



GMAT™

Critical Reasoning

Question Bank 2024-25

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Aristotle Prep Critical Reasoning Question Bank

- 1) Financial Expert: Our country has a very high debt-to-GDP ratio and it's difficult for a country with a high debt-to-GDP ratio to grow in a dynamic manner. Moreover, our debt is growing higher and that means inflation is getting worse. All in all, our country is badly managed these days.

Which of the following assertions is most strongly supported by the passage?

- (A) High debt has an adverse impact on the inflation rate.
 - (B) It is not possible for a badly managed country to grow in a dynamic manner.
 - (C) High level of debt is extremely detrimental to the growth of a country.
 - (D) Growing inflation is a sign of a badly managed country.
 - (E) Whatever growth is happening in this particular country cannot possibly be called dynamic growth.
- 2) In the early 1960s, Myanmar was the richest country in Asia, but then it closed its economy to the outside world and is now the poorest country in the region. However, Myanmar is now opening up its economy to the outside world once again, and so will soon regain its former glory. Thus, it makes sense for smart investors to invest in Myanmar.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) A closed economy will rapidly deplete the financial resources of a country.
- (B) The countries that dealt with Myanmar in 1962 will still be interested in dealing with it.
- (C) If Myanmar does not open up its economy to the outside world, it will continue to remain poor.
- (D) The severe internal unrest that has continued in Myanmar for the last several years is not responsible for its current financial state.
- (E) At least some smart investors are currently aware of Myanmar's past glory.

- 3) While critics have written off the APG company's new Model T chandelier, owing to its poor sales across the globe, the Model T is actually not a complete failure because it has managed to sell 10,000 pieces in Eastern Europe, a market in which rival companies haven't even managed to sell 5,000 pieces of their respective chandeliers.

Which of the following is assumed in the above argument?

- (A) If a chandelier does not sell well in the Eastern European market, then it is a complete failure.
 - (B) The Eastern European market is the biggest market for chandeliers.
 - (C) If a chandelier sells well in the Eastern European market, then it cannot be considered a complete failure.
 - (D) The Model T is the only type of chandelier manufactured by the APG company.
 - (E) If the Model T had not sold in good numbers in Eastern Europe, then it could have been considered a complete failure.
- 4) G. Bell Corporation, a manufacturer of mobile handsets, has claimed to have become the leading seller of mobile handsets, in terms of units sold, in the country. According to latest figures released by all the handset manufacturers in the country, G. Bell Corporation managed to sell 80 per cent of the total handsets that it manufactured during the year whereas the market leader, H. Wells Corporation, managed to sell only 50 per cent of its total handsets.

Which of the following identifies a flaw in G. Bell Corporation's reasoning?

- (A) It does not take into account H. Wells Corporation's huge book of advance orders for handsets that need to be shipped during the next year.
- (B) It incorrectly assumes that the current trend will continue into the next year as well.
- (C) It makes no comparison of the average price at which G. Bell Corporation sold its handsets and the average price at which H. Wells Corporation sold its handsets.
- (D) It does not take into account the total number of handsets sold by either manufacturer.
- (E) It does not take into account the total market size for mobile handsets in the country.

- 5) The supply of iron ore, the most important component in steelmaking, has been steadily declining in Marco city. This has forced steel manufacturing units in Marco city to source iron ore from far off mines leading to an increase in their transportation costs. Because transportation costs make up a large chunk of the total cost of steelmaking, the steel manufacturers in Marco city have had no option but to increase the selling price of their steel. This has, in turn, led to an increase in the retail price of utensils and other articles of daily use made of steel. Since the retail consumers now have to pay more for these steel items, while their earnings remain unchanged, they have decided to cut down on their non-essential expenditure such as that on movie tickets. This has led movie theatres in Marco city to reduce their ticket prices.

Which of the following provides the most support for the assertion that the prices of movie tickets in Marco city will continue to decline in future?

- (A) The people of Marco city will not be willing to cut down their expenditure on eating out.
 - (B) After the inauguration of the Gold port Bridge, expected to happen very soon, the transportation costs to Marco city will be halved.
 - (C) There are no blockbuster movies with stellar star casts lined up for release anytime soon.
 - (D) The supply of iron ore to Marco city is expected to go down even more in the near future
 - (E) Residents of Marco city view movie tickets as non-essential items of expenditure.
- 6) There are two ways in which an athlete can maximise his performance in the field—by improving his physical stamina or by improving his mental stamina. Research has clearly shown that physical stamina is much more important than mental stamina in boosting an athlete's performance in the field. Thus, if an athlete is working at improving his physical stamina, he is doing the most he can to maximise his performance in the field.

Which of the following most strengthens the above argument?

- (A) According to another research, when athletes with comparable levels of mental stamina compete on the field, the one with the higher physical stamina invariably comes out the winner.
- (B) A combination of physical and mental stamina cannot boost the performance of the athlete any more what physical stamina can by itself.
- (C) Critics of the researchers mentioned in the argument claim that these researchers considerably overestimate the importance of physical stamina in maximising the performance of an athlete.
- (D) There are other aspects, apart from stamina, that also play a significant role in maximising the performance of an athlete in the field.
- (E) If an athlete focuses more on developing his mental rather than physical stamina, he is likely to perform poorly in the field.

- 7) According to a report by the American Staffing Federation (ASF), the government's new policy for the retail industry is likely to create 2 million jobs for fresh graduates over the next three years. The ASF has, thus, welcomed the government's move to implement this policy across the nation as its implementation will lead to a lowering of the national unemployment rate.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most serious doubt on the accuracy of AFS' conclusion?

- (A) Opponents of the policy will not allow the government to implement the policy anytime soon.
- (B) The new policy will result in a large number of uneducated workers becoming redundant and, as a result, losing their jobs.
- (C) There are several other ways of lowering the national unemployment rate available to the government.
- (D) The nation faces more serious problems than unemployment and the government should instead focus on resolving those first.
- (E) The implementation of the new policy is going to cost the government a considerable amount of money so the government will most likely increase corporate tax rates to recover this amount.

- 8) It seems that employees at middle management positions who wish to get promoted to senior management positions in their companies should start purchasing clothes from leading fashion designers. In a recent survey of 1000 employees working at different senior management positions, as many as 80% stated that they only bought clothes from leading fashion designers.

Which of the following most weakens the argument?

- (A) The senior managers mentioned in the survey only started purchasing clothes from leading fashion designers after they became senior managers.
- (B) The clothes manufactured by leading fashion designers are usually very expensive and outside the reach of most middle level managers.
- (C) Most employees at senior management positions are no smarter than those at middle management positions.
- (D) Some employees do not manage to reach senior management positions, even though they wear clothes manufactured by leading fashion designers.
- (E) Wearing clothes manufactured by leading fashion designers can in some way improve the prospects of an employee getting promoted to the senior management positions.

- 9) According to those in favor of privatization of Social Security in the US, the current system is impossible to sustain. Decades ago, there were many more workers for every recipient but now the situation has reversed. Sooner or later, the fund will not be able to meet its obligations, because there will be more payments going out, than income coming in. Privatizing the system for the future recipients, while gradually phasing out the system for current and near-term recipients, is probably the best way to keep the system viable.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most useful in determining whether privatization of Social Security in the US would be a good idea?

- (A) Whether privatization has proved successful for other government provided services such as employee provident funds
 - (B) Whether the population of the US is likely to increase significantly in the future
 - (C) Whether the growth in the number of workers in the US is likely to outstrip the growth in the number of dependents in the future
 - (D) Whether privatization of social security will lead to large scale protests by US citizens
 - (E) Whether taking loans can help the Social Security system tide over the problem of reduction in funds coming into the system
- 10) Large corporations use several strategies to minimize their tax payments, without doing anything explicitly illegal. One such strategy involves the use of transfer pricing, when subsidiaries in different countries charge each other for goods or services *sold* within the group. This is particularly popular among technology and drug companies that have lots of intellectual property, the value of which is especially subjective. These intra-company royalty transactions are supposed to be arm's-length, but are often priced to minimise profits in high-tax countries and maximise them in low-tax ones.

If the above statements are true, then which of the following could be a strategy adopted by a company that wants to get the maximum benefit out of transfer pricing?

- (A) Sell products, at low prices, to its subsidiary located in a high tax rate country
- (B) Charge its subsidiary, located in a low tax rate country, higher prices for products sold
- (C) Pay its subsidiary located in a high tax rate country high prices for products bought
- (D) Pay its subsidiary, located in a low tax rate country, low prices for products bought
- (E) Pay its subsidiary, located in a low tax rate country, high prices for products bought

- 11) Mr. Ice sells ice cream for \$1 each. Mr. Freeze sells a different ice cream for \$3 each. On one Sunday, at the end of the day's business, Mr Ice had sold three times as many ice creams as Mr Freeze. Interestingly, they had both also made the same amount of profit for that day.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above statements?

- (A) The total cost incurred by Mr Freeze for that day was three times that incurred by Mr Ice.
- (B) Mr Ice's ice cream is more popular than Mr. Freeze's ice cream.
- (C) The total cost incurred by Mr Ice for that day was three times that incurred by Mr. Freeze.
- (D) Mr Freeze's ice cream sells in smaller numbers because of its higher selling price.
- (E) Both Mr Ice and Mr Freeze incurred the same costs for that day.

- 12) The main purpose of business is to maximise shareholder value over the long term by selling goods or services. Thus, employees who use funds for anything other than to increase their sales are simply cheating the shareholders.

Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?

- (A) Most business owners would agree with the above definition of the purpose of a business.
- (B) Increasing sales is not the only way to maximise shareholder value.
- (C) Spending money on making the workplace more comfortable for employees will not lead to increased worker productivity and in turn increased business profits.
- (D) The only function of a business is to maximise returns for its shareholders.
- (E) According to this definition, many employees could be accused of cheating.

