



### Watson Glaser

The Watson Glaser is a critical thinking test routinely used in the recruitment process of commercial law firms. It assesses your ability to assimilate information and make reasoned conclusions based on the information. Rather than ranking students from worst to best on the test, firms more commonly institute a minimum percentile in order to move onto the next stage. A score around the 50th percentile should be sufficient to get to the next stage for most commercial law firms.

### How to prepare

Optimal preparation is dependent on the person. There is no sure-fire way to ensure excellence at the Watson Glaser except by practicing and learning exam technique. When you get questions wrong, always look at the explanation behind the right answer and take it in. You might not agree with it, but you should be receptive to this so it does not trip you up next time. Some people do a few practice tests and just get it, whilst others have to put in the hard yards. If you consistently score above the 70th percentile in the Watson Glaser, just continue what you are doing. Do a practice test every so often to maintain your sharpness, but if the method ain't broke, don't fix it. You guys can move onto the next section now. If this isn't you, then I would recommend doing these tests more regularly and studying the technique to succeed for this test.

The Watson Glaser is not a measure of intelligence. It is one critical thinking test that law firms find useful. Thus, they are looking for people who either pick up this way of thinking easily or can train themselves into this way of thinking. Remember, when doing the test: you should not always put down the answer that you agree with, but the answer you believe the test will agree with. By doing practice tests regularly, looking at the mark scheme and understanding why you got the question wrong, you will begin to pick up the exam technique. I would recommend starting this practice a few months before you will complete them for applications. Practicing twice a week for three months will be much more effective in upskilling you than practicing four times a day a week before your first test.

### Where can I practice?

Unfortunately banks of practice tests aren't as readily available as one might hope (damn gatekeepers!). Despite this, there are economical options out there for you to practice. For example, resources like [www.assessmentday.co.uk](http://www.assessmentday.co.uk), at the time of writing, offer a critical thinking test package for £14.99. As long as the rules permit for this, if you have five friends who need to practice the Watson Glaser, you're getting access to 10 practice tests for the price of a meal deal. We recommend buying this package since there are not enough free tests out there for someone looking to significantly improve their test score.

### Wrapping up

Although the Watson Glaser can seem daunting, the way to get better at it is pretty simple: practice. There's no magic formula, or any particular technique that will work best for all. Since improving at this test is quite an individual journey, you just need to be willing to put in the hours over an extended period of time. Just a few more important things to note:

- 1.) Be aware of the fact that practice tests are typically easier than the official tests you will tackle as part of the assessment process. This may mean you should aim for higher percentiles in the practice tests to give yourself a good buffer when it comes to the real thing
- 2.) Many firms apply time pressure to the test. For example, Clifford Chance gives you 40 questions to answer in 30 minutes. When practicing, make sure to account for the time pressure so you are not out of your depth in the real thing
- 3.) Learn how you best tackle the test, and hone these skills. Some people work best by checking their work as they go along, meaning that they would have less time at the end. Some people trust their instincts on this test and do not feel the need to second-guess themselves, meaning they can finish with 12 minutes to spare. As aforementioned, there is no right way. Just make sure you do what works for you.

The rest of this document provides advice on the different sections of the Watson Glaser. There are five sections and this information is typically shown at the start of each section during the test. Familiarise yourself with this and practice, practice practice.

#### 1.) Inferences

An inference is a conclusion that a person can draw from certain observed or supposed facts. For example, if the lights are on in a house and music can be heard coming from the house, a person might infer that someone is at home. But this inference may or may not be correct. It is possible that the people of the house did not turn the lights and the radio off when they left the house.

In this test, each exercise begins with a statement of facts that you are to regard as true. After each statement of facts you will find a possible inference i.e., conclusion that some persons

might draw from the stated facts. Examine each inference separately, and make a decision as to its degree of truth or falsity.

### **Answer Options**

For each inference you will find five choices of answers: *True*, *Probably True*, *Insufficient Data*, *Probably False*, and *False*.

