

Watson Glaser Cheat Sheet.

PREPARATION

- **Practice**, practice, practice!
 - Completing practice tests will allow you to feel more comfortable when doing the real thing as it will provide you with some familiarity.
 - Becoming familiar with the test structure, and the types of questions that are asked will make it less likely that the test will throw you off.
- Take the test when YOU feel most **comfortable**
 - Understand your own body clock and take the test when you feel comfortable; if there is a point of the day where you're most relaxed and less likely to be distracted, take the test then.
- **Measure your success** on the practice questions
 - It's okay to not do as well on a practice test then you may have previously done before! It's also okay to fail the practice test, don't let this cloud your thinking into making you give up. Instead, try to understand why you did better on previous practice tests, perhaps you were in a relaxed environment, or maybe it was your diet or sleep schedule that affected your performance. Regardless, don't let this discourage you and continue trying!
 - When you do better, have mini celebrations to award yourself!
- **Monitor** where you're making mistakes, and work on those.
 - Most practice tests will tell you the correct answer and also your timing, try to analyse where you went wrong.
- Don't **skim read**
 - Try not to skim read the questions or make assumptions of what the text provided will say. These tests are critical analysis tests, meaning it requires you to have an attention to detail and to understand the text and accordingly read between the lines. Don't be intimidated by this! You may struggle with critical thinking but don't worry this doc contains tips which you can follow to help you.
- Don't make assumptions
 - You may have background knowledge on the provided text, **however** the test will require you to disregard this at times and to use the information given to you. Take everything at face value and answer accordingly, as this is what you're being tested on.

MOTIVATION TIPS

We understand that the test can be intimidating so here are some tips to motivate yourself:

- Inspire yourself before the test – think about why you've applied for that training contract and visualise the life you want to have. Everybody has different reasons for wanting to be a lawyer, write down/visualise the life you will have when you finally get that position! You can even watch videos to help motivate you or watch that episode of Suits which makes lawyering seem so fun! 😊
- Print out visible mantra's or have them on your computer screen and recite these until you feel better and focused
- If you are easily distracted, just put your phone or any distractive devices/objects in another location (a different room, a cupboard etc.) by doing this you could eventually forget about it.
- If you have pent up energy which is preventing you from focusing then let it out! Allow yourself to feel these emotions without feeling guilty, you could release them in a way you see fit (some examples include dancing around, going for a walk, having a little cry, chatting with friends.)

Before you start the test

1. Ask for additional time if you are entitled to it– it will not influence your grade and it is very easy for firms to do.
2. Divide your time by the number of questions and set a timer on your phone to alert you when your time on each question has expired.
3. Don't overthink it – don't go over all of the questions too many times – your gut instinct is typically correct, and if you don't have one, always consider how the answer is supposed to be answered, not how you perceive it.
4. Carefully read the directions for each section! Make a note of them so you can refer to them when answering questions.
5. Read the entire statement and make a list of key points.
6. Take practice tests – but don't sweat it – just look for similar themes across the questions.
7. There are FREE practice tests WITH ANSWERS – (The Lawyer Portal, Assessment Day, Talent Lens, Wikijob etc.)
8. To each question, ask yourself a list of your own questions (the key themes you've discovered in your practice tests.
9. Use your notes and create a cheat sheet which contains tips for the test, or you can use an already made cheat sheet such as this one.

The Test

INTERPRETATIONS

- Use grids to help you analyse and break down the information (put all the different factors as headings)
- Remember that it does not matter whether the conclusion is actually true (or your view of it), only that it follows from that statement (imagine that you know nothing on the topic)

Then ask yourself...

- Does the conclusion follow beyond a reasonable doubt? (So not 100% certain, but very likely) – then conclusion follows

If the conclusion does not follow beyond reasonable doubt from the provided passage – conclusion does not follow.

DEDUCTIONS

- Use grids to help you analyse and break down the information (put all the different factors as headings)
- Remember that it does not matter whether the conclusion is actually true (or your view of it), only that it follows from that statement (imagine that you know nothing on the topic)

Then ask yourself...

- Does the conclusion directly follow from the statement? If so – conclusion follows
- Are there any other reasons why the conclusion could be true besides the initial statement (consider other variables that could be involved) – if so conclusion unlikely to follow
- Does the language specify that the conclusion **MUST** be a certainty or that it could be? If it could be – conclusion doesn't follow
- Check the conclusion is directly from the statement, not merely true based on your interpretation
- Try not to overthink the answer.

The Test

EVALUATION

- Try not to allow your own personal views cloud your judgement on the answer – you may disagree with the statement, but this is not what the question is asking...
- Accept the statement as **true** and **factual**, even though it could be evidently false

Then ask yourself...

- Does the argument address the statement's main point – if so, it is likely to be strong
- Is there evidence to support the argument? – if not, likely to be weak
- Is the argument **relevant** and connected? Remember: detach yourself from the question and be impartial.
- Is the argument simply explaining or rephrasing the statement? – weak argument.

ASSUMPTIONS

- Look out for whether an assumption follows from the passage given
- It **does not** matter whether the assumption is justified, just that the assumption is made

Then ask yourself...

- Does the assumption refer to a certainty whilst the statement does not? If so, then the assumption is not made
- Is the assumption referring to something that is **likely** to happen in the future – in this case the assumption is not made.
- Example: 'we forecast an alien invasion will force world leaders to work together' – this **does not** assume that an alien invasion will actually happen.

The Test

INFERENCES

- Carefully study the definitions provided for each option; for example, probably true is more likely true than not, but not true beyond a reasonable doubt (which would be a certainty in the statement and therefore true)
- Always read the inference in its entirety; for example, protestors in the statement but counter-protestors in the inference

Then ask yourself...

- What are the chances of the conclusion occurring based on the statement? (Sometimes this can be expressed in percentage terms – e.g., if 50% then this would suggest inadequate data etc.)

Final tips...

- Remember that the test will require you to think in the way that it does, and will require you to not think as yourself
- Keep a dictionary with you (or a dictionary online tab) – this will prove useful where you come across a word unknown to you.
- Lastly, be relaxed and confident!