- 13) The Bakers football team has been struggling for form all through the past two years in which it has not even managed to reach the semi-finals of any major football tournament. To arrest this decline, the team management has now decided to reappoint its former coach, Charles Keith, who had been sacked two years back.

Which of the following choices gives reason to believe that the team management's strategy may not work?

- (A) Several of the team's most successful players have left the team in the past two years.
 - (B) The team has been receiving a lot of negative press for its poor performance in the past two years.
 - (C) Charles Keith had been sacked two years ago by the team management on account of corruption charges, which couldn't eventually be proved.
 - (D) The team that Charles Keith has been coaching for the past two years hasn't been performing really well either.
 - (E) The continuous string of poor performances has led to a loss of morale among several of the members of the football team.
- 14) A jewellery manufacturer produces rings in two metals—gold and platinum. The manufacturer has noted that, over the last three years, the gold rings have consistently outsold the platinum ones by a large margin, even though the designs available in both the metals are exactly the same. This has led the manufacturer to conclude that consumers prefer gold to platinum.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) Over the last three years, diamond rings have outsold both gold and platinum ones.
- (B) Jewellery buyers give more importance to design than to the metal used.
- (C) Platinum is easier to maintain than is gold.
- (D) Platinum rings take longer to produce than do gold rings.
- (E) Gold rings cost considerably less than do platinum ones .

- 15) It is not correct on the part of the district administration to ban the sport of drag racing. After all, only 50 people have been injured in the last one year while drag racing whereas more than 400 people have been injured while playing baseball. The administration should, thus, ban baseball instead.

The argument above is flawed because:

- (A) It compares two different types of sports.
 - (B) It does not take into account the treatment cost of the injuries.
 - (C) It fails to take into account the total number of people who drag race and who play baseball.
 - (D) It does not take into account injuries caused in other sports such as boxing.
 - (E) It uses inaccurate data to support its conclusion.
- 16) Almost all arguments against the theory of evolution stem from the fact that it is very difficult to prove how a group of non-living elements can combine together and give rise to life. However, just because something cannot be proved with certainty today doesn't mean that the possibility isn't there. Remember, there was a time when almost the whole world believed the Earth was the centre of the universe until Galileo came by and proved otherwise.
- The statements above, if true, best support which of the following assertions?
- (A) At one point of time, Galileo was the only person who believed that the earth was not the centre of the universe.
 - (B) A majority of scientists do not agree with the theory of evolution.
 - (C) It is difficult to prove the theory of evolution with certainty.
 - (D) When Galileo stated that the sun and not the earth was the centre of the universe, he was called insane by his compatriots.
 - (E) Everything that, at one time, seems impossible will, at some point in the future, become possible.

17) 30 years ago, residents of Pandora County used to buy an average of 10 books every year. Today the residents of Pandora County buy an average of three books every year. Therefore, it can be concluded that book sales in Pandora County must have fallen over these 30 years.

The argument above rests on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) The residents of Pandora County used to have more free time 30 years ago than they do now.
- (B) The residents of Pandora County have many more activities that vie for their attention today than 30 years back.
- (C) The population of Pandora County hasn't increased significantly in the last 30 years.
- (D) The literacy rate hasn't significantly changed in Pandora County over the past 30 years.
- (E) Those residents of Pandora County who used to read 30 years ago have now not become too old to read.

18) Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

A new palm vein scanning technology is being developed by scientists that could be used with laptops or other tablet devices. This technology involves the use of a biometric sensor that can scan the unique pattern of veins in a person's palm to verify their identity. This technology could do away with the problem of remembering multiple passwords to access different websites. However, the technology would require new biometric sensors to be built into computers but this should not be a hindrance in the success of the new technology, because_____.

- (A) the new technology is bound to be extremely popular with computer users
- (B) the biometric sensors do not cost a lot of money and are available in plentiful supply
- (C) most people have forgotten one or more of their passwords at some point in their lives
- (D) there is almost always a market for innovations such as these
- (E) the biometric sensors can be easily and cost effectively built into computers

19) Those who claim that the Kribki Company is poorly managed often cite, as evidence, the fact that the Kribki Company has twice as many complaints listed against it on a popular complaint website than its nearest competitor. However, this data does not necessarily prove that the Kribki Company is poorly managed because _____.

Which of the following best completes the argument above?

- (A) the Kribki Company also has a lot of loyal customers who have great things to say about it
- (B) the website on which the complaints are listed started operations only one year ago whereas the Kribki Company has been in the business for more than three decades
- (C) the Kribki Company has twice as many people manning its customer service department than its nearest competitor
- (D) the Kribki Company has six times as many customers as its nearest competitor
- (E) the Kribki Company does eventually manage to resolve the complaints of most of its customers

20) Angel dusting is a process wherein an ingredient, which would be beneficial in a reasonable quantity, is instead added by manufacturers to their products in an insignificant quantity so that they can make the claim that their product contains that ingredient, and mislead the consumer into expecting that they will gain the benefit of that ingredient. For example, a cereal may claim it contains "10 essential vitamins and minerals", but the amounts of each may be only 1% or less of the Reference Daily Intake, providing virtually no benefit or nutrition.

If the above statements are true, which of the following could be an example of Angel dusting?

- (A) A laptop that claims to have the longest battery backup, actually has a backup just 10% longer than is provided by its closest competitor.
- (B) A book that claims to cover all the concepts of Organic Chemistry actually provides just one example of each concept.
- (C) A vitamin capsule that claims to contain 23 vitamins and amino acids contains less than 3% of each.
- (D) A protein shake that claims to contain a magic ingredient that can make muscles grow faster, only contains 20% of this ingredient's daily recommended intake.
- (E) An apartment that claims to have used Italian marble for its flooring has used exactly one slab of Italian marble and the remaining ninety-nine slabs of regular marble

- 21) In the year 2000, olive oils made up just 40% of the liquid oils market, with standard oils taking 52% and speciality oils accounting for the remainder. But now, fuelled by health concerns and a general move towards premium products, the tables have turned. Today, the olive oil sector is worth some \$104 million and alone accounts for an estimated 51% of the total market.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- (A) In 2000, the total worth of the olive oil sector was less than \$104 million.
- (B) The total sales of the standard oils at present time are lower than their sales in 2000.
- (C) Olive oil is healthier than all other liquid oils available in the market.
- (D) The market share of the standard oils category today must have declined from what it was in 2000.
- (E) The total worth of the specialty oil category today is higher than what it was in 2000.

- 22) The consumption of tobacco in the country has fallen drastically in the past one year. During the same period of time, the government has been running a sustained advertising campaign to educate citizens about the ill effects of chewing tobacco. Thus, the government's advertising campaign has proved to be a resounding success.

Which of the following choices most weakens the argument above?

- (A) The government has had to spend a huge amount of money on this advertising campaign, an amount that it will eventually recover from the general public in the form of new taxes.
- (B) More and more tobacco consumers in the past one year have now shifted to consuming relatively harmless substances such as chewing gum.
- (C) The consumption of alcoholic drinks has increased in the country in the past one year.
- (D) Tobacco prices have more than tripled in the country in the past one year.
- (E) All the major tobacco companies are still in business in the country.

23) Jim Rogers: "It's very difficult for foreigners to do business in India because India doesn't like foreigners and keeps them away. The biggest proof of this is Walmart, which has many stores in China, but not a single fully-owned store in India, simply because India doesn't like overseas businessmen."

Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?

- (A) There is nothing that can make India like foreign businessmen.
- (B) The fact that Walmart has many stores in China proves that China loves foreigners.
- (C) The limited size of the Indian market hasn't stopped Walmart from entering India.
- (D) Any foreign company other than Walmart is also not present in India.
- (E) China's policies are probably more favourable towards foreigners than are India's policies.

24) Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A recent experiment has revealed that a person stands the best chance of surviving a plane crash if he or she is sitting at the back of the aircraft. A Boeing 727 was crashed on purpose into the Sahara desert, and various aspects of the impact were analysed. One of the findings of this experiment was that dummies placed at the back of the airplane suffered much less damage than the ones placed at the front. Thus, when traveling by airplanes, you would be much better off sitting at the back, assuming _____.

- (A) that all the seats at the back of the plane haven't already been booked
- (B) that the plane will be flying over the Sahara desert
- (C) that the plane is manufactured by Boeing and has been part of the test described in the stimulus
- (D) that the plane does not crash on its tail
- (E) that these results apply to airplane crashes in general, and not just to those of old 727s into sand.

25) According to some people, income tax should be done away with in the US since there are several other ways to collect taxes. A few countries in Europe have successfully abolished income taxes by raising other taxes such as sales tax. Of course, this makes products more expensive but with the added amount of money you would receive on your paycheck, you will still be better off than you were paying income taxes.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the argument above?

- (A) The prices of products in European countries, when converted into US dollars at current rates are very similar to their prices in the United States.
 - (B) The increase in prices of products because of the increased sales tax rate will not more than offset the benefit of not paying any income taxes.
 - (C) The legislative body in the United States has stated that it will support the move to abolish income tax.
 - (D) Apart from increasing sales tax, the government can also increase other special taxes such as those on petroleum products.
 - (E) The government has enough funds in reserve currently to be able to absorb any shock because of lowered tax collection.
- 26) The reason for Kim's excellent performance in her final college tests is that she used to study for eight hours every day.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The fact that Kim took classes from the Teaching Company is not the reason for her excellent performance in her college tests.
- (B) In addition to studying for eight hours every day, Kim also did not miss a single class in her college.
- (C) In addition to her excellent performance in the college tests, Kim also won several awards for her performance in extracurricular activities such as debates and dramatics.
- (D) Both of Kim's parents are geniuses.
- (E) Some of Kim's friends, who used to study for much less duration than her, also performed very well on their final college tests.

