will comment on this idea. First, don't bullshit yourself. Second, blind review.

A timed PT is the true test. One could get a perfect score if they had unlimited time. When we're timed, we often rush, and when we rush, we make mistakes. These mistakes are that last bit of meat on the bone or the pockets of nectar hiding in the peel. These mistakes, and how you use them, will differentiate you between what you're getting and what you need on the LSAT. These mistakes will highlight your problem questions. They will show you that you're spending way too much time on questions 1 through 10, thus having to rush 20 through 25. This will show you that parallel reasoning questions slow you down, so maybe you should save them for the end. Mistakes are the name of the game. Mistakes are how you get that coveted score you want. So if you're making mistakes, you're on the path to progression. Just make sure you review.

#### 4. Stop bullshitting yourself.

Checking your answer and saying, “ah, of course, I knew that was the answer,” is what I mean by bullshitting yourself. Let’s be very clear, if you knew the answer, you would have got it the first time. If you even missed it by an inch, you missed it. It would be best if you strived for perfection in practice so that you can afford to make mistakes when you’re writing the real thing.

Checking the answer and moving on is not reviewing. Even verbalizing the answer is not enough. How bad do you want it? Do you want to get into law school? If the answer is yes, then take the time to do the next step.

#### 5. Blind Review.

You must blind review. If you take anything away from this book, blind review (“BR”). Please.

I first heard about BR-ing from 7Sage. You can learn more about 7Sage [here](#), and more about their BR method [here](#).

#### Now, I’m going to break down how I did it.

1. Write the Prep-test;
  - a. *Flag any question you weren’t 100% on;*
2. Do not check your answers/mark;
3. Take a 1+ hour break. You can take the rest of the day off if you want;
4. In a word doc, write down an explanation/rationale for why each answer is right or wrong LSAT hacks style;
5. Identify questions that you got wrong, took a long time to do, or just overall struggled with;
6. Drill these questions leading up to the day you take your next prep-test.

Okay, now for the long version.

**First**, you want to pick a PT. If you're writing a digital version, flag any question you weren't 100% confident about. If you're writing it on paper, circle the question, or make a note of these questions somewhere.

**Second**, when you finish you do not want to check your answers. If you did poorly, you will be de-motivated and we want to avoid that as much as possible.

**Third**, take some time away from the test, but not too much. Enough to be able to BR effectively, but not so much that you forget the reasoning you used to answer the questions. Ideally, remembering why you picked a wrong answer choice is an invaluable asset during BR. Knowing your reasoning allows you to fix your workflow. Hence, I don't recommend taking too much time off between writing and BR-ing the PT.

**Fourth**, this exercise of writing out your answers will reveal if you are actually rationalizing your way to an answer choice or if you're going off a feeling. It will expose problem areas and help you not bullshit yourself. In my experience it has been the most effective exercise for LSAT review. When I started I would BR the whole test. This is a time consuming task. I did about three or four tests like this. Then I would only BR the questions I got wrong and the questions I flagged.

**Fifth**, while BR-ing, keep an eye out for questions or patterns of errors. If you identify that sufficient condition questions are a weak area for you, then you will know what to review in the days following BR and preceding your next PT.

**Finally**, find sample problems from a LSAT textbook, a LSAT-course booklet, 7Sage, or from old PTs. Hone in on your workflow and really drill your weak areas. Make adjustments to your workflow where needed.

# 3.

## READING COMPREHENSION

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### I get bored on reading comprehension what do I do?

I recommend three things. First, ask questions as you read. This means, when a new point is presented, ask, "so what" or "why." Second, predict what is coming next. If it seems like everything being stated is going to be followed up with a "but," identify that and think critically about what that but could be. Third, put yourself into the shoes of the author. Identify whether the author is a critic, enthusiast, scholar, or journalist, and view the article from that lens.

**First** off, when you're reading, you should be looking for the main points, the authors' opinion, and the argument's overall structure. Asking questions can help you to this end. For example, when you're reading a sentence, ask if it is part of the passage's nucleus, if it is a supporting point, or if it is just context. Use most of your mental energy for the nucleus statements and the least amount on the context. Asking questions will keep you engaged. This may not come naturally, so you will have to force it; fake it if need be.

**Second**, you need to be actively thinking about the material. The test makers have a large bag of tricks, but it is still a finite bag. You will notice that many of the same passage structures and curveballs show up time and time again. These may include the following:

- An author makes a point, goes on about how great it is, identifies a weakness, and rejects their initial opinion.

- The author states the pros and cons of something and makes a very general statement.
- The author rejects an idea, despite labelling some redeeming features.
- The author informs us about an idea without making any real argument or giving an opinion.

The list goes on. It would be best if you tried guessing where the passage is going next; this will keep you engaged and give you a deeper understanding of the material.

**Third**, and finally, put yourself in the shoes of the author. One or two paragraphs into the passage, you should identify what role the author is playing. Some of the roles may include but are not limited to journalist, critic, enthusiast or scholar. In my experience, the **journalist** simply talked about an idea and reported the ‘news.’ No real opinion was given, and even if there was one, it wasn’t a strong opinion. A **critic** forwards a thesis where they don’t like things about a topic. They might jump between the pros and cons but settle on rejecting the idea. An **enthusiast** does the opposite. They try selling the idea, highlighting its best features. Sometimes counter-arguments may exist, but their opinion will always support the idea being discussed. Finally, a **scholar** gives an academic opinion on the subject. They may involve schools of thought or mention several authors or scholars. Their opinions are usually more qualified and aren’t as polarized as the critic or enthusiast.

