

How to prepare for the LNAT

Build around passage-bound decisions, a full-section pace and a separate essay routine.

THE SHORT ANSWER

There is no subject syllabus to memorise. Use fresh passage sets, named error repairs and a separate essay routine, then test the whole shape before you call the preparation ready. The official current format is 42 questions across 12 passages in 95 minutes, followed by one essay from three prompts in 40 minutes.

Checked against the sources named in this guide, August 2026. British English. Free to share.

1 Build from the real shape

Part	Official shape	Practice consequence
Section A	42 questions over 12 argumentative passages in 95 minutes	Practise passage sets, not isolated questions only
Passage set	3 or 4 questions per passage	Read once for structure, then return for local proof
Current options	4 answer choices	Measure current-format work separately from old PDFs
Section B	One essay from 3 prompts in 40 minutes	Plan and write as its own task after reading stamina
Essay length	500–600 words is the official ideal	Practise economy, not a long answer for its own sake

The two downloadable official practice papers use five answer choices because they are historical material. The current official practice page says the real test uses four. Use the old papers for passage and reasoning work, but do not blend their marks into a current-format score trend.

1 The tell

A good preparation session ends with a next decision: repair a skill, change a pace habit or plan the essay. A pile of completed questions is not yet a plan.

2 Use four preparation phases

1. **Baseline.** Sit fresh current-format passage sets, record what you reached and label every miss by operation.
2. **Repair.** Prioritise A1 structure and A4 exact detail because together they make up 67.9% of the official item register.
3. **Integrate.** Mix passage environments and use timed sets. A6 is a whole-section pacing skill, not a standalone MCQ topic.
4. **Rehearse.** Complete a full Section A, then run the separate Section B choice and planning task while the handover is still familiar.

Record	Why it matters	Next action
Source and format	Five or four options change what the mark means	Keep historical and current-format work in separate rows
Freshness	A remembered answer is not a fresh measure	Mark unseen, seen or repeated
Reach	A low score can hide a late passage problem	Record attempted, flagged and unreached
Error family	The repair depends on the changed operation	Use function, qualification, scope, inference, stance or attribution
Next action	Review becomes a testable job	Choose the smallest fresh set that can expose the same error

3 Review the cause, not just the mark

Worked example A score log that gives the next session a job

Situation. You complete a fresh four-option passage set. You answer 9 of 10 questions. One wrong answer changes “may” to “will”, and the last question is unreached because you reread the whole passage after a close option.

What should the next session target?

- A. Read a new legal textbook before attempting another set.
- B. Repeat the same set until the mark rises.
- C. Run a qualification comparison drill, then practise a passage-level move-on rule.
- D. Ignore the unreached question because the first nine were attempted.

Correct: C. The third option turns both observed causes into small tests: exact degree words and passage-level pacing.

Misreading: The other routes add knowledge, memory or reassurance without testing the two decisions that produced this result.

No current psychometric table can tell you that one practice mark converts into a live-test result. The evidence document reports no item-level difficulty, discrimination, timing distribution or current raw-score distribution. Keep your own conditions visible instead.

2 Try it

After five fresh sets, write the median, range, reach pattern and two repeated error families. Then choose one repair that can be retested within a week.

4 Sources

LNAT Consortium, How to prepare

The official preparation route and the current simulator and practice material. [Open the preparation page.](#)

LNAT Consortium, Practice tests

The two paper tests, historic five-choice warning and current screen familiarisation. [Check the official tests.](#)

LNAT Consortium, Test format

42 questions, 12 passages, 95 minutes and the separate 40-minute essay. [Read the format.](#)

LNAT Consortium, Hints and tips

Passage-bound reasoning, deliberate reading, no negative marking and the essay word ideal. [Read the hints.](#)

The phases and score log are UniGenius study methods. They do not predict an admissions decision or certify exam readiness.