- 27) A study of 1000 American citizens has found that 70 per cent of them would not work for a company with bad reputation even if they were unemployed and that nearly 90 per cent of them would consider leaving their current jobs if they were offered another role with a company that had an excellent corporate reputation. Of those willing to work for a company with a bad reputation, the research found that, on average, it would take doubling an employee's salary for them to make such a jump.

If the statements above are true, which of the following conclusions is most strongly supported by them?

- (A) At least 10% of the people in the survey would not mind working for a company with a bad reputation but would also consider leaving their current jobs to join another company with excellent corporate reputation.
 - (B) The survey is representative of the worker pool across the United States.
 - (C) At least 25% of the people in the survey would agree to do an unethical act if their salary was substantially increased.
 - (D) For US workers, higher salary takes precedence over the reputation of the company they work for.
 - (E) If a company in the US expects to attract the best talent, it must either have an excellent corporate reputation or be ready to pay high salaries.
- 28) One way in which companies can increase their productivity is by making use of telecommuting. Many office workers waste a lot of time in their cars or other modes of road transport every morning trying to reach office, and a lot of them spend their day attending video conferences and typing emails, activities which could easily be carried out from the comfort of their homes. So it makes sense for companies to encourage their employees to use telecommuting services and work from home rather than travel to the office every day.

In order to evaluate the above argument, it would be useful to determine each of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) Whether the cost of telecommuting will more than offset the increased productivity that comes about from its use
- (B) Whether the day to day work of most companies involves physical interaction amongst their employees
- (C) Whether a large part of the work of an average employee can be conducted using telecommuting services
- (D) Whether the use of telecommuting service will lead to increased revenues for the companies adopting this service
- (E) Whether the general traffic situation is likely to dramatically improve in the future

- 29) Buyers of used cars must love the color white. Of all the used cars sold in the country this year, as many as 60% were white.

Which of the following most weakens the argument?

- (A) The color white is easier to maintain and hides scratches really well, unlike other colors such as black.
- (B) White has been the most preferred car color of new car buyers in the country for several decades now.
- (C) The prices of used cars do not vary on the basis of the color of the cars.
- (D) There are more new cars sold in the country than used cars.
- (E) The huge depreciation costs on new cars make it very attractive to buy used cars in the country.

- 30) Researchers have found that one in five patients hospitalized for heart attack experiences a major depression. According to the cardiologists who conducted the research, the depressed patients are 55 percent more likely than other heart attack patients to need hospital care for a heart problem again within a year and three times as likely to die from a future attack or other heart-related conditions.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must be true?

- (A) If a person dies of a heart attack, there is a high probability that he may have been suffering from depression as well.
- (B) If a patient needs to be re-hospitalised for a heart related problem within a year of his earlier heart attack, it is very likely that he may be suffering from depression.
- (C) There are some similarities between symptoms of depression and symptoms of a heart attack in a patient.
- (D) Depressed people are more likely to die of a heart attack than are people who do not suffer from depression.
- (E) Suffering from a heart attack can lead to depression in some people.

- 31) To prevent the incidence of highway robberies, the government of Baptesia formed a Highway Patrol Force two years back whose sole task was to patrol the country's highways and prevent highway robberies. Ever since the formation of the Highway Patrol Force, there have been only a handful of highway robberies and the individual losses suffered in these robberies were far less than the expenses incurred on maintaining the Highway Patrol Force. The government of Baptesia should, thus, disband the Highway Patrol Force and provide compensation to victims of highway robberies instead.

The above argument is flawed because:

- (A) It ignores the fact that the presence of the Highway Patrol Force could be the reason for the small number of highway robberies in the past two years.
 - (B) It unjustifiably assumes that the government has enough money to pay compensation to the victims of highway robberies.
 - (C) It ignores the possibility that the Highway Patrol Force could be used for other purposes instead of being disbanded.
 - (D) It makes use of unverified facts to arrive at a conclusion.
 - (E) It does not consider data from other countries that have similar task forces before arriving at its conclusion.
- 32) A recent survey of buyers of luxury cars in Beecham city has revealed that males who are between 40 and 50 years of age and who live in the Southern part of the city are more likely to buy these cars than is any other demographic group in the city. Maxpages is a magazine that contains articles primarily relevant to males in the age group of 40 to 50 years and is circulated only in the Southern part of Beecham city. Using the findings of this survey, Terence, who owns two luxury car showrooms in Beecham city, has decided to advertise in the Maxpages magazine.

Which of the following would be most useful to know in determining whether Terence should advertise in the Maxpages magazine?

- (A) What is the exact number of luxury cars that were sold in all of Beecham city in the last one year?
- (B) What percent of the total car market is the luxury car market in Beecham city?
- (C) Do women and children play a major role in determining which luxury car to buy?
- (D) Is the luxury car market in Beecham city expected to grow over the next few years?
- (E) Would it be cheaper to advertise in some other magazine that is targeted at people of all age groups?

33) Which of the following best completes the passage below?

A study was recently conducted to determine whether power lines caused some kind of negative health effects. The researchers surveyed everyone living within 200 meters of high-voltage power lines over a 15-year period and looked for statistically significant increases in rates of over 1000 ailments. The study found that the incidence of childhood leukaemia was four times higher among those who lived closest to the power lines. However, this statistic by itself should not be a cause for alarm, because_____.

- (A) childhood leukemia can also be caused by other genetic factors
- (B) another study has found that most of the children who suffer from childhood leukemia stay far away from power lines
- (C) the number of potential ailments, that is, over 1000, was so large that it created a high probability that at least one ailment would exhibit statistically significant difference just by chance alone
- (D) there was no significant correlation between the other 999 diseases and how close to power lines a person stayed
- (E) childhood leukaemia, unlike leukaemia in adults, can be cured by medicines and therapy and is rarely fatal

34) The mayor of Newtown is up for re-election in a month's time and is extremely apprehensive of his chances. According to a recent survey conducted by a news channel in Hampstead, Newtown's most populous suburb, more than 80 percent of the respondents stated that they would not vote for the current mayor.

The mayor's apprehensions are based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) The people who were part of the survey will in no case change their mind.
- (B) The opinion of the residents of Hampstead is a pretty accurate representation of the opinion of the residents of Newtown as a whole.
- (C) The mayor was recently involved in a corruption scandal that received a lot of negative publicity in the print media.
- (D) The mayor did not do enough to help the victims of the hurricane that struck Newtown last year.
- (E) In the last three elections for the post of the mayor in Newtown, the incumbent mayor has never been re-elected to office.

- 35) According to a nationwide survey of college students, 70% of the students who major in Science in high school were likely to pursue an engineering degree in college. Interestingly, according to the same survey, 70% of the students pursuing an engineering degree in college had not majored in science in high school.

Which of the following inferences is best supported from the above statements?

- A. The number of students who studied science in high school is the same as the number of students who are pursuing an engineering degree in college but who did not major in science in high school.
 - B. There are more students pursuing science in high school than there are students pursuing science in colleges in the country.
 - C. A student's major in high school has no impact on the specialization she chooses to pursue in college.
 - D. There are more students pursuing an engineering degree who had taken up a non-science major in high school than there are students pursuing an engineering degree who had majored in science in school.
 - E. 30% of the students pursuing an engineering degree in the country had taken up a non-science major in high school.
- 36) Customer reviews are becoming a fixture on retail and consumer brand websites, with over 70% of retailers planning to feature them by the end of the year. The accelerated adoption of customer reviews indicates a more enlightened approach to handling negative comments, that is, the acknowledgment that occasional negative reviews do not hurt sales.

Under which of the following conditions is the above strategy likely to backfire?

- (A) The quality of the product in question is so poor that a customer is not likely to buy it in the first place.
- (B) There are frequent negative reviews for a product.
- (C) The 20% of the retailers who do not launch this feature decide to offer huge discounts on their products.
- (D) The customers of a product never come to know about the existence of this feature on the product website.
- (E) It costs retailers a considerable sum of money to implement this feature on their respective websites.

- 37) All the winners of the Great Indian Derby in the past 60 years have been horses that have been in the racing circuit for at least two years. While nobody knows for sure what the correlation between the two is, it remains beyond doubt that the winner of the Great Indian Derby will always be a horse that has been competing in races for at least two years.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above statements?

- (A) If a horse has been competing in races for two years or more, it will definitely win the Great Indian Derby.
 - (B) The Great Indian Derby is more competitive than other horse races in the country.
 - (C) The experience that comes as part of being active in the racing circuit for at least two years plays a valuable role in making a horse victorious in the Great Indian Derby.
 - (D) It is possible, on the off chance, for a horse to win the Great Indian Derby even if it has not been active in the racing circuit for at least two years.
 - (E) If a horse has not been part of the racing circuit for at least two years, it will not win the Great Indian Derby.
- 38) For the past two decades, Eton Coaching Institute has been the market leader in preparing students for the entrance test to medical schools in the country. While several new players have set up shop in the last few years, and have shown good results, it remains without doubts that if a student wishes to ace the medical school entrance test, his best chances are with Eton Coaching Institute.

The statements above, if true, best support which of the following assertions?

- (A) There is something unique about the books provided by the Eton Coaching Institute that makes its students perform very well in the medical school entrance test.
- (B) If a student does not join the Eton Coaching Institute, he will most likely fail to clear the medical school entrance test.
- (C) The teachers at Eton Coaching Institute are probably better than those at other institutes.
- (D) A student could clear the medical school entrance test, even if he hasn't prepared with the Eton Coaching Institute.
- (E) If a student has prepared with the Eton Coaching Institute, he will clear the medical school entrance test.