There were often several passages that didn’t fit the mould of these four roles. I encourage you to identify other roles that you see coming up consistently in these passages. Make a note of them, and use their MO (modus operandi) to guide the way you think about the passage. Don’t make this your focus while reading. If you find it, great; if you don’t, nothing is lost. This tip simply gives you a slight edge in predicting what’s coming next and helps you stay engaged as you are critically thinking about the material.

## How can I get faster at reading comprehension?

First, take out a piece of and write 1, 2, 3 (depending on the number of paragraphs). For each paragraph, make a note about what the paragraph was about. You can use signs, abstractions, or words. Second, read with your pencil. Put your pencil/pen underneath the sentence on your screen and follow along as you read. Third, do two passes on the passage.

**First**, take a piece of paper like you would for logic games. Then count the number of paragraphs in the passage (2-4 seconds). If there are three paragraphs, write 1, 2, 3 vertically on the left side of the page, leaving an inch or two in between (2-3 seconds). Now, after you finish reading paragraph one, make a note of what you read. For example, if the author simply laid out their thesis in that paragraph, I would write "thesis" in chicken scratch and move on. Then suppose in the second paragraph, the author listed points that supported their thesis. On my sheet, I would put a plus sign followed by "author," indicating that the author said positive things about the topic. Suppose the third paragraph was a critique of the author's thesis. I would note the keywords of the critique. For example, "not...good...b/c...\$." To me, this abstraction would represent that the critics think the author's idea is not good because it is too expensive. Note, these abstractions are personalized. Use whatever makes sense to you. I found that having this sheet took the edge off when reading the passage. Moreover, if questions asked me, "what would the critic say," I'd immediately know to jump to paragraph three.

**Second**, use your pencil/pen to read. Put the eraser side of your pencil to the screen, and read along. You may sometimes get lost in a passage, and this method helps limit that. Moreover, you can speed up or slow down depending on how quickly you move your pencil. I found this method silly but highly effective. Try it out and see if it works for you.



**Third**, read the passage twice. The first read should be a skim (10-15 seconds). In this pass, look for the big paragraphs; conclusion indicators (in conclusion, thus, so); turning points in the passage (but, however, regardless, although); and skim for a structure. Is the first paragraph stating an opinion or giving context? Are there any lists in the paragraph (first, second, third? After doing this very high-level read through, you want to dive into the passage. Read each line, speeding up when you think the info is just context or slowing down when you've think you hit the passage's nucleus. I found this technique to be very helpful.

A **bonus** tip: practice. The more times you do something, the better and faster you get at it. It's as simple as that.

*Passage 1:*

*1. Thesis*

*2. + Author*

*3. not good b/c \$*

# 4.

## LOGICAL REASONING

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### I can't seem to finish all the questions, what do I do?

If you aren't finishing the section on time, you should be skipping some questions. However, there is an art to skipping questions. Attempt every question as it comes. If at the 30-second mark you're having trouble with the question, you need to ask yourself, "can I finish this if I spend 30-60 more seconds on it, or will this take longer?" If it will take longer, then flag the question, and come back to it at the end of the section. You will have a better time with the question when you return to it. Note, even if you skip a question, select some answer choice with your gut. The last thing you want is to have spent 30 seconds on a question and then leave it blank.

### How much time should I spend on questions?

The harder problems are usually located at question 16 onwards. This is not a fact but merely a general observation. The first ten questions are generally more straightforward; I recommend you try not to overthink those and get them done within 10-13 minutes. If you're taking longer, you need to go back to the basics and ensure your workflow is on point.

### How do I go faster on parallel reasoning questions?

Don't try to read every answer choice; that is the trap. First, jump into the stimulus and look for the conclusion. Then ask, "what is the "power" of this statement?" When I say "power," I mean, does the conclusion use words like probably, likely, or

usually? If so, the power is not as strong as words like, "must, definitely, is." You get the point. Then look for answers that aren't the same power as this conclusion and eliminate them. Next, look at the premise/supports for the argument. Is there one or multiple? Does one make a general point and the other a specific one? Is one a pro, is the other a con? After identifying this, eliminate answers that don't match this structure. You should now be left with two or three choices. At this point, simply read those choices, and reason your way to the answer.

# 5.

## LOGIC GAMES

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### Should I exhaust all my games?

Exhausting a game is trying to solve a game before starting the questions. You'll notice the rules may put certain variables in fixed spots. Some rules may infer the firm placement of other variables. You may be left with a few open spots and a few variables. At this point, you put one of your variables in an open spot and write out all potential solutions. You repeat this process for all un-appointed variables. This is exhausting a game. You should spend 30 seconds to 3 minutes on this exercise.

Whenever you get your rule statements down, you should exhaust your games. Some games might be easy to exhaust, making the question a breeze. Others may have multiple missing spaces and may result in a plethora of potential solutions. Do not exhaust those games. Some games seem very hard to exhaust, but once you derive a key inference, you breakthrough and have that Mozart moment where all the solutions reveal themselves melodically. In my experience, exhausting a game allowed me to go faster on questions. I recommend you try it.

### Tips for the new rule questions?

These questions ask you to pretend a certain rule doesn't exist and then further identify a rule that would cause the game to behave in the same way as before. It would be best if you were cautious of choices that restrict the game more or

less than it was restricted before. For example, if a rule stopped "K" from going into spots 1, 2, 3, a new rule that restricts K from going into 1, 2, 3, and 7 is overly restrictive. Alternatively, if a new rule restricts K the same way as before but restricts something else that wasn't restricted before, it is overly restrictive. Use the same sort of reasoning for choices that restrict the game less. Once you find these over/under restrictive choices, eliminate them, and it will make your life much easier.

