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## Getting Into the Right Law School ("My Roommate the Moonie Scored in the 98th Percentile on the LSAT and Got Into Harvard. Why Didn't I?")

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**Abstract**

Neither law schools nor their admissions officers care about the whole person.

# Getting Into the Right Law School ("My Roommate the Moonie Scored the Moonie Scored in the 98th Percentile on the LSAT and Got Into Harvard. Why Didn't I?")

D. Robert White\*

Neither law schools nor their admissions officers care about the whole person. Law school isn't college. It isn't out to mold you into a better human being, or to prepare you for life. It doesn't care whether any of your classmates will like you.

Sure, you swam the English Channel in ski boots, and you play classical ukulele. You managed the varsity jazzercise team, and you were the first male in your school's history to play Lady Macbeth. But law schools need more Junior Achievers like the Titanic needed more ice machines.

Law Schools look at two factors: grades and LSAT scores. They just plug the figures into a formula and take as many applicants as they have room for (discounted by the number of people who will die, go to other schools, or decide there must be a less painful way to gird one's loins for life).

What about those stupid essays and recommendations required by the application? These should be viewed more as obstacles than opportunities.

Your essays could show you to be barely literate, notwithstanding your *magna cum laude* English thesis at Princeton: "Over 100 Really Good Knock, Knock Jokes." Your recommendations might say only that your methadone treatment appears to be working and your parole officer thinks well of you.

If you're an undergraduate determined to go to law school, your best strategy is to go for the highest grades and LSAT scores you can get. There may be some well-rounded, likeable people in law school, but that isn't what got them in.

## THE LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST (LSAT)

There is ongoing debate as to what the LSAT measures beyond your ability to come up with the \$40.00 to register and several No. 2 pencils.



Nevertheless, experience shows that two factors may significantly enhance your performance during the hour of truth: (1) familiarity with the style of LSAT questions, and (2) a good supply of anti-diuretics. The latter can be obtained at any drug store. The former can be had from the following sample questions.

## SAMPLE LSAT QUESTIONS

### I. Reading Comprehension

#### Directions:

Read each passage below and answer the questions following each passage by blackening the space beside the answer you believe is most nearly correct.

1. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness . . . [read the novel *A Tale of Two Cities*, attached to your exam booklet] . . . it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."

Question: In the above story, what time is it?

- (a) The best of times.
- (b) The worst of times.
- (c) The New York times.
- (d) About 2:00 o'clock.

2. "Know thyself."

Question: In the above passage, the writer is . . .

- (a) Quoting Plato.
- (b) Advocating a solipsistic approach to epistemology.
- (c) Employing an archaic usage.
- (d) Describing your social life.

### II. Analytical Reasoning

#### Directions:

In this section you are given a question based on a stated set of conditions. Choose the best answer and mark the corresponding space beside the answer.



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1. Einstein's theory of relativity postulated that there can be no motion at a speed greater than that of light in a vacuum, and time is dependent on the relative motion of an observer measuring the time. If a hydrogen bomb electron is accelerated at a rate of  $\frac{1}{2} \times \text{speed of light}$  through an inverse hypermagnetic positron field and then bombarded with neutrons in a nuclear pile critical core reaction, what time is it?

- (a) The best of times.
- (b) The worst of times.
- (c) About 2:00 o'clock.
- (d) Time to think about business school.

2. For a dinner party, Missy must prepare several different three-bean salads, using chili beans, wax beans, lima beans, kidney beans, and garbanzos. Note that (1) chili beans and lima beans do not taste good together, and (2) lima beans and garbanzos do not look good together.

Missy can prepare how many salads of the following types:

- (a) Nine that resemble the bottom of a bird cage.
- (b) Four that will have her guests exchanging embarrassed glances within ten minutes.
- (c) Two that her pet goat would not eat.
- (d) None of the above—if you want to be a bean counter, take the CPA exam.

### III. Logical Reasoning

#### Directions:

In this section, you are required to evaluate the reasoning of the following passage. Although more than one choice may appear correct, use common sense and reasonableness to select the *best* answer. Then mark the appropriate space.

1. If Mr. Smith is a member of Club A, and Ms. Johnson is a member of Club B, and Mr. Smith and Ms. Wilson are members of Club C, and no members of Club C who are also members of Club A are women who belong to the same club as men who belong to more than one club, then . . .

- (a) Mr. Smith is a lesbian.
- (b) Mr. Smith must be in California.
- (c) Mr. Smith lied to get into Club C.
- (d) About 2:00 o'clock.



2. Ramona said, "All dogs bark. This animal does not bark. Therefore this animal is not a dog."

Which of the following most closely parallels the logic of this statement?

- (a) Cats do not bark. Cats climb trees. Trees have bark.
- (b) Lawyers overcharge. Taxi meters overcharge. Lawyers are taxi meters.
- (c) George sells cars. Every car sold by George is poorly built. George is a Chrysler dealer.
- (d) Dogs bay at the moon. Your date bays at the moon. You would be better off getting to know thyself.

#### IV. Evaluation of Facts

##### *Directions:*

This section consists of a set of rules followed by a factual situation. You are required to apply the rules to the facts, blackening the space beside the answers that best reflect the apparent meaning of the rules.

*Rules:* The offense of first degree murder consists of two elements: (1) a deadly act against a victim, and (2) an intent to commit the deadly act.

*Factual Situation:* Mr. Jones enters Sydney's Unisex Barbershop in a tough section of New York City. While he is waiting for a haircut, an employee of Sydney's Unisex Barbershop sees him and, believing him to be someone else, runs a chain saw through the upper half of his head.

Question. On trial for first degree murder, the employee of Sydney's Unisex Barbershop should be found:

- (a) Clearly guilty of taking too much off the top.
- (b) Not guilty because of assumption-of-risk principles respecting unisex barbershops.
- (c) Guilty but nevertheless a suitable candidate for mayor of Chicago.
- (d) About 2:00 o'clock.



"IT'S A LAWYER, HARRY. DO  
YOU WANT TO SUE ANYONE?"