- 39) It is extremely unlikely that the incumbent governor will be voted back to office in the coming elections. According to a recent survey of residents of the state, more than 80% expressed dissatisfaction with the governor's performance and almost 60% stated that they would vote for the governor's opponent.

Which of the following most strongly supports the argument?

- (A) The views of most of the state's residents are in concordance with the views of the survey's respondents.
 - (B) The governor has received a lot of bad publicity in the past owing to his involvement in a corruption scandal.
 - (C) The survey only covered a small fraction of the state's populace.
 - (D) The governor's opponent is very popular amongst the residents of the state.
 - (E) The newspapers in the state are against the governor and favor his opponent instead.
- 40) The decision to ban the use of hands-free mobile phone headsets while driving is not justified. There is no doubt that mobile phone use while driving is distracting and dangerous. However, it is dangerous because drivers use their hands and eyes to operate the phone, when their full physical attention should be on the road. Hands-free technologies allow for mobile phone use without such distractions, and these options should remain legal.

Which of the following, if true, undermines the argument above?

- (A) The functioning of the eyes and the hands is governed by the brain and there is considerable evidence to show that the use of mobile phones distracts the brain.
- (B) Most good quality hands free headsets are expensive which will discourage people from buying them.
- (C) Just because something is legal does not necessarily mean that it is safe.
- (D) There have been some incidents of road accidents involving drivers who were talking on the mobile phones using hands-free technology while driving at the time of the accident.
- (E) There are other technologies available, such as the use of Bluetooth to connect one's mobile phone to the car's speaker system, that are much safer than the use of hands-free devices.

- 41) Researchers from a data analysis firm have found that the three most popular combinations—1234, 1111, and 0000—account for close to 20 percent of all four-digit passwords. The researchers also found that every four-digit combination that starts with 19, ranks above the 80th percentile in popularity, with those in the upper 1900s coming in the highest. Also quite common are combinations in which the first two digits are between 01 and 12 and the last two are between 01 and 31.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must be true?

- (A) The password 1922 will most likely be less popular than 1981.
 - (B) The password 0123 will most probably be more common than 2331.
 - (C) If a password was to be selected from a random list of 100 four digit passwords, there is a very high possibility that it will be 1234, 1111, or 0000.
 - (D) One out of three four digit passwords will be 1234, 1111, or 0000.
 - (E) Passwords starting with the digits 19 are more popular than those starting with 21.
- 42) A tricktykart is similar to a bicycle in that a rider uses pedals to propel it ahead. However, since it has three wheels and not two, a tricktykart cannot technically be considered a bicycle and, thus, tricktykart manufacturers cannot avail of the tax exemptions available to bicycle manufacturers.

Which of the following is assumed in the argument?

- (A) Since a tricktykart is very difficult to topple over, it is particularly useful for handicapped people and for those lacking a sense of balance.
- (B) Given the similarities between it and a bicycle, a tricktykart should, in fact, be considered a bicycle.
- (C) Any self-propelled vehicle that has more than two wheels cannot be considered a bicycle.
- (D) The government should make an exemption in the case of a tricktykart, given its importance for handicapped people, and provide tricktykart manufacturers with tax concessions.
- (E) A tricktykart cannot run on two wheels.

43) Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Over the years, supporters of slavery have put forward several view-points to rationalize their belief. One such argument states that some people are meant to be slaves as part of the natural order of the universe, or as part of God's plan, and it is wrong to interfere with this by abolishing slavery. However, such an argument is flawed, because it fails to take into account the fact that _____.

- (A) slavery is a cruel practice that does not find much favor with most people in the world
- (B) just because something is part of God's plan does not mean it is the morally correct thing to do
- (C) slavery is considered illegal in almost all the countries of the world
- (D) there exist no certain criteria to distinguish between natural slaves and those who should not be enslaved
- (E) just because something is meant to be does not mean that it has to be

44) The list of the highest paying cities in the world is headed by cities in Switzerland. This serves to reaffirm the fact that people in Western European cities on average earn three times more than those in Eastern Europe. The fact that, in Switzerland, deductions from salary are relatively low, further widens the gap between net wage level earned there and in other countries, especially in the rest of Western Europe. The largest wage differences are in Asia, where the highest value (Tokyo) is twelve times higher than the lowest (Delhi).

Which of the following can properly be inferred from the statements above?

- (A) The Swiss pay less money in taxes than do people in the rest of Western Europe.
- (B) Delhi is the poorest city in the Asian continent.
- (C) The wage difference between the richest and poorest cities of Eastern Europe is less than twelve times.
- (D) Switzerland is not situated in Western Europe.
- (E) Tokyo has more rich people than does Delhi.

45) The perceived value of goods and services, rather than just their price, is becoming an increasingly prominent factor in the purchase decisions of modern consumers, a new report has indicated. Thus, it can be concluded that consumers will be increasingly willing to spend extra on goods and services that are high-quality and durable.

For the above statements to be true, which of the following must be true?

- (A) The price of a product plays no role in the making of purchase decisions by modern consumers.
- (B) There is a positive relation between the quality of a product and its durability.
- (C) The modern consumer is not likely to allow the quality of a product to determine his purchase decision.
- (D) The ideal way for manufacturers to charge more for their products is to increase the perceived value of their products in the minds of the modern consumer.
- (E) The durability of a product is in some way related to its perceived value in the minds of modern consumers.

46) Companies X and Y have decided to enter into a joint venture to conduct mining operations together. As per the terms of the agreement, all metals that are unearthed will go to Company X and all non-metals will go to Company Y. Thus, all the Zinconium that is dug out should go to Company Y.

Which of the following most strengthens the argument?

- (A) Zinconium sells for very high prices in the international market.
- (B) The processing of Zinconium requires specialised machinery that is already available with Company Y.
- (C) The agreement between the two companies has no provision of sharing any of the resources that are dug out.
- (D) In terms of its chemical properties, Zinconium has more characteristics in common with non-metals than with metals.
- (E) Company Y will bear a larger proportion of the total cost of conducting the mining operations than will Company X.

- 47) The 17 countries of the Eurozone are all united by one currency—the euro, but that doesn't mean that there aren't price disparities in the continent. A sum of 20 Euros can buy you 35 cups of coffee in Portugal but only seven cups of coffee in Greece. The same amount of money can get you 16 cartons of eggs in Malta, but only seven cartons of eggs in Ireland.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- (A) On an average, a cup of coffee costs more in Portugal than in Greece.
- (B) A carton of eggs costs more in Malta than in Ireland.
- (C) Price disparities are an unusual phenomenon in the countries of the Eurozone.
- (D) The cost of a cup of coffee in Greece is the same as that of a carton of eggs in Ireland.
- (E) Portugal is a cheaper country to stay in than is Greece.

- 48) John, a stock broker, has a list of companies whose shares he recommends his clients to invest in. Over the past one year, the share price of 20 companies listed on the stock exchange has appreciated by 100% or more and 16 of these companies are part of John's list. Thus John claims that he is an expert at picking stocks and that more and more investors should park their funds with him to get the maximum return on their investment.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most important in determining whether an investor should park his funds with John?

- (A) How many companies are there on John's list?
- (B) Whether any other stock broker has also showed similar or better performance last year?
- (C) What is the total number of companies listed on the stock exchange?
- (D) Has John shown similar results in the previous years as well?
- (E) Does John hire the services of someone else to identify stocks in which his clients should invest?

49) Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Measured globally, car use will continue to increase, for as people in emerging markets get rich, they want the mobility and status that car-ownership offers. But in the rich world, the decades-long link between rising incomes and car use has been severed and miles driven per person have been falling. This does not, however, warrant the conclusion that automobile manufacturers located in rich countries should brace themselves for tough times ahead, since _____.

- (A) a reduction in car use does not necessarily indicate a reduction in car sales.
- (B) fears about smog and global warming have led many people in rich countries to prefer the use of public transport to that of private cars.
- (C) fuel prices are expected to increase further in the next few years.
- (D) there are several new car launches lined up in rich countries over the next couple of years
- (E) relatively poorer countries will then probably generate even lower car sales.

50) According to the results of a new ground-breaking research, those who wake up early in the morning are generally more alert during the day than those who wake up late. Thus, companies should insist that all their employees wake up early so that they remain alert all through the day.

Which of the following is an assumption in the above argument?

- (A) People who wake up early in the morning will not get lethargic during the day.
- (B) It is a good idea for employees to remain alert during the day.
- (C) Alert employees are generally more productive than lethargic ones.
- (D) An alert nature does not cause people to wake up early in the morning.
- (E) Lethargy can be cured in other ways as well such as by having a cup of strong coffee.

Answers and Explanations

Q No.	Answer	Q No.	Answer
1	A	26	A
2	D	27	A
3	C	28	D
4	D	29	B
5	D	30	B
6	B	31	A
7	B	32	C
8	A	33	C
9	C	34	B
10	E	35	D
11	E	36	B
12	C	37	E
13	A	38	D
14	E	39	A
15	C	40	A
16	C	41	A
17	C	42	C
18	E	43	D
19	D	44	C
20	E	45	E
21	D	46	D
22	D	47	D
23	C	48	A
24	E	49	A
25	B	50	D

- 1) Financial Expert: Our country has a very high debt-to-GDP ratio and it's difficult for a country with a high debt-to-GDP ratio to grow in a dynamic manner. Moreover, our debt is increasing and that means inflation is getting worse. All in all, our country is badly managed these days.

Which of the following assertions is most strongly supported by the passage?

