Read less, score more.

Verbal Reasoning gives you **44 questions in 22 minutes**: 30 seconds each. That is not enough time to read carefully and then answer. These three strategies buy the time back.

STRATEGY 1

Question-first reading.

Read the question stem and the options *before* the passage. Decide what you are hunting for (usually two or three keywords), then scan for those and read only the lines around them. The passage is not there to be understood. It is there to be searched.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A 200-word passage on vaccination policy. The question asks about *government funding*. Scan for "funding", "government", "budget". All three appear in paragraph two. You answer without reading paragraphs one or three at all.

STRATEGY 2

The one-read rule.

Commit to reading the relevant lines once. If the answer is not there, do not re-read. Eliminate two options and choose between the remaining two. Re-reading feels responsible and is the single most expensive habit in this section.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A True / False / Can't Tell item where the answer is **Can't Tell**. The passage simply never addresses the claim. Re-reading cannot produce information that is not there. It only confirms an absence you already found.

STRATEGY 3

The 45-second flag.

Your target is 30 seconds. If an item has not clicked by about 45 seconds, flag it and move. Spending 90 seconds on one item costs you two others, and those two are probably easier than the one you are stuck on.

THE ARITHMETIC

44 items ÷ 22 minutes = **30 seconds** each. Three items at 90 seconds leaves you 19 minutes for the remaining 41: 28 seconds each, with no margin anywhere.

> **The one that costs most marks: arguing with the passage.**
> Every answer is judged against the text, not against what you know to be true. If the passage supports a statement that is wrong in the real world, it is still supported. And "the researchers were questioned" is not the same claim as "the researchers were wrong". That gap is where Can't Tell lives.

Want the other three sections?

Our free UCAT pack has all twelve habits with a drill for each, and the free Medicine and Dentistry workshop is **Saturday 14 November, 11 am Adelaide time** (11:30 am AEDT).

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