Solve it in under 63 seconds.

Decision Making gives you **35 questions in 37 minutes**: 63 seconds each, the most generous section on the paper. Which is exactly why it is the easiest one to overspend in.

STRATEGY 1

Draw only the part that decides it.

When categories overlap, a quick sketch beats holding it in your head. But draw the minimum: the moment one option survives, stop. A complete Venn diagram is usually more work than the question needed.

WORKED EXAMPLE

"All surgeons are doctors. Some doctors are researchers." You only need the overlap between doctors and researchers to test whether any conclusion about *surgeons* follows. Two circles, five seconds. Do not draw the third.

STRATEGY 2

Eliminate before you calculate.

Read all the options first. Cross out anything logically impossible before doing any work: a probability above 1, a total that exceeds the sample, a conclusion the passage contradicts. You can usually remove one or two in under five seconds.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Four options for a probability: 0.15, 0.40, 0.85, 1.25. The last is impossible before you read the stem. One gone for free.

STRATEGY 3

Answer yes/no statements one at a time.

On sets where each statement is judged separately, decide one, record it, move to the next. Holding five in your head at once is what sends you back to re-read the stem a third time, and that re-read is where the section's time goes.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Five statements, each true or false on its own. Treating them as one puzzle costs about three times as long as treating them as five small ones, and the marks are identical.

> **Estimate when the options are far apart.**
>
> If the options are spread widely, an estimate decides it faster than exact arithmetic and with less chance of a slip. Reach for the calculator when two options are close together, not by reflex. Flag threshold for this section: about **95 seconds**, or 1.5× your target.

Two down, two to go.

Our free UCAT pack has all twelve time-wasting habits with a drill for each, and the Timing Blueprint gives you the target and flag threshold for every section. Both free.

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