- (A) High debt has an adverse impact on the inflation rate.
- (B) It is not possible for a badly managed country to grow in a dynamic manner.
- (C) High level of debt is extremely detrimental to the growth of a country.
- (D) Growing inflation is a sign of a badly managed country.
- (E) Whatever growth is happening in this particular country cannot possibly be called dynamic growth

Answer: A

Explanation:

Since this is an Inference question, let's look at each answer choice and eliminate.

- A. **Correct.** The argument clearly states that increasing debt is worsening the inflation rate, so then A can definitely be inferred.
- B. This cannot necessarily be concluded. We don't even know what all things constitute a badly managed country, so then we definitely cannot conclude this.
- C. We know that high level of debt to GDP ratio is detrimental for the growth of a country but from this we cannot necessarily conclude that high level of debt by itself is extremely detrimental. If the GDP is also high then high level of debt could be a good thing.
- D. This may not necessarily be true because the argument states that all the things together constitute a badly managed country, but what is true for the whole may not be true for each part.
- E. The argument states that it's difficult for this country to grow in a dynamic manner and not that it is impossible for this country to do so.

- 2) In the early 1960s, Myanmar was the richest country in Asia, but then it closed its economy to the outside world, and it is now the poorest country in the region. However, Myanmar is now opening up its economy to the outside world once again, and so will soon regain its former glory. Thus, it makes sense for smart investors to invest in Myanmar.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) A closed economy will rapidly deplete the financial resources of a country.
- (B) The countries that dealt with Myanmar in 1962 will still be interested in dealing with it.
- (C) If Myanmar does not open up its economy to the outside world, it will continue to remain poor.
- (D) The severe internal unrest that has continued in Myanmar for the last several years is not responsible for its current financial state.
- (E) At least some smart investors are currently aware of Myanmar's past glory.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The argument concludes that the only reason why Myanmar became the poorest country in the Asian region is that it closed its economy to the outside world. Thus, it assumes that there can be no other explanation for this fact. D is one such passive assumption, which has to be true for the conclusion to be true. If you negate D then the argument will fall apart.

- A. This may be inferred from the argument but is definitely not an assumption.
- B. This doesn't necessarily have to be true. New countries may want to deal with Myanmar now.
- C. Again, this may be an inference but is not an assumption.
- D. The correct answer.**
- E. This point is irrelevant to the argument.

- 3) While critics have written off the APG company's new Model T chandelier, owing to its poor sales across the globe, the Model T is actually not a complete failure because it has managed to sell 10,000 pieces in Eastern Europe, a market in which rival companies haven't even managed to sell 5,000 pieces of their respective chandeliers.

Which of the following is assumed in the above argument?

- (A) If a chandelier does not sell well in the Eastern European market, then it is a complete failure.
- (B) The Eastern European market is the biggest market for chandeliers.
- (C) If a chandelier sells well in the Eastern European market, then it cannot be considered a complete failure.
- (D) The Model T is the only type of chandelier manufactured by the APG company.
- (E) If the Model T had not sold in good numbers in Eastern Europe, then it could have been considered a complete failure.

Answer: C

Explanation:

In this question, students often get confused between choices A and C because they feel that the two choices are saying the same thing. However, this is not the case. It is very much possible that a chandelier does not sell well in Eastern Europe but it sells in huge numbers in the rest of the world. Then it obviously cannot be considered a failure. Thus, A is not a valid assumption. C, on the other hand, has to be true if the argument has to stand.

- A. Doesn't necessarily have to be true as explained above.
- B. The size of the Eastern European market has got nothing to do with the assumption.
- C. The correct answer.**
- D. The range of chandeliers manufactured by the APG Company makes no difference to the assumption.
- E. This could be an inference at best but not the assumption by any stretch.

- 4) G. Bell Corporation, a manufacturer of mobile handsets, has claimed to have become the leading seller of mobile handsets, in terms of units sold, in the country. According to latest figures released by all the handset manufacturers in the country, G. Bell Corporation managed to sell 80 percent of the total handsets that it manufactured during the year whereas the market leader, H. Wells Corporation, managed to sell only 50 percent of its total handsets.

Which of the following identifies a flaw in G. Bell Corporation's reasoning?

- (A) It does not take into account H. Wells Corporation's huge book of advance orders for handsets that need to be shipped during the next year.
- (B) It incorrectly assumes that the current trend will continue into the next year as well.
- (C) It makes no comparison of the average price at which G. Bell Corporation sold its handsets and the average price at which H. Wells Corporation sold its handsets.
- (D) It does not take into account the total number of handsets sold by either manufacturer.
- (E) It does not take into account the total market size for mobile handsets in the country.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Note that the argument states that G. Bell sold 80% of its total production (and not of the total market size) and H. Wells sold 50% of its total production. For the conclusion to be true, the argument has to assume that the total number of handsets manufactured by the two manufacturers is the same, but this may not be the case. D questions this fact and so is the correct answer.

- A. Future sales are outside the scope of the argument. For all you know, G. Bell could also have equally large advance order bookings.
- B. The argument assumes no such thing.
- C. The argument is concerned with units sold so the price is outside the scope.
- D. The correct answer.**
- E. The total market size is again irrelevant because we don't know how much of the total market size each of the two manufacturers accounts for.

- 5) The supply of iron ore, the most important component in steelmaking, has been steadily declining in Marco city. This has forced steel manufacturing units in Marco city to source iron ore from far off mines leading to an increase in their transportation costs. Because transportation costs make up a large chunk of the total cost of steelmaking, the steel manufacturers in Marco city have had no option but to increase the selling price of their steel. This has, in turn, led to an increase in the retail prices of utensils and other articles of daily use made of steel. Since the retail consumers now have to pay more for these steel items, while their earnings remain unchanged, they have decided to cut down on their non-essential expenditure such as that on movie tickets. This has led movie theatres in Marco city to reduce their ticket prices.

Which of the following provides the most support for the assertion that the prices of movie tickets in Marco city will continue to decline in future?

- (A) The people of Marco city will not be willing to cut down their expenditure on eating out.
- (B) After the inauguration of the Goldport Bridge, expected to happen very soon, the transportation costs to Marco city will be halved.
- (C) There are no blockbuster movies with stellar star casts lined up for release anytime soon.
- (D) The supply of iron ore to Marco city is expected to decrease even more in the near future.
- (E) Residents of Marco city view movie tickets as non-essential items of expenditure.

Answer: D

Explanation:

This argument consists of a series of cause and effects, wherein the effect of one event becomes the cause of another event. The last item in this chain is the reduction of movie ticket prices by movie theatres in Marco City. So, one entire chain of cause and effect has ended with movie theatres lowering their ticket prices. Now, why will the movie theatres lower their ticket prices even further? Only if this cycle of cause and effect were to start all over again and continue on and on. Since the cycle starts with the decline in supply of iron ore to Marco city, for the cycle to continue, the supply of iron ore has to keep on decreasing in future as well. D states this and is the correct answer.

- A. Unless we are told whether the expenditure on eating out is essential or non-essential expenditure, this point will be irrelevant to the argument.
- B. This should actually weaken the argument by suggesting that the impact of reduced iron ore supply could be absorbed by the reduction in transport cost.
- C. The presence of blockbuster movies is outside the scope of the argument.
- D. The correct answer.**
- E. Even if this is so, the movie ticket prices should stabilize at their new low prices. Why should they decrease further?

- 6) There are two ways in which an athlete can maximize her performance on the field—by improving her physical stamina or by improving her mental stamina. Research has clearly shown that physical stamina is much more important than mental stamina in boosting an athlete’s performance in the field. Thus, if an athlete is working at improving her physical stamina, she is doing the most she can to maximize her performance in the field.

Which of the following most strengthens the above argument?

- (A) According to another research, when athletes with comparable levels of mental stamina compete on the field, the one with the higher physical stamina invariably comes out as the winner.
- (B) A combination of physical and mental stamina cannot boost the performance of an athlete any more than what physical stamina can by itself.
- (C) Critics of the research mentioned in the argument claim that it considerably overestimates the importance of physical stamina in maximizing the performance of an athlete.
- (D) There are other aspects, apart from stamina, that also play a significant role in maximizing the performance of an athlete on the field.
- (E) If an athlete focuses more on developing her mental rather than physical stamina, she is likely to perform poorly in the field.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The argument states that there are two ways of doing something and that one of the ways is more effective than the other. On the basis of this, it concludes that if someone is using this better way, then she is doing the most she can to maximize the results. The assumption obviously is that the person cannot use both the ways together. For example, it is possible that if an athlete were to improve both her physical and her mental stamina, she can boost her performance even more than by just working on her physical stamina. The argument assumes that this will not be the case. B states this best and should be the correct answer.

A – This just further confirms the research’s conclusion. However, the fact still stands that what if the athlete were to work at improving both—her physical and her mental stamina. Would her performance improve even more then?

B - Correct.

C – This weakens the argument by suggesting that the research’s conclusion may have been erroneous.

D – The other aspects are outside the scope of the argument.

E – This can probably be an inference from the argument but it cannot be the assumption.

- 7) According to a report by the American Staffing Federation (ASF), the government's new policy for the retail industry is likely to create 2 million jobs for fresh graduates over the next three years. The ASF has, thus, welcomed the government's move to implement this policy across the nation as its implementation will lead to a lowering of the national unemployment rate.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most serious doubt on the accuracy of ASF's conclusion?