Simply put, you have a machine that does a specific thing. You want to take out a part and replace it with a new part without changing the specific thing it does. I hope this helps.

### [How can I go faster on the games section?](#)

**First** off, the final question on each game will usually be the hardest one. Spend 15-30 seconds on it, and if you don't feel confident in your ability to derive the answer in a minute or so, skip it. The time you spend on this difficult question could be time used for two or three questions in the next game.

**Second**, do your questions in the order the textbooks and courses tell you. However, if you find an approach that is more intuitive to you, use that approach.

**Third**, spend the time upfront to find inferences. To do this, think critically about how the rules interact with each other. This will help you go faster.

**Finally**, the third or fourth game will often be more challenging. If you identify such a game, come back to it at the end. However, beware, sometimes games seem to be hard, but once you hit a stride in the diagrams, they become very easy, really quickly.

# 6.

## LSAT RESOURCES

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The money you spend on LSAT resources are investments, not costs—change the paradigm. I don't recommend buying every possible aid in the world, but some things are worth their weight in gold, in my opinion at least. The following is a list of materials I recommend. Like everything else in this book, use it at your discretion. I've linked them below.

1. [Harvard Ready](#). If you are in the GTA, I highly recommend enrolling here. Yoni is excellent at what he does. Most of all, the course gives you lifetime access to this tool where you input your PTs results, and it tells you what areas you need to improve on. It also gives you access to all the PTs and lets you know how much time you spent on specific questions. To add, his diagramming technique was really helpful. (Paid)
2. [LSAT Hacks](#), is a fantastic website with great explanations for PTs. (Free)
3. [LSAT Demon](#). They had a free tool on which you could do some reading comprehension passages. Moreover, I really liked their youtube channel as well. (Free)
4. [LSAT Unplugged](#). I'd watch Steven's videos while I ate or when I took breaks from studying. He gave useful tips for the test and invited a lot of great guest speakers. (Free)

5. [7Sage](#) is fantastic. They have tons of free materials on their website. Their paid programs offer brilliant solution videos. I used their course for a little bit. I highly recommend it. (Paid)
6. [The LSAT Trainer](#). I'm glad I bought this book. It truly has it all. It contains explanations, tips, practice questions and drills that are harder than the average LSAT question. Those harder questions put your skills to the test and made answering real questions much easier. (Paid)
7. [LSAT Bibles](#). These are good. The Logic Games Bible is coveted. It has tons of great techniques. The first time I wrote the LSAT, I used it. However, I felt I needed more. If you must, get the logic games bible, but I don't see the need to get all three books. (Paid)
8. [Grammarly](#). This is an excellent resource for your personal statement. The free version offers grammar correction services, while subscriptions offer sentence structure, tone, and other aids. (Paid)

# 7.

## SKETCHES AND VERIFIERS

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Make a word document with all your potential sketches and verifiers (10-15 are sufficient). Write the title (e.g. Writer at XYZ Writing Corp.), the duration you worked there, and a 150 character blurb (spaces included) of what you did there. The blurb can be in point or sentence form. Then add your sketches into OLSAS by section in reverse chronological order (Most recent to least recent).

**TITLE:**

*Analyst at XYZ Real Estate Co.*

**DURATION:**

*Jan 2018 - Present*

**BLURB (150 Characters):**

- Drafted purchasing agreements*
- Created print media marketing materials*
- Conducted market research in Vaughan area*

### What are the sketches?

This section is essentially your resume. Note only some schools ask for a resume. Your sketches and verifiers indicate what you have been up to since high school in place of a resume.



## How many sketches do I need?

You don't need to have 30+ sketches, but you can if you want to. Personally, I had 13. I made sure each sketch added value to my application. These sketches are one way a recruiter learns about you. If you put every gig you ever did on this, it may seem superfluous. Now, sometimes you may want to say many things about a single job, and hence you may be inclined to make multiple entries. Do this at your discretion. Just know, law school covets conciseness, so use your sketches as an opportunity to show the recruiter that you can say a lot in a few words.

## What should I add in my sketches?

Add all the work experiences that will make you look good. If you were a garbage collector, add that. It will show that you are humble and that you are willing to do whatever it takes. If your personal statement indicated you wanted to be a tax lawyer, perhaps adding the accounting gig you did would be helpful. However, if you worked somewhere for a week, don't add that. Quality over quantity is the name of the game here.

## How should I write my blurb?

You only have 150 characters (spaced included). So, write your sketches resume style. I personally used dashes (for example: “-*Conducted year-end reviews and drafted purchase agreements*”). Note, I left no space between my dash and first word. Furthermore, I did not add a period to the end. If space permitted, I would have done both of those things, but I made the best use of what I had, to do what I needed to do.

## What should I write in my blurb?

Include duties that make you look good and that are relevant. If you cleaned floors as an assistant at a real estate company, perhaps that is not the best use of your space. However, if you cleaned floors as a janitor, that makes more sense. The recruiters have BS detectors, and it's our job not to set them off. Even while something is true, we want to avoid the perception that we are just adding it in for appearances' sake.

Also, include accomplishments. For example, if you increased sales by x%, add that. If you created efficiencies in some process, add that as well.

## Do they call your verifiers?

I don't know. In my experience, I have never heard of anyone's verifiers being called. I suspect that if you put something extraordinary like '*the personal bodyguard of Barack Obama*,' they might follow up with that. However, not knowing anything about this or having any specific experience here, I would say err on the side of caution.

Your verifiers should be people who will speak highly of you. Moreover, it would be best to tell your verifier you are putting them down as one. They should not be getting a call and saying, "I have never met that person in my life." Please do your due diligence, make a list and call/email and inform all your verifiers of what you are putting them down for and where you are applying.

