

What You Need to Know Before You Go (to the LSAT Test Center)! AKA-Important Regulations, List of Prohibited Items, and Tips for LSAT Takers...

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So, you've been preparing for months for the LSAT (as many as 6-12 months overall, if you've taken our advice to heart), and now test day is drawing near. The last thing you need is to arrive at the test center only to find that you have shown up with improper identification or a prohibited item! Test Center rules and regulations for the LSAT are more stringent than those you may have experienced for the SATs, ACTs, etc. Furthermore, there have been a number of changes to the regulations within the past couple of years. Make sure you are clear on what is and what is not allowed, and be aware that ignorance of the rules is not an excuse for their violation. **Simply put, if you arrive with, or are found during the test to be in possession of, a prohibited item (such as a cell phone or ear plugs) your action may result in the confiscation of the item, a formal warning, or even immediate dismissal from the test center and cancellation of your test score.** This is not about intent; it is about your actions. Don't risk it!

Up to date guidelines for test center regulations, including lists of permitted and prohibited items, can be found on the Future JD Students, The LSAT section of the LSAC Website (under the "[Day of the Test](#)" heading) and on your LSAT admission ticket. Take time to review this information well in advance of your test date.

Whether you are registered for the next LSAT administration, or plan to take the test sometime further out, take the regulations into account now. When taking full length practice tests, particularly in the month prior to the actual LSAT, incorporate these tips into your strategy:

1) Take test center rules and conditions into consideration. For example, set out three or four sharpened No. 2 wooden pencils—with good erasers—on your test surface. **Mechanical pencils are a prohibited item.** Many test centers use tablet desks. An open test booklet will almost entirely cover this space. Get used to taking your practice tests on this type of surface or a surface of similar size. No test center will be perfect, and you can expect there will be some level of noise. When practicing, take your test in areas that help you learn to stay focused through this type of potential distraction. Put your phone down. Unplug. You will not be allowed to bring your phone to the test center. **Cell phones are prohibited, including during the breaks.** You can expect your total time at the test center to be about seven hours. Get used to being without your phone for extended periods of time. This might sound extreme, but if you think this could create anxiety for you, deal with the feelings now.

2) Do a dry run of your test center. Ideally, for most of you, if you are a current student and are taking the LSAT during the academic year, BU will be your test center. If, however, you are taking the test somewhere else, check out the location in advance. Devise your plan for getting to the test center, and take into account the possibility of delays on test day when you figure how long it will take to get there. For the October, December, and February administrations of the LSAT, candidates are required to be at the test center no later than 8:30 am. For the June LSAT, candidates are required to be at the test center no later than 12:30 pm. **Late arrivals will not be admitted to the test.**

3) Take care of yourself. Presumably, you've invested a great deal in getting prepared for this test. You've conditioned your mind. Make sure your body is in condition, too. This means eating well, getting enough rest, and engaging in a stress reducing activity so that you are not actually thinking about the LSAT 24/7. All of this will be to your benefit on the day of the test.

Pre-Law Advisors are available to discuss these and other tips for LSAT preparation with you. Nothing beats preparation, and the more you know, the better. Finally, to review the "[Day of the Test](http://www.lsac.org/JD/LSAT/day-of-test.asp)" information on the LSAC Website, go to: <http://www.lsac.org/JD/LSAT/day-of-test.asp>.