- (A) Opponents of the policy will not allow the government to implement the policy anytime soon.
- (B) The new policy will result in a large number of uneducated workers becoming redundant and, as a result, losing their jobs.
- (C) There are several other ways of lowering the national unemployment rate available to the government.
- (D) The nation faces more serious problems than unemployment and the government should instead focus on resolving those first.
- (E) The implementation of the new policy is going to cost the government a considerable amount of money so the government will most likely increase corporate tax rates to recover this amount.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The argument concludes that the government's new policy to create jobs should be supported because it will create a large number of jobs for a particular group—fresh graduates. However, if there was evidence to show that this policy could lead to large scale job loss in another segment (uneducated workers), then the benefits of the policy would be negated. Choice B does this and is the correct answer.

- A. The question is not whether the policy will actually be implemented or not but whether the policy should be implemented.
- B. The correct answer.**
- C. We are not concerned about the other ways but about whether this new policy should be that way.
- D. The other problems that a nation faces are outside the scope of the argument.
- E. The government might be willing to foot the cost if the returns are worth it, so this does not necessarily weaken the argument.

- 8) It seems that employees at middle management positions who wish to get promoted to senior management positions in their companies should start purchasing clothes from leading fashion designers. In a recent survey of 1000 employees working at different senior management positions, as many as 80% stated that they only bought clothes from leading fashion designers.

Which of the following most weakens the argument?

- (A) The senior managers mentioned in the survey only started purchasing clothes from leading fashion designers after they became senior managers.
- (B) The clothes manufactured by leading fashion designers are usually very expensive and outside the reach of most middle level managers.
- (C) Most employees at senior management positions are no smarter than those at middle management positions.
- (D) Some employees do not manage to reach senior management positions, even though they wear clothes manufactured by leading fashion designers.
- (E) Wearing clothes manufactured by leading fashion designers can, in some way, improve the prospects of an employee getting promoted to senior management positions.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The argument is based on the assumption that the only or at least one of the primary reasons why the employees at senior management positions have reached those positions is the clothes they wear.

A – **Correct.** This choice directly contradicts the above assumption by stating that these employees started wearing these clothes only after they reached senior management positions. Thus, the clothes couldn't possibly have played any role in them getting promoted to these positions.

B – While this choice may look good, it does nothing to weaken the causal connection mentioned in the argument. If the causal connection were to indeed hold true, the employees at middle management positions may even want to take out loans to purchase these expensive clothes as that is the only way they can get promoted to senior management positions.

C – This somewhat strengthens the argument by suggesting that different levels of 'smartness' is not the reason why these people have got promoted to senior management positions. Then the reason could very well be the clothes that they wear.

D – The argument never states that this will be a sufficient condition to get to senior management positions, but that it may be a necessary condition. It is possible that even after wearing clothes by leading fashion designers, you still don't reach senior management positions for some other reason.

E – This could be an inference from the argument but is definitely not the assumption.

- 9) According to those in favour of privatization of Social Security in the US, the current system is impossible to sustain. Decades ago, there were many more workers for every recipient but now the situation has reversed. Sooner or later, the fund will not be able to meet its obligations, because there will be more payments going out, than income coming in. Privatizing the system for the future recipients, while gradually phasing out the system for current and near-term recipients, is probably the best way to keep the system viable.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most useful in determining whether privatization of Social Security in the US is a good idea?

- (A) Whether privatization has proved successful for other government provided services such as employee provident funds
- (B) Whether the population of the US is likely to increase significantly in the future
- (C) Whether the growth in the number of workers in the US is likely to outstrip the growth in the number of dependents in the future
- (D) Whether privatization of social security will lead to large scale protests by US citizens
- (E) Whether taking loans can help the Social Security system tide over the problem of reduction in funds coming into the system

Answer: C

Explanation:

The argument assumes that in the US, the number of dependents in the future will be far greater than the number of earning workers, a situation that will lead to the social security funds drying up. However, if this assumption is not true, then the Social Security system could continue working as it has been over the years. C points out this fact and is the correct answer.

- A. Whether privatization has proved successful for other services has no bearing on whether privatization will work for the Social Security system.
- B. The problem is not the population growth rate but the ratio between earners and dependents. As long as this ratio remains favourable, an increase in population should not make any difference.
- C. The correct answer.**
- D. This is not the basis of the argument's conclusion.
- E. Taking loans can provide a short-term solution but the problem will remain in the long term.

- 10) Large corporations use several strategies to minimize their tax payments, without doing anything explicitly illegal. One such strategy involves the use of transfer pricing, wherein subsidiaries in different countries charge each other for goods or services sold within the group. This is particularly popular among technology and drug manufacturing companies that have lots of intellectual property, the value of which is especially subjective. These intra-company royalty transactions are supposed to be arm's length, but are often priced to minimise profits in high-tax countries and maximise them in low-tax ones.

If the above statements are true, then which of the following could be a strategy adopted by a company that wants to get the maximum benefit out of transfer pricing?

- (A) Sell products at low prices to its subsidiary located in a high tax rate country
- (B) Charge its subsidiary located in a low tax rate country high prices for products sold
- (C) Pay its subsidiary located in a high tax rate country high prices for products bought
- (D) Pay its subsidiary located in a low tax rate country low prices for products bought
- (E) Pay its subsidiary located in a low tax rate country high prices for products bought

Answer: E

Explanation

To get the maximum benefits out of transfer pricing, a company would want to show maximum earnings in a low tax country or minimum earnings in a high tax country. Choice E states that the company would pay high prices to its subsidiary in a low tax country, that is, the earnings of the subsidiary will be high and these will be taxed at a low rate, so the company will benefit overall.

- A. When the company sells products, it receives money. Since we have no idea about the tax rate in the country where the company is located, this choice is irrelevant.
- B. Same as A. (When the company charges its subsidiary, it receives money)
- C. If the company pays high prices to its subsidiary in a high tax rate country, the income of the subsidiary will be high and the tax on this income will also be high. So the company will lose money.
- D. In this case, even though the subsidiary will pay lower taxes, its revenues will also be less because of the low prices charged.
- E. **The correct answer.**

- 11) Mr. Ice sells ice cream for \$1 each. Mr. Freeze sells a different ice cream for \$3 each. On one Sunday, at the end of the day's business, Mr Ice had sold three times as many ice creams as Mr Freeze. Interestingly, they had both also made the same amount of profit for that day.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above statements?

- (A) The total cost incurred by Mr Freeze for that day was three times that incurred by Mr Ice.
- (B) Mr Ice's ice cream is more popular than Mr. Freeze's ice cream.
- (C) The total cost incurred by Mr Ice for that day was three times that incurred by Mr. Freeze.
- (D) Mr Freeze's ice cream sells in smaller numbers because of its higher selling price.
- (E) Both Mr Ice and Mr Freeze incurred the same costs for that day.

Answer: E

Explanation:

The stimulus states that Mr Ice sold three times as many ice creams as did Mr Freeze. Note that the selling price of Mr Freeze's ice cream is three times that of Mr Ice's ice cream. So, this means that both of them made the same amount of dollar sales for that day. The stimulus also states that they made the same amount of profit at the end of that day. Thus, if sales and profits are the same, the costs have to be the same as well. **Choice E is the correct answer.**

- 12) The main purpose of business is to maximize shareholder value over the long term by selling goods or services. Thus, employees who use funds for anything other than to increase their sales are simply cheating the shareholders.

Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?

- (A) Most business owners would agree with the above definition of the purpose of a business.
- (B) Increasing sales is not the only way to maximize shareholder value.
- (C) Spending money on making the workplace more comfortable for employees will not lead to increased worker productivity and in turn increased business profits.
- (D) The only function of a business is to maximize returns for its shareholders.
- (E) According to this definition, many employees could be accused of cheating.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The argument assumes that the only way to maximize shareholder value is by increasing sales. This can lead us to several passive assumptions. Choice C contains one such assumption. Notice that if you negate C, the argument will fall apart.

- A. Whether business owners agree with this definition is irrelevant
- B. This weakens the argument whereas we need to find an assumption
- C. The correct answer**
- D. This is directly stated in the argument, so it cannot be the assumption
- E. This could be an inference but is definitely not an assumption

- 13) The Bakers football team has been struggling for form all through the past two years in which it has not even managed to reach the semi-finals of any major football tournament. To arrest this decline, the team management has now decided to reappoint its former coach, Charles Keith, who had been sacked two years back.

Which of the following choices gives reason to believe that the team management's strategy may not work?

- (A) Several of the team's most successful players have left the team in the past two years.
- (B) The team has been receiving a lot of negative press for its poor performance in the past two years.
- (C) Charles Keith had been sacked two years ago by the team management on account of corruption charges, which couldn't eventually be proved.
- (D) The team that Charles Keith has been coaching for the past two years hasn't been performing particularly well.
- (E) The continuous string of poor performances has led to a loss of morale among several members of the football team.

Answer: A

Explanation: The argument assumes that the only reason for the decline in the football team's performance is the sacking of Charles Keith. However, there could be other reasons for this decline as well and to weaken the argument, we need to highlight one such reason, which choice A does. The cause of the decline may not be the departure of the coach but that of several of the team's best players. If this were the case, re-hiring the coach will not arrest the decline in team performance.

A - Correct.

B – The appointment of the coach is precisely to counter this negative press by improving the performance of the team.

C – The reason for Charles Keith's sacking is not our concern.

D – There could be several reasons for this. Maybe this team is made up of amateurs or is not motivated enough.

E – Same as Choice B.

- 14) A jewellery manufacturer produces rings in two metals—gold and platinum. The manufacturer has noted that, over the last three years, the gold rings have consistently outsold the platinum ones by a large margin, even though the designs available in both the metals are exactly the same. This has led the manufacturer to conclude that consumers prefer gold to platinum.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) Over the last three years, diamond rings have outsold both gold and platinum ones.
- (B) Jewellery buyers give more importance to design than to the metal used.
- (C) Platinum is easier to maintain than is gold.
- (D) Platinum rings take longer to produce than do gold rings.
- (E) Gold rings cost considerably less than do platinum ones.