## How should I organize my sketches and verifiers?

Recruiters are regular human beings. They have mood swings, good days and bad. To think there are no intangibles at play would be erroneous, in my opinion at least. I felt that if I could tailor my application neatly, it would resonate with a recruiter who appreciated that sort of thing. If the recruiter

was indifferent to my application's neat appearance, no harm would have been done.

When you add in your sketches, it sorts them by section. For example, if my first, fourth, seventh and tenth entry was a job, then under my job section the numbers would go: {1,4,7,5}. I was not too fond of that. You can delete your sketches, and that's what I did.

I made a word document and wrote down all my sections. At the top of the page, I listed all my work experiences. I left a space and then included all my extracurriculars and so on. In each section I added my title (Analyst at ABC corp.), and then below that the duration (March 2017 - March 2019). This was followed by a 150 character blurb (spaces included). See preceding sections for more info on what to write in the blurb.

I then surveyed for my strongest sections. Having identified them, I placed them at the top of my word doc. Then I used the sandwich technique. Basically, I would put weak sections between strong ones. Note, within these sections, I put the items in reverse chronological order. So my most recent job came first, and so on.

Once I settled on an order, I simply copied and pasted my sketches into OLSAS from the top to the bottom of my document. As a result, my entries were a neat 1 through 13 and were separated by sections.

My second time applying was a mind game. I wanted every advantage I could get. If this meant making it easier for someone to understand my application via an additional hour of planning, so be it. I've provided a visual example on the next page.

Work

- 1     *some job*
- 4     *some job*
- 7     *some job*
- 5     *some job*

Awards

- 2     *some award*
- 8     *some award*

Extracurriculars

- 3     *some extracurricular*
- 6     *some extracurricular*



Work

- 1     *some job*
- 2     *some job*
- 3     *some job*
- 4     *some job*

Extracurriculars

- 5     *some extracurricular*
- 6     *some extracurricular*

Awards

- 7     *some award*
- 8     *some award*



# 8.

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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Ensure your letters of recommendation are positive and unique. Positive implies that the professor, employer, whoever, said nice things about you. Unique in that they did not use a pre-made stencil for your letter.

### What are positive and unique letters of recommendation?

Let's use a letter from a professor as a reference. A non-**positive** letter could read: the student was in my class, they got a B+, their attendance was excellent, and they participated. That isn't a negative letter of recommendation, nor is it a positive one. This is why you need to find people that know and like you. Here we understand why we are encouraged to create a positive relationship with professors and why scrutinizing every grade isn't in your best interest. So, while I don't recommend you ask a professor or anybody to say nice things about you forcefully, ensure that they can write a positive letter of recommendation for you. This is as simple as asking, *hello Ms. Professor, just to confirm, you are able to write a positive letter of recommendation for me, correct?*

Next, we need to ensure the letter is **unique**. I've heard horror stories from recruiters who said they received the same recommendation letter from the same professor for different students. The only thing different about the letters were the names and dates. As a result, they had to disregard those letters because they were not true representations of the students. Every piece of paper in your application is prime

real estate. It would be best if you used it all to make a good case for yourself. So, ensure the person writing your letter can write a unique letter of recommendation.

When you email or meet these people, say, “*are you able to give me a positive and unique letter of recommendation?*”

### **Should I pay my referee?**

Please do not give the person writing your letter anything. While a \$10 gift card is not a conventional bribe, do not sully your application with a potentially unethical act.

### **How many letters of recommendations should I get?**

Quality over quantity. Two stellar letters are better than three good ones. Moreover, only some schools accept three letters, while others only consider two. If you submit three letters, note that some schools randomly choose which two to look at, disregarding the third. In this case, ensure any two of your three letters will make a compelling case for why you should be at that school. If you can't guarantee that, I recommend you stick with two letters.

### **Who should I ask to be a referee?**

If you have just recently left school (3 years or less), aim to include at least one professor. Also, include a boss, manager or supervisor if you are able. Do not include a family member, especially if they have the same last name as you. Recruiters know your loved ones will say nice things about you. The goal is to see what other people say about you. If you're not related to the person writing your letter and have the same last name, kindly ask them to indicate that they are not related to you in the letter. Other individuals you can get letters from include colleagues, pastors, coaches, or anyone

else who knows you, can speak highly of you, and can speak to your skill set.

If you have been out of school for quite some time, do not worry about getting a letter of recommendation from a professor. A recruiter will understand this and not look at the application negatively. Simply get two letters from people that know you professionally. Please double-check this with the schools you are applying to.

### **Can I see the letter of recommendation first?**

The letters are sent through a portal that OLSAS emails directly to the referee. You will not be given a receipt or copy of the letter before, during, or after the submission of the letter.

# 9.

## PICKING SCHOOLS

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Apply everywhere. Your choices should be ordered with your chances of getting in and preferences in mind. So pick the schools you feel best about and then decide your favourite school from the list; make those schools your top choices.

### Where should I apply?

I applied to Ontario, British Columbia, America, UK, and Australia. Don't limit yourself. I understand the applications cost money, but this is an investment into the rest of your life. Lawyers can make a lot of money, so an investment today may come back X-fold tomorrow.

### Does order matter?

Probably not, but I wasn't going to take any chances. I was very realistic about which schools were real possibilities and which ones were a reach. From the three schools I thought I had a chance in, I choose the one I would be happiest to hear back from and made that my first choice. Then I repeated the same process for numbers two and three. I decided on the placement for four and onwards with my gut. I wouldn't overthink this, but if you think you have a real shot at a school and you would be happy to go there, make that school your first choice.



