Setup: October 2001 Profile Charting Logic Game Setup

As mentioned in the Profile Charting Discussion and Drill, the first game of the October 2001 LSAT is a Profile Charting Game. Below is a discussion of the setup of the game.
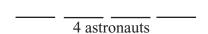
Game #1:   *1. D 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. A*

This is a Grouping: Defined-Fixed, Unbalanced: Overloaded game.

This is a Profile Charting game, a variation on a Grouping game that we discuss in our LSAT courses. From a Grouping standpoint the game is Defined-Fixed, Unbalanced: Overloaded. The selection pool is subdivided.

The game initially sets up as eight candidates for four spaces:

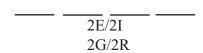F J K L M N P T ^{8}

_____ _____ _____ _____
4 astronauts

However, the eight candidates each have two characteristics. The simplest way to handle all of the information is to create a chart that profiles each candidate:

Profile Chart:

	E/I	G/R
F	E	G
J	E	R
K	E	R
L	E	R
M	I	G
N	I	R
P	I	G
T	I	G

The first two rules specify the composition of the group that must be selected:

F J K L M N P T ^{8}

_____ _____ _____ _____
2E/2I
2G/2R

The third rule establishes that either P or L, or both are selected. This produces the setup that most students have as their final setup.

F J K L M N P T [8]

Profile Chart:

	E/I	G/R
F	E	G
J	E	R
K	E	R
L	E	R
M	I	G
N	I	R
P	I	G
T	I	G

P/L _____ _____ _____
                  2E/2I
                  2G/2R

While the above setup is accurate, it is incomplete. In Profile Charting games, the most critical step is to examine the profile chart to determine which candidates have identical characteristics. The search for identical pairs must be done because often these identical pairs have natural "opposite" pairs within the game, and consequently powerful hypotheticals can be created. This game contains several such hypotheticals.

From the profile chart, we can determine that J, K, and L are identical, each with the characteristics *ER*. M, P, and T are also identical, each with the characteristics *IG*. Thus, the two groups are perfect opposites, and as long as the rule regarding "either P or L or both are selected" is considered, we can quickly make hypotheticals from the two groups:

Hypotheticals:

J	L	M	P
J	L	M	T
J	L	P	T

K	L	M	P
K	L	M	T
K	L	P	T

J	K	M	P
J	K	P	T

The hypotheticals above solve, or can be used to help solve, question #1 and question #4. The hypotheticals also have the additional benefit of instilling confidence since they contain so much information about the game.

It is also notable that the two remaining variables, F and N, are perfect opposites, and, because they are unique in the game, if one appears then the other *must* appear. Both question #3 and question #5 hinge on this inference.

Because F and N are opposites, the remaining two variables that are selected with F and N must also have opposite characteristics. Hence, one variable from the group J, K and L must be selected, and one variable from the group M, P, and T must be selected:

<div align="center">

  F   N   J/K/L M/P/T

</div>

Of course, the P/L rule must still be obeyed.

There are a few simple lessons taught by this game:

1. You must be able to recognize the game type you are facing. Students who recognized this game as a Profile Charting game had a distinct advantage over students who did not recognize the game.

2. When attacking a Profile Charting game you must examine the chart for variables that are identical and variables that are perfect opposites. Use the results of this search to construct hypotheticals.

3. Use the hypotheticals to attack the questions. When you do so, the game becomes incredibly easy.

Question #1: Global, Could Be True, List. The correct answer choice is (D)

As shown in the discussion of hypotheticals, J-L-M-T is possible, and thus answer choice (D) is correct.

Question #2: Local, Must Be True. The correct answer choice is (A)

The question stem establishes the following:

<div align="center">

  F   P

</div>

This selection satisfies the P/L rule, and so the only conditions that must be met are the selection criteria regarding the characteristics of each of the candidates in the group.

As both F and P are geologists, the remaining two selections must be radiobiologists. This information eliminates answer choices (B) and (C).

F is an experienced astronaut and P is an inexperienced astronaut, and so the remaining two selections must consist of one experienced astronaut and one inexperienced astronaut. This information eliminates answer choices (D) and (E), and thus answer choice (A) is correct.

Question #3: Local, Must Be True. The correct answer choice is (D)

Note that any hypothetical that can be created containing F and J will allow some answer choices to be eliminated because if a variable isn't in the hypothetical, then it does not *have* to be selected when F and J are selected. Thus, we can refer back to the last hypothetical created in the setup discussion:

$$\underline{\quad F \quad} \quad \underline{\quad N \quad} \quad \underline{\text{J/K/L}} \; \underline{\text{M/P/T}}$$

Accordingly, the correct answer must be N, as N would have to be selected when F and J are selected.

Of course, as noted in the setup and again in question #6, when F is selected, N must also be selected.

Question #4: Local, Could Be True. The correct answer choice is (B)

The question stem establishes the following:

$$\underline{\quad M \quad} \quad \underline{\quad T \quad} \quad \underline{\qquad\quad} \quad \underline{\qquad\quad}$$

Both M and T are inexperienced geologists, so the remaining two selections must be experienced radiobiologists. Thus, two from the group of J, K, and L must be selected. However, due to the third rule, L must be selected, resulting in the following setup:

$$\underline{\quad M \quad} \quad \underline{\quad T \quad} \quad \underline{\quad L \quad} \quad \underline{\text{J/K}}$$

Accordingly, answer choice (B) is correct.

Question #5: Local, Must Be True. The correct answer choice is (A)

As discussed during the setup, F and N are perfect opposites, and, due to the characteristics of the other six candidates, when one of F and N is selected, the other must also be selected. Thus, answer choice (A) is correct.