Answer: E

Explanation:

The argument concludes that just because gold rings sell more than platinum rings, customers prefer the metal gold to the metal platinum. But there can clearly be other reasons why customers prefer gold rings to platinum ones—maybe the gold rings are cheaper or have better designs or are easier to resell. Any such choice can weaken the argument. E highlights the cost aspect and should be the correct answer.

- A. The argument is only concerned with gold and platinum rings. Diamond rings are outside the scope of the argument.
- B. This does not necessarily suggest that customers don't pay attention to the metal used or that gold rings have better designs than platinum ones. Maybe the second item on the customers' preference checklist, after the design, is the metal used.
- C. If this were true then platinum rings should be selling more, so why are gold rings selling more?
- D. The amount of time it takes to produce a ring in either metal is irrelevant.
- E. **The correct answer.**

- 15) It is not correct on the part of the district administration to ban the sport of drag racing. After all, only 50 people have been injured in the last one year while drag racing whereas more than 400 people have been injured while playing baseball. The administration should, thus, ban baseball instead.

The argument above is flawed because:

- (A) It compares two different types of sports.
- (B) It does not take into account the treatment cost of the injuries sustained in either sport.
- (C) It fails to take into account the total number of people who drag race and who play baseball.
- (D) It does not take into account injuries caused in other sports such as boxing.
- (E) It uses inaccurate data to support its conclusion.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The argument is looking at 50 and 400 as absolute numbers whereas it should look at them as percentages. For example, if 100 people drag race and 50 are injured, that is a 50% injury rate. As against this, if 10,000 people play football and 400 are injured, that is only a 4% injury rate. Thus, Choice C highlights the flaw in the argument.

A – There is nothing wrong in comparing two different things, as long as they are both types of sports.

B – The cost of treatment is outside the scope of the argument.

C - Correct.

D – Other sporting activities are outside the scope of the argument.

E – There is nothing in the argument to suggest that it uses inaccurate data.

- 16) Almost all arguments against the theory of evolution stem from the fact that it is very difficult to prove how a group of non-living elements can combine together and give rise to life. However, just because something cannot be proved with certainty today doesn't mean that the possibility isn't there. Remember, there was a time when almost the entire world believed the Earth was the centre of the universe until Galileo came by and proved otherwise.

The statements above, if true, best support which of the following assertions?

- (A) At one point of time, Galileo was the only person who believed that the earth was not the centre of the universe.
- (B) A majority of scientists do not agree with the theory of evolution.
- (C) It is difficult to prove the theory of evolution with certainty.
- (D) When Galileo stated that the sun and not the earth was the centre of the universe, he was called insane by his compatriots.
- (E) Everything that, at one time, seems impossible will, at some point in the future, become possible.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Let's look at each answer choice and eliminate:

- A. We can't say this for sure. There may have been more people who believed so but were scared of speaking up.
- B. We know for sure that some scientists do not agree with the theory of evolution. However, whether they are in majority or not is something we do not know.
- C. **The correct answer;** this almost paraphrases the opening lines of the stimulus.
- D. While some of you may know that this is true, this cannot be inferred from the stimulus.
- E. Extreme generalization. May not be true for everything and the argument never suggests this anyway.

- 17) 30 years ago residents of Pandora County used to buy an average of 10 books every year. Today, the residents of Pandora County buy an average of three books every year. Therefore, it can be concluded that book sales in Pandora County must have fallen over these 30 years.

The argument above rests on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) The residents of Pandora County used to have more free time 30 years ago than they do now.
- (B) The residents of Pandora County have many more activities that vie for their attention today than 30 years back.
- (C) The population of Pandora County hasn't increased significantly in the last 30 years.
- (D) The literacy rate hasn't changed significantly in Pandora County over the past 30 years.
- (E) Those residents of Pandora County who used to read 30 years ago have now not become too old to read.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The argument concludes that since the average number of books purchased per person in Pandora County has decreased over the past 30 years, the total book sales in Pandora County must have also decreased. But what if the population of Pandora County has increased several times in the past 30 years? So, earlier if 100 people were buying 10 books each to give a total sale of 1000 books, today 500 people may be buying 3 books each to give a total sale of 1500 books.

Therefore, for the conclusion to be true, the assumption has to be that the population of Pandora County hasn't increased significantly over the last 30 years.

- A. How much time each resident spends reading has no connection with how many books are sold.
- B. This point is irrelevant to the argument.
- C. The correct answer.**
- D. While the literacy rate may seem relevant, this choice may or may not be true but it doesn't have to be true for our conclusion to be true.
- E. This point is irrelevant to the argument.

18) Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

A new palm vein scanning technology is being developed by scientists that could be used with laptops or other tablet devices. This technology involves the use of a biometric sensor that can scan the unique pattern of veins in a people's palms to verify their identity. This technology could do away with the problem of remembering multiple passwords to access different websites. However, the technology would require new biometric sensors to be built into computers but this should not be a hindrance in the success of the new technology, because_____.

- (A) the new technology is bound to be extremely popular with computer users
- (B) the biometric sensors do not cost a lot of money and are available in plentiful supply
- (C) most people have forgotten one or more of their passwords at some point in their lives
- (D) there is almost always a market for innovations such as these
- (E) the biometric sensors can be easily and cost effectively built into computers

Answer: E

Explanation

Since the leading word is *because*, we need to strengthen the conclusion that the requirement of biometric sensors to be built into computers will not be a problem. Choice E does this best and is the correct answer.

- A. The technology may be popular but if this technology is very expensive, then most people may not be able to afford it.
- B. Even if the biometric sensors themselves are cheap, their installation in computers could be very expensive.
- C. This is an irrelevant fact.
- D. The market may not be there if these innovations become very costly.
- E. **The correct answer.**

- 19) Those who claim that the Kribki Company is poorly managed often cite, as evidence, the fact that the Kribki Company has twice as many complaints listed against it on a popular complaint website than its nearest competitor. However, this data does not necessarily prove that the Kribki Company is poorly managed because _____.

Which of the following best completes the argument above?

- (A) the Kribki Company also has a lot of loyal customers who have great things to say about it
- (B) the website on which the complaints are listed started operations only one year ago whereas the Kribki Company has been in the business for more than three decades
- (C) the Kribki Company has twice as many people manning its customer service department than does its nearest competitor
- (D) the Kribki Company has six times as many customers as its nearest competitor
- (E) the Kribki Company does eventually manage to resolve the complaint of most of its customers

Answer: D

Explanation:

Note that the choice that goes in the blank has to show that the Kribki Company is not poorly managed despite the evidence cited in the argument. If the Kribki Company has six times as many customers as its nearest competitor but only twice as many complaints, then in percentage terms the Kribki Company is actually much better managed than its closest competitor. Thus, D is the correct answer.

A – The evidence still stands that the number of complaints against the Kribki Company is twice that against its nearest competitor.

B – This has no bearing on the argument.

C – This still does not explain how the number of complaints against the Kribki Company is twice that against its nearest competitor.

D - **Correct.**

E – While it may eventually be resolving the complaints of its customers, this still shows that the Kribki Company is poorly managed.

- 20) "Angel dusting" is a process wherein an ingredient, which would be beneficial in a reasonable quantity, is instead added by manufacturers to their products in an insignificant quantity so that they can make the claim that their product contains that ingredient, and mislead the consumer into expecting that they will gain the benefits provided by that ingredient. For example, a cereal may claim it contains "10 essential vitamins and minerals", but the amounts of each may be only 1% or less of the Reference Daily Intake, providing virtually no benefit or nutrition.

If the above statements are true, which of the following could be an example of Angel dusting?

- (A) A laptop that claims to have the longest battery backup, actually has a backup just 10% longer than is provided by its closest competitor.
- (B) A book that claims to cover all the concepts of Organic Chemistry actually provides just one example of each concept.
- (C) A vitamin capsule that claims to contain 23 vitamins and amino acids contains less than 3% of each.
- (D) A protein shake that claims to contain a magic ingredient that can make muscles grow faster, only contains 20% of this ingredient's daily recommended intake.
- (E) An apartment that claims to have used Italian marble for its flooring has used exactly one slab of Italian marble and the remaining ninety-nine slabs of regular marble.

Answer: E

Explanation:

Choice E is the correct answer. If the advertising suggests that the use of Italian marble has been done in the entire apartment and, in fact, only one out of hundred tiles is made of Italian marble, then it is as good as not having Italian marble in the apartment at all.

- A. This does not suggest that the laptop has a short battery backup.
- B. The book claims to cover all the concepts, which it apparently does; it never claims to provide several examples of every concept.
- C. We have no idea whether 3% of these vitamins and amino acids is adequate or inadequate. Even if the 23 ingredients are equally divided, each will comprise around 4% of the capsule, so 3% is not as low as it sounds. In any case, we don't have any reference data.
- D. Again, we don't have any reference data. It is possible that 20% of the magic ingredient coming from one source is a very good thing because the other sources contain less than 1% of the daily recommended intake of this ingredient.
- E. **The correct answer.** This choice is the best of the lot because it gives you a reference figure of 99 tiles. If the apartment had five slabs of marble and one of them was Italian marble, then this may not necessarily be an example of Angel dusting, but the use of one tile out of 99 is definitely an example of Angel Dusting. This is the best answer from the given choices.