# 10.

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

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Your LSAT score and GPA provide a numerical metric of who you are. Your personal statement colours your personality into your application. I would argue it is the differential between a successful application and an unsuccessful one. In short, a personal statement is a concise essay about yourself. You have to do sort of a humble-brag. The goal here is to showcase your strengths, rationalize your weaknesses, all while creating a compelling case for why you should be accepted into law school.

### How do I begin writing my personal statement?

Take out a piece of paper or open a word document and make a list of every difficult thing you have overcome in your life. Whether it be battling cancer, a toxic relationship, or a challenging course, write it down. Next, group these events by themes.

You cannot jam-pack all your experiences into this essay; it won't make for a powerful statement. Instead, pick one or two significant events that you can tailor coherently and fluidly which are also impactful, positive, and logical.

This essay is not a sob story, and it is easy to segway into one. The recruiter is not interested in anyone still dwelling on the hardships in their life. They want students that prove they have overcome their hardship and are better off for it. Law school is difficult enough; they do not wish to add to your

plate. So show them you're hungry and ready for the challenge ahead.

After you compile a few events that form a coherent narrative, start making jot notes about what you could say. Don't get attached to any singular draft. You may have multiple versions of your personal statement before you end up with one you like. I had a few myself.

### **How should I start my personal statement?**

Your personal statement should start with a hook. The recruiters are reading hundreds if not thousands of personal statements. You want to give them something that will grasp their attention quickly. This does not have to be something farfetched, and please don't start with a quote. One technique I've always recommended to anyone I help is to paint the setting of the hardship you will discuss. For example, if the hardship is cancer, perhaps paint the phone call as follows: *I stood there in shock, not realizing I had dropped the phone. I slowly reached down to pick it up and confirm if I had heard the doctor correctly ... I had two options, let this destroy me, or persevere and fight.* The trick is to not keep the suspense everlasting. Explicitly state the hardship as soon as you can and with visual imagery, followed by something positive.

### **How should I structure my personal statement?**

I would recommend you write it like a narrative. This is because it will keep the recruiter engaged. Also, narratives have a neat format of background, buildup, climax, lesson learned, and conclusion. This is precisely the method you need to follow for your personal statement.

## My life is boring, what do I do?

Your life may seem boring to you because you live it every single day. When people say things like this, they discount the little victories that have significantly impacted their story. You don't have to move mountains and part seas to have a compelling personal statement. You just have to tell your story. Most importantly, you have to explain how your experiences shaped you to have the hard and soft skills that make you a good candidate for said school.

One tactic I found helpful was writing down all the hardships and victories in my life. That exercise was therapeutic in that it allowed me to reflect on who I really am and how I became that person. If you were a star athlete who always won, this doesn't mean you were given some handout; this means you persevered to be the best version of yourself every single day. If you stayed home and built your own computer, use that to show your passion for innovation and your drive to finish whatever you start.

If you had no hardships in your life, no extracurriculars, and were an average student, then talk about why you want to become a lawyer. The answer is not as simple as "I argued a lot," "my parents told me to be one," or "I didn't know what else to do in my life." Dig deeper, make the list and watch your story unfold. You got this far for a reason. Now tell that story.

## It's hard to humbly boast, how do I do that?

First off, you earned the right to share your accolades. It's not a boast to say that you worked your tail off to get where you are. It is not a boast to recall the mountain of sacrifices you made to be here. Start by changing the paradigm.

Let's look at some practical examples. Suppose you want to say, *"I worked on million dollar deals and was the best sales*

*manager in the office."* Replace that with, *"I had the opportunity to take lead on and close deals valued at \$17,000,000."* Note what I did here. I pointed to the conclusion that I am a good sales rep and that I worked on expensive projects. However, I did that without saying that. That, my friends, is a 'humble brag.'

Another tactic is building up to your achievement with losses. For example: *after losing the intercollegiate competition two years in a row, we studied our mistakes, made the necessary adjustments and secured first place in our third year.*

This tactic is best followed by the lesson you learned from that experience. For example, *"In my second year, I realized while I believed I was giving my 100%, in reality, I had much more to offer. I took out my planner and strategically planned my days to study, socialize and provide at least 10 hours a week to my craft. Moreover, I identified things that would make me unmotivated, like not eating on time and doing my homework at coffee shops. I eliminated those time wasters. I knew I wanted to achieve this accolade, and I realized that I could work hard enough to do it. In the end, my efforts paid off. This experience opened my eyes to the fact that when I get organized and disciplined while still maintaining a good life balance, I can achieve whatever I put my mind to.*

Here you stated an accolade, but you used it to show your maturity, organizational skills, self-motivation skills, and the fact that you are willing to make sacrifices to achieve your goals. This is a good technique to use in your statement. It allows you to display your achievements, writing abilities, and other soft skills.

## How should I organize my paragraphs?

Each paragraph should contain one idea. While this idea can have multiple sub-points, limit your paragraphs to four or five sentences or eight lines. More paragraphs take away precious characters, but it makes your essay easier to read and thus better received by the recruiter.

## Should I just copy and paste my essay into OLSAS?

I recommend that you don't just copy, paste, and submit. After pasting your essay into OLSAS, take a second to evaluate how it looks. Are certain paragraphs too long? Is there enough space between paragraphs? I believe the space between paragraphs takes up four characters on OLSAS. It would be beneficial if you adjust for something like that. Don't ruin an excellent personal statement with poor formatting. Make it as easy as possible for your statement to be received easily and effectively by the recruiter.

