LSAT Sample
A Pass Educational Group
Analytical Reasoning Item

A parent must arrange child care for five consecutive weekdays during spring break, rotating between three childcare providers: X, Y, and Z. In scheduling the child care, the parent must account for the following conditions:
X cannot work consecutive days.
Y can only work one day a week and only on a Monday or Tuesday.
Z will only work if given at least two consecutive days, but cannot work on Friday.

If X works two days during the week, on what two days is X most likely to work?
Monday and Wednesday
Monday and Thursday
Tuesday and Thursday
Tuesday and Friday
Wednesday and Friday
This question deals with an ordering relationship defined by a set of conditions concerning when three child care workers can provide services during a given week. As an aid in solving the problem, you can draw a simple diagram that shows the five days of the week in order from left to right.
M Tu W Th F
Since the third condition states that Z cannot work on Friday and Y can only work on Monday or Tuesday, we know that all possible solutions for any question based on this passage must include X working on Friday.
M Tu W Th F
X
Since the first condition states that X cannot work consecutive days, we can further know that all possible solutions for any questions based on this passage cannot include X working on a Thursday. Additionally, the second condition states that Y can only work one day a week on a Monday or Tuesday. Given these conditions and the fact that Z must work consecutive days, we know that Z must work on Wednesday and Thursday.
M Tu W Th F
Z Z X

Since the second condition states that Y can only work one day a week, X may be asked to work on either Monday or Tuesday. Since Monday and Friday is not presented as a possible option, the correct answer is (D), Tuesday and Friday, with the final schedule shown on the diagram as follows:
M Tu W Th F
Y X Z Z X

Responses (A), (B), and (C) are incorrect because they do not indicate X working on Friday. Response (E) is incorrect because, as indicated in the diagram above, Z must work on Wednesday based upon the combined list of conditions.

Logical Reasoning Item
Looking to ease traffic congestion, a civil engineer working for a suburb in the United States meets with the town mayor and proposes implementing a series of traffic circles or “roundabouts” in the community. The engineer cites several studies showing how roundabouts have improved congestion and led to increased safety for drivers in many European countries, where roundabouts are extremely prevalent.
The mayor of the suburb thinks roundabouts would be a viable solution for the community, and she asks the engineer to gather additional evidence to strengthen the argument before presenting a proposal to the town council.
While gathering additional evidence, the engineer should focus on:
alternatives to roundabouts to help ease traffic congestion.
the experiences individual community members have with roundabouts.
pictures and videos of actual roundabouts in operation around the world.
the breakdown of the cost of labor and materials involved in building a series of roundabouts.
the effects of building a series of roundabouts in a community of a similar size and population.

This question asks you to identify the evidence that will be most helpful in strengthening the engineer’s argument for roundabouts. The engineer has already cited studies showing the benefits of roundabouts in European communities, but the benefits of those studies may not translate to roundabouts in a suburban community in the United States, where they are much less prevalent. It can be inferred that the impact of roundabouts on the suburb in which the engineer works is unknown, which should be taken into consideration when gathering additional evidence. By looking at a community of similar size and population and pointing out the benefits they have experienced, the engineer can present a much stronger argument. Therefore, (E) is the correct response.

Response (A) is incorrect. The mayor believes that roundabouts “could be a viable solution,” and gathering evidence related to alternatives to roundabouts may cause the engineer to introduce other attractive solutions rather than strengthening the argument for roundabouts. Since the inferred goal is to convince the town council to move forward with the development of roundabouts, presenting alternatives would most likely be counter to that pursuit.
Response (B) is incorrect. Although the experiences that individual community members have had with roundabouts may provide some insight into the community’s interest in the idea, the members of the community lack authority and are not guaranteed to have had positive experiences with roundabouts. Additionally, community members are likely to only provide anecdotal accounts of their own experiences, and there can be no reliable expectation that those experiences would provide definitive evidence of the overall impact roundabouts would have on relieving the stated problem of traffic congestion within the community.
Response (C) is incorrect. Photos and videos of traffic circles in operation around the world have the ability to help others visualize the concept, but they would likely provide little evidence to strengthen the engineer’s argument that they will ease traffic congestion. Additionally, they are likely to all vary in design and may include designs that are not suited for the local community. Pictures and videos of traffic circles around the world would not provide evidence tailored to the specific community in which the engineer proposes the development of roundabouts.

Response (D) is incorrect. While a breakdown of the cost of labor and materials of traffic circles will eventually be required if the town council is interested in the proposal, this information would not help strengthen the argument of the effectiveness roundabouts may have on relieving traffic congestion. The engineer's immediate task is to convince the town council that roundabouts will solve the traffic burden facing the community.