- 21) In the year 2000, olive oils made up just 40% of the liquid oils market, with standard oils making 52% and speciality oils accounting for the remainder. But now, fuelled by health concerns and a general move towards premium products, the tables have turned. Today, the olive oil sector is worth some \$104 million and alone accounts for an estimated 51% of the total market.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- (A) In 2000, the total worth of the olive oil sector was less than \$104 million.
- (B) The total sales of the standard oils at present time are lower than their sales in 2000.
- (C) Olive oil is healthier than all other oils available in the market.
- (D) The market share of the standard oils category today must have declined from what it was in 2000.
- (E) The total value of the specialty oil category today is higher than what it was in 2000.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Since this is an Inference question, let's look at each answer choice and eliminate.

- A. This does not necessarily have to be the case. What if the total market for liquid oils has shrunk? Then, even though olive oil could have a larger share of this market, in absolute terms, its total value may have gone down.
- B. Again this may not be the case if the total market for liquid oils has expanded significantly.
- C. Extreme answer choice. There could be healthier oils than olive oil available in the market.
- D. **The correct answer.** In 2000, the market share of the standard oils category was 52% and currently, the market share of olive oils is 51%. So, then the market share of standard oils category currently cannot be greater than 49%, which is less than 52%.
- E. This may not be the case if the overall market for liquid oils has shrunk.

22) The consumption of tobacco in the country has fallen drastically in the past one year. During the same period of time, the government has been running a sustained advertising campaign to educate citizens about the ill effects of chewing tobacco. Thus, the government's advertising campaign has proved to be a resounding success.

Which of the following choices most weakens the argument?

- (A) The government has had to spend a huge amount of money on this advertising campaign, an amount that it will eventually recover from the general public in the form of new taxes.
- (B) More and more tobacco consumers in the past one year have now shifted to consuming relatively harmless substances, such as chewing gum.
- (C) The consumption of alcoholic drinks has increased in the country in the past one year.
- (D) Tobacco prices have more than tripled in the country in the past one year.
- (E) All the major tobacco companies are still in business in the country.

Answer: D

Explanation:

This argument is testing you on Causality. The argument assumes that there can be no other reason (other than government's advertising campaign) for the decline in tobacco consumption in the country. Choice D provides you one such reason, and so, weakens the argument.

A – The point still stands that the reason for the fall in tobacco consumption in the country could be the government's advertising campaign. How the government decides to recover this money is outside the scope of the argument.

B – What new products the tobacco consumers have shifted to does not make any difference to the causality mentioned in the argument.

C – Alcoholic drinks are outside the scope of the argument.

D - Correct.

E – There could be several reasons for this, but this has no bearing on the causality mentioned in the argument.

- 23) Jim Rogers: "It's very difficult for foreigners to do business in India because India doesn't like foreigners and keeps them away. The biggest proof of this is Walmart, which has many stores in China, but not a single fully-owned store in India, simply because India doesn't like overseas businessmen."

Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?

- (A) There is nothing that can make India like foreign businessmen.
- (B) The fact that Walmart has many stores in China proves that China loves foreigners.
- (C) The limited size of the Indian market hasn't stopped Walmart from entering India.
- (D) Any foreign company other than Walmart is also not present in India.
- (E) China's policies are more favourable towards foreigners than are India's policies.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The argument concludes that the reason Walmart does not have any stores in India is that India does not like foreigners. However, there could be other reasons as well for Walmart not doing so. Thus, in arriving at its conclusion, the argument assumes that there could be no other reason for Walmart not entering India, such as Walmart itself not wanting to enter India. Choice C points out one such passive assumption and is the correct answer.

- A. This is irrelevant and not necessary for the argument to be true.
- B. Whether China loves foreigners or not is not our concern.
- C. The correct answer.**
- D. The argument never talks about any other company so this cannot be an assumption in the argument.
- E. This may or may not be an inference but is definitely not an assumption.

24) Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A recent experiment has revealed that a person stands the best chance of surviving a plane crash if he or she is sitting at the back of the aircraft. A Boeing 727 was crashed on purpose into the Sahara desert, and various aspects of the impact were analysed. One of the findings of this experiment was that dummies placed at the back of the airplane suffered much less damage than the ones placed at the front. Thus, when traveling by airplanes, you would be much better off sitting at the back, assuming _____.

- (A) that all the seats at the back of the plane haven't already been booked
- (B) that the plane will be flying over the Sahara desert
- (C) that the plane is manufactured by Boeing and has been part of the test described in the stimulus
- (D) that the plane does not crash on its tail
- (E) that these results apply to airplane crashes in general, and not just to those of old 727s crashing into sand.

Answer: E

Explanation:

Since the leading word is assuming, we need to find the assumption in the argument. The argument obviously assumes that what holds true for the crash test will hold true for other plane crashes as well. Choice E states this and is the correct answer.

- A. This is irrelevant to the decision at hand. The idea is whether it makes sense to sit at the back, not whether one actually gets to sit there.
- B. Irrelevant. It could be any other desert. The assumption has to be whether this would apply to non deserts as well.
- C. If the plane has already been part of the test, that is, it has already been crashed, it won't be flying again anyway.
- D. While this may look logical, the argument does not mention anything about how the plane used in the experiment actually crashed—on its tail, its front, its belly, etc. So then we cannot necessarily assume this fact.
- E. **The correct answer.**

25) According to some people, income tax should be done away with in the US since there are several other ways to collect taxes. A few countries in Europe have successfully abolished income taxes by raising other taxes such as sales tax. Of course, this makes products more expensive but with the added amount of money you receive on your paycheck, you will still be better off than you were paying income taxes.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the argument above?

- (A) The prices of products in European countries, when converted into US dollars at current rates are very similar to their prices in the United States.
- (B) The increase in prices of products because of the increased sales tax rate will not more than offset the benefit of not paying any income taxes.
- (C) The legislative body in the United States has stated that it will support the move to abolish income tax.
- (D) Apart from increasing sales tax, the government can also increase other special taxes such as those on petroleum products.
- (E) The government has enough funds in reserve currently to be able to absorb any shock because of reduced tax collection.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The argument concludes that the increase in the prices of products because of an increase in the sales tax rate will not adversely affect the consumers because their salaries will also increase due to the abolition of income tax. However, what if this increase in the prices of products was much more than the increase in people's salary? Then the situation will negatively impact the people. The argument obviously assumes that this will not be the case. Choice B states this and so strengthens the argument.

- A. The situation in European countries has no bearing on the situation in the US.
- B. The correct answer.**
- C. This is an additional point and not relevant to the reasoning provided in the argument.
- D. Other taxes are outside the purview of the argument.
- E. The question is not whether the government will be able to bear the shock of abolition of income tax but whether such a move will be beneficial for the people.

- 26) The reason for Kim's excellent performance in her final college tests is that she used to study for eight hours every day.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The fact that Kim took classes from the Teaching Company is not the reason for her excellent performance in her college tests.
- (B) In addition to studying for eight hours every day, Kim also did not miss a single class in her college.
- (C) In addition to her excellent performance in the college tests, Kim also won several awards for her performance in extracurricular activities such as debates and dramatics.
- (D) Both of Kim's parents are geniuses.
- (E) Some of Kim's friends, who used to study for much less duration than her, also performed very well on their final college tests.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The argument assumes that there can be no other reason for Kim's excellent performance on her college tests except for the fact that she studied for eight hours every day. Choice A provides one such reason - that she took classes from the Teaching Company - and, therefore, should be the correct answer. In case you are confused, go through the topic 'Passive Assumptions' in the Assumption chapter in this book. Choice A is a passive assumption.

A - Correct.

B – This could weaken the argument by suggesting that there could be another reason for Kim's excellent performance on the college tests—that she attended all the classes in college.

C – This tells us nothing about the causality mentioned in the original argument.

D – Same as Choice B.

E – This does not affect the causality in the original argument. There could be different reasons for the success of her friends but Kim's success is on account of her studying for eight hours every day.

- 27) A study of 1000 American citizens has found that 70 per cent of them would not work for a company with bad reputation even if they were unemployed and that nearly 90 per cent of them would consider leaving their current jobs if they were offered another role with a company that had an excellent corporate reputation. Of those willing to work for a company with a bad reputation, the research found that, on average, it would take doubling an employee's salary for them to make such a jump.

If the statements above are true, which of the following conclusions is most strongly supported by them?

- (A) At least 10% of the people in the survey would not mind working for a company with a bad reputation but would also consider leaving their current jobs to join another company with excellent corporate reputation.
- (B) The survey is representative of the worker pool across the United States.
- (C) At least 25% of the people in the survey would agree to indulge in an unethical act if their salaries were substantially increased.
- (D) For US workers, higher salary takes precedence over the reputation of the company they work for.
- (E) If a company in the US expects to attract the best talent, it must either have an excellent corporate reputation or be ready to pay high salaries.

Answer: A

Explanation:

According to the stimulus, 300 of the 1000 people would be willing to work for a company with a bad reputation. Also, 900 people would consider leaving their current jobs if they were offered a role with a company that had an excellent corporate reputation. Since the total number of people is only 1000, it has to be the case that (300-100) 200 people will be such that they would belong to both the above groups. Choice A states this best and is the correct answer. Don't be confused by the fact that A mentions 10% and not 20% (200 out of 1000); notice that A uses the term *at least* 10%, that is, at least 100 people.

A. The correct answer.

- B. The argument only talks about the pool of 1000 people who were surveyed and does not conclude anything about workers across the United States.
- C. The argument never really describes what constitutes an unethical act.
- D. We cannot really conclude this for all workers in the United States.
- E. Extreme inference. There could be a third situation as well apart from these two.

- 28) One way in which companies can increase their productivity is by making use of telecommuting. Many office workers waste a lot of time in their cars or other modes of transport every morning trying to reach office, and a lot of them spend their day attending video conferences and typing emails