For each inference, click on the box beside the appropriate answer.

*True* if you think the inference is definitely **TRUE**; that it properly follows beyond a reasonable doubt from the statement of facts given.

*Probably True* if, in the light of the facts given, you think the inference is **PROBABLY TRUE**; that it is more likely to be true than false.

*Insufficient Data* if you decide that there are **INSUFFICIENT DATA**; that you cannot tell from the facts given whether the inference is likely to be true or false; if the facts provide no basis for judging one way or the other.

*Probably False* if, in the light of the facts given, you think the inference is **PROBABLY FALSE**; that it is more likely to be false than true.

*False* if you think the inference is definitely **FALSE**; that it is wrong, either because it misinterprets the facts given, or because it contradicts the facts or necessary inferences from those facts.

### 2.) Recognition of Assumptions

An assumption is something presupposed or taken for granted. When you say "I'll be a qualified solicitor in two months", you take for granted or assume you will be alive in two months, that you will pass the relevant examinations, and similar things.

Next are a number of statements. Each statement is followed by several proposed assumptions. You are to decide for each assumption whether a person, in making the given statement, is really making that assumption, i.e., taking it for granted, justifiably or not.

If you think that the given assumption is taken for granted in the statement, click on the circle beside "**ASSUMPTION MADE**". If you think that the assumption is not necessarily taken for granted, click on the circle beside "**ASSUMPTION NOT MADE**". Remember to judge each assumption independently.

### 3.) Deduction

In this test, each exercise consists of several statements (premises) followed by several suggested conclusions. For the purposes of this test, consider the statements in each exercise as true without exception. Read the first conclusion beneath the statements. If you think it necessarily follows from the statements given, click on the box next to "**CONCLUSION FOLLOWS**". If you think it is not a necessary conclusion from the statements given, click on the box next to "**CONCLUSION DOES NOT FOLLOW**" even though you believe it be true from your general knowledge.

Similarly, read and judge each of the other conclusions. Try not to let your prejudices influence your judgment - just stick to the given statements (premises) and judge whether each conclusion necessarily follows.

The word "some" in any of these statements means an indefinite part or quantity of a class of things. "Some" means at least a portion, and perhaps all of the class. Thus, "Some holidays are rainy" means at least one, possibly more than one, and perhaps even all holidays are rainy.

### 4.) Interpretation

Each of the following exercises consists of a short paragraph followed by several suggested conclusions.

*For the purpose of this test, assume that everything in the short paragraph is true. The problem is to judge whether or not each of the proposed conclusions logically follows beyond a reasonable doubt from the information given in the paragraph.*

If you think that the proposed conclusion follows beyond a reasonable doubt (even though it may not follow absolutely and necessarily), click on the box next to "**CONCLUSION FOLLOWS**". If you think that the conclusion does not follow beyond a reasonable doubt from the facts given, click on the box next to "**CONCLUSION DOES NOT FOLLOW**" even though you believe it to be true from your general knowledge.

Remember to judge each conclusion independently.

### 5.) Evaluation of Arguments

In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between arguments that are strong and arguments that are weak, as far as the question at issue is concerned. *For an argument to be strong, it must be both important and directly related to the question.*

An argument is weak if it is not directly related to the question (even though it may not be of great general importance), or if it is of minor importance, or if it is related to only to trivial aspects of the question.

Next is a series of questions. Each question is followed by several arguments. *For the purpose of this test, you are to regard each argument as true.* The problem then is to decide whether it is a strong or a weak argument.

Click on the box next to "**ARGUMENT STRONG**" if you think the argument is strong, or beside the box next to "**ARGUMENT WEAK**" if you think the argument is weak. Judge each argument separately on its own merit. Try not to let your personal attitude toward the question influence your evaluation of the argument, since each argument is to be regarded as true.

In the example, note that the argument is evaluated as to how well it supports the side of the question indicated.

Reference: Clifford Chance Practice Watson Glaser Test