## What should I exclude from my personal statement?

**One**, don't make your personal statement a sob story. This statement should be positive in its essence, but that doesn't mean it can't discuss difficult subject matter like death, assault, or turmoil. Making the recruiter feel bad for you is not a good strategy, in my opinion. Rather, you should use this opportunity to explain how you have overcome these issues.

**Two**, don't talk about other people in your personal statement. After all, it's called a "*personal*" statement. If you feel it is strategic to mention a mentor, loved one, parent, friend or anyone, limit it to one to three sentences per mention.

## **How do I make my personal statement stand out?**

- Talk about something truly personal and unique to you.
- Don't model your statement from examples online.
- Answer the question in its entirety while also making other important points on the side.
- Have a good narrative that connects most if not all your paragraphs.
- Bring your narrative full circle at the end.
- Show personal growth in your statement.
- Eloquently incorporate a school's fundamental pillars into your essay.

## **Should I reiterate my resume on my personal statement?**

Don't say the same things you said in your sketches and verifiers on your personal statement. You would be giving up valuable real estate to say the same things twice. Instead, use this time to talk about what a specific job, volunteer position, or extracurricular taught you. Did it teach you time management, organization, dispute resolution, perseverance, humility, compassion, integrity, teamwork, etc?

EG: my time at XYZ Firm taught me [Insert Lesson]. In doing so, I was able to refine my [Insert Skills].

## **How much time should I spend on my personal statement?**

The personal statement is just as crucial as your LSAT and GPA. This indicates who you are and who the law school is inviting into their academic family. You should begin jotting down your ideas for your personal statement as soon as possible. Then, you should start writing draft paragraphs shortly after making a skeleton. Please don't leave this for the last minute. If you haven't started yet, start today.

## How should I edit my personal statement?

- I recommend you purchase Grammarly for a month. Alternatively, you can use its free version as well. The paid version helps with sentence structure.
- Put your personal statements through [TTSreader.com](https://www.ttsreader.com). This website lets you listen to what you've written. Moreover, it helps make sure your “the's” haven't become “that's.”
- Send your personal statement to friends and family members, and get their take on it. If they have trouble understanding a specific part of your statement, then it wasn't written clear enough; rewrite it. If you have to explain a part to someone, again, rewrite it. Moreover, send your statement to friends who will read it in its entirety and give you blunt, unbiased feedback.
- If you have a designated person at your school that does this sort of thing, book a meeting (or multiple meetings) and pick their minds. They know their stuff.
- Trust your gut. Your friends, family, school administrators, and heck, even Grammarly, won't always be right. Be reasonable and take their criticism, but if you know something sounds best a certain way, keep it that way.
- Take some time away from your personal statement and then read it again. If you don't have the time to do that, print it out and review it that way.

## Should I make one statement and then adjust it for schools?

Sort of. Pick your top two schools and read their requirements for the statement. Then make two statements (with similar if not identical subject matter) tailored perfectly to those schools. Once that is done, adjust your statements for the other schools. For some schools, you will have to write

something completely new; for others, you will have to add or take away parts of your base essay. Be strategic, don't romanticize certain parts of your essay, but make sure the gist of your statement is still being communicated effectively.

### How do I tailor my personal statement for each school?

First off, many schools virtually ask the same questions for their personal statements. However, some don't. So my first piece of advice is to ensure your answering the exact question you are being asked. Don't be lazy and do the extra work.

Next, somewhere in the beginning of your essay, you can include the following sentence: "Please accept my application for the 20XX 1L intake at [Insert School Name]." Ensure this sentence flows with the rest of your paragraph; if it doesn't, exclude it.

Moving forward, do some research and find out what the school is best known for. Is it a corporate law hub? Is it in a prime location? Is it known for social justice or technology? Next, find parts of your application that connect to the aforementioned things. If you've done a lot of social justice work or created an app, perhaps mention this in your essay. After this, you can say things like *I value technological innovation and integration, much like [School Name].* Or perhaps something like, *"your school would allow me to get a deeper understanding of [insert topic], through your [insert program/club].* This is how you can tailor your essay in the bulk of your statement.

Finally, your last paragraph should contain info about the school. Mention the full school name, say something nice about the school, and a reason why you want to attend. Suppose the school has a brilliant non-profit law club, and you started your own charity, mention that and make that connection. I wanted to have a good punchline to finish my



statement, so I used the city the school was located in or their mascot to craft a nice one-liner that basically said, I would be privileged to attend your school.

### I started my personal statement late, am I doomed?

It would have been better if you had started earlier. You would have had more time to edit. However, take the better part of a few days and make a robust outline for what you want to say. This should essentially be your essay, save the punctuation and full sentences. Doing this will allow you to write out the first draft faster. Use the resources mentioned earlier in this chapter to edit and ask friends to drop what they are doing to help you to this end. If you haven't started your personal statement yet, start today.

### How do I discuss weaknesses on my application?

So suppose you have a bad grade or a few years off. Get in front of it. This is the time to talk about it. Don't just leave it to the recruiter to figure it out. Provide a rationale for what happened and mention how you have fixed or made up for that fault.

After you talk about this blemish, you can talk about things that make up for it. So perhaps a bad CGPA is not indicative of your true academic ability. Instead, point to the positive trend in your grades or the academic experiences you have voluntarily taken outside of the school setting.

Also, utilize the sandwich technique. When you are about to talk about something negative, sandwich the negative news with a positive thing before and after. For example:

*I did exceptionally better in my final two years of university than the first two. Still, in my second year, I did not pass Monetary Economics. This was partly due to the trauma I was going through at the time. I took full responsibility for this*

*shortcoming, and I made the necessary adjustments, as indicated through my latter performance. After strategically creating new study habits, I was able to get an A+ in Advanced Monetary Economics in my fourth year. Something along these lines, but written better, of course.*

# 11.

## BAD GPA

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If you have a bad GPA, there are many options available to you; it is not the end of the world. You can increase your GPA, become a splitter, or apply to holistic schools.

First, let's talk about increasing your grades. There are many ways you can do this. If you are still in school, perhaps you want to do an extra semester or an additional year to increase your GPA. If you have just left school, contact your school and ask if you can come back to take electives and whether they would be added to your official transcript. If you finished your degree a long time ago, perhaps you might want to do a new undergrad or a master's program. You can use your transcript from your new degree in place of the old one. Furthermore, while a good mark in a Masters program won't apply to your GPA, it will depict that your most recent performance in an academic environment was a positive one.

Your next option is to become a splitter. A lot of schools have set averages for their GPA or LSAT. If your GPA is less than the school's average, then make sure your LSAT is higher than the school's average. This is what recruiters call a splitter. Often students have metrics where one is below, and one is above the average. As such, splitters are admitted to ensure the overall average is sustained.

Third, apply to holistic schools. Holistic schools look at the application as a whole. Some students have stellar extracurriculars and a brilliantly written personal statement. These factors play a massive role in making up for a low GPA.

Damage control in the name of the game here. If you know a particular part of your application is weak, concede that, and bolster the other parts.

My CGPA was not the greatest. There were some issues I had to deal with in my first year, which trickled into my second and third years. At this point, I went all in, made every sacrifice I could, and got good grades in my fourth year and really good grades in the fifth year.

I knew my grades would make me look like a subpar applicant. However, I also knew they did not represent my potential. So, I ensured I achieved these grades in challenging upper-year courses. Moreover, I applied for the honours extension of my program to further bolster my academics.

I didn't stop here. I was nowhere near the 3.5 CGPA average most schools wanted. So I took two certificate courses concurrent to my degree. After graduating, I took two free courses and one paid one from Harvard University. I knew Harvard had an impactful name, and being interested in the courses I took, I knew I would do well in them.

The point of the matter is, I could not change my CGPA to meet the averages many schools wanted. Instead, I did damage control and did the most I could do with the resources available to me at that time. If you're in a similar position, I recommend you do the same. You can find free Harvard courses [here](#). You can find free Yale courses [here](#).

# 12.

## BAD LSAT SCORE

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If you have a bad LSAT score, you can always retake it, become a splitter, or apply to holistic schools.

First off, it is much easier to improve your LSAT score than your GPA. This is because exceptional grades in a single course only have marginal effects on your GPA. However, an exceptional LSAT is permanent. If you're having a lot of trouble with the LSAT, perhaps it's time to get professional help. Maybe you want to take a course or hire a tutor. Especially with the three-take limit removed, there is truly no excuse not to study hard and retake the LSAT. It is a learnable test; you can do it.

Second, become a splitter. Some schools provide GPA and LSAT averages. If your LSAT score is lower than the school's average LSAT, aim to have a GPA (Best 2, Last 2, Best 20) higher than the school's average GPA. This is what recruiters call a splitter.

Finally, holistic schools look beyond your LSAT and GPA. They consider your extracurriculars, your sketches and verifiers, your personal statement and the whole nine yards. If you have a low mark, bolster the other parts of your application to make a stronger overall impact.

# 13.

## MINDSET

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- **Don't be a victim.** The application process is gruelling, but it's the same for every applicant. Don't assume your sacrifices are any more significant than any other applicants'. That does nothing for your chances to get in. You need to stay confident, positive, and realistic to ensure that you put your best foot forward.
- **Maintain Balance.** Plan out when you will study/prep and when you will relax. Determine which part of the day you are most productive and earmark that time for your application. Some of you may be working and studying at the same time. Still, I recommend you plan some downtime. Do self-care routines, enjoy some fast food, spend time with loved ones, or watch some tv shows. Ensure that there is a part of your day that is non-LSAT or non-law school application.
- **Get relentless.** Studying for the LSAT and getting into law school is not for the faint-hearted. You need to really get after it. For me, negative self-talk worked. If that's your jam, go for it. If not, make positive affirmations like, "I will be better than the person I was yesterday." You need to make sacrifices to be relentless. Ask yourself, "how bad do I want it?" Then ask yourself if this night out clubbing, Netflix binge, or lazy afternoon brings you closer or further away from your goals. I'm not asking you to motivate yourself; I'm asking you to hone your discipline and get after your goals.

- **Stay Healthy.** It is easy to say, "I'll think about my health after I get into law school." Drink plenty of water, get seven hours of sleep, and eat a nice plate of vegetables. If you can, exercise for 30 minutes a day, 3 times a week, or at the very least, go for a walk. Staying healthy will keep your brain and mental health in prime condition as well.
- **Prepare for Rejection.** You may not get into law school the first time around, and that is okay. It's not a sign of your incompetence, just a signal that there is some more work for you to do. Again, don't be a victim. Stay positive and manifest positive things around you, while still being mentally and emotionally prepared for rejection.
- **Remind yourself of who you are.** Think back to all the difficult things you overcame in your life: that heartbreak, that game, that stage performance, or that family issue. You are truly amazing, and that's not just me being nice. You're going out of your way for your goals; the average person doesn't do that. You belong here, and you have to believe that you will get in. Believe in yourself. You got this.
- **Have Faith.** I believe in God. I don't care what you believe in, but believe in something. The universe, or at the very least, yourself. This is a tough path for most, but having faith makes it much easier. Faith is not a replacement for hard work. Faith can be analogized to throwing a football. You did all you could do when you threw it, have faith that you did a stellar job and that it will go where it needs to go.

# 14.

## PREPARING FOR LAW SCHOOL

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### I got in, what should I do to prepare?

There are really only two things you should do to prepare for law school:

1. **Increase your reading speed.** You don't need to read every single word in a sentence to understand what is going on. Moreover, you don't need to read every sentence with the same amount of focus to have an in-depth understanding of the paragraph. I recommend googling speed reading techniques. One technique I used relatively late into my prep can be found [here](#). Find a method that works for you and go to town.
2. **Increase your writing speed.** Law school exams are typed, and so far, all our exams have had word limits. If there is no word limit, the ability to type faster will allow you to type more within the time constraint. If there is a word limit, you will be able to type what you need quicker, freeing up time for editing. One resource I used to practice my typing can be found [here](#). It is a typing game.



# 15.

## REJECTION

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### I didn't get in, what should I do?

**Step 1:** Understand that it's not the end of the world. If you really want it, you can always try again.

**Step 2:** Take a few days or a week off. Truly enjoy yourself during this time, relax, and prepare for the journey ahead.

**Step 3:** Email all the schools you applied to and ask them for feedback on your application. A lot of them will actually provide it.

**Step 4:** Write down all the things you did during your application process. Determine what worked and what didn't.

**Step 5:** Highlight the areas where you can improve and identify new tactics and strategies you can use this time.

**Step 6:** Make a manageable plan of action.

**Step 7:** Stick to the plan.

# 16.

## MAKING A STUDY PLAN

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Please adapt these plans to whatever works best for you. If you are starting from scratch or revisiting the basics, use the steps in the order listed below. If you do not need to review the basics again, skip step 3, and follow the rest as written. Also, if you need a day entirely off, adjust as needed. This is not meant to be the “be all and end all” of schedules. Identify a good plan that fits your lifestyle and one that accounts for your responsibilities in life.

### Short Version:

1. Saturdays are for the PTs;
  2. Blind Review for 2-3 days after PTs;
  3. Use the remainder of the week to drill weak areas and work on your application.
- 
1. **Book an LSAT and a backup LSAT.** We book a backup LSAT to lower the nerves on the day of your official LSAT. Knowing you have another chance takes the edge off when you're actually writing the LSAT.
  2. **Input important dates into your calendar.** Important dates may include LSAT write days and application due dates.
  3. **Study the basics.** If you're just starting out, then spend three to four weeks to read your books or to watch the 7Sage videos. During this time, try to develop a good workflow for each question type and get a strong grasp of the core materials.

- 4. Finish auxiliary parts of the application.** While you work on cementing the basics, aim to finish the more manageable parts of the application. These include sketches and verifiers, resume, ordering transcripts, scouting referees, and jotting down ideas for your personal statement.
- 5. Plan your Prep-tests.** Every Saturday from now until you write the LSAT is your official PT day. Try to mimic how your Official LSAT day will go and create a consistent routine that you will follow every Saturday and on test day. This means having the same breakfast, having the same snack, having the same beverage, using the same water bottle, etc. To add, write your PTs at the exact time you will be writing your actual LSAT. I recommend you write the test in different areas if possible. On test day, you don't know what kind of chair or desk you will get. Hence, it is strategic to not get too comfortable in any one setting. In addition, play some light distractions in the background. You can use 7Sages's LSAT timer app, which simulates coughing, page-turning, eraser sounds, etc. Exposing yourself to these distractions now will limit the effect they could potentially have on test day.
- 6. Plan Blind Review days.** Every Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday is earmarked for blind review. To ensure you do this tedious but vital exercise, email your completed BR's to a friend to keep yourself accountable.
- 7. Drill weak areas.** After you finish your BR Days, identify what questions types you are weakest at and then rigorously drill and review them Wed through Fri.
- 8. Work on your Personal Statement.** At the very least, spend two hours a week on your personal statement. You can use one whole day or a few hours on different days to work on your statement each week. Do this during the days proceeding your BR days, so Wed through Fri.

**The following are sample weeks.** I used something very similar. "Videos" is in reference to the 7Sage videos. "CH" is in reference to chapters in the Powerscore Bibles or the LSAT Trainer. This schedule neither implies nor requires you to spend the whole day on these activities, but you can if your schedule permits. Spend at least four hours working on your application and studying for the LSAT on these days. I recommend working for 35-minute intervals, with 5-10 minute breaks afterwards. Or use the Pomodoro technique. You can learn more about it [here](#). This way, you can develop your test-taking stamina while you're studying/prepping.

### Sample Schedule for studying the basics (2 weeks)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
RC Videos / CH 4	LR Videos / CH 10	LG Videos / CH 8	RC Videos / CH 5	LR Videos / CH 11	LG Videos / CH 9	App Work
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
RC Videos / CH 4	LR Videos / CH 10	LG Videos / CH 8	Do 1 Timed Section	1 CH from LG, LR, and RC (each)	Watch 10 videos	App Work

### Sample Schedule after you study the basics (2 weeks)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Blind Review for PT 13	Blind Review for PT 13	Blind Review for PT 13	App Work	Timed Sections + Drills	Drills + Statement Day	PT 37
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Blind Review for PT 37	Blind Review for PT 37	Blind Review for PT 37	App Work	Timed Sections + Drills	Drills + Statement Day	PT 39

# 17.

## NEED MORE HELP?

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If you have any other questions, feel free to email me at [harmanbath.law@gmail.com](mailto:harmanbath.law@gmail.com), or let's connect on [LinkedIn](#).

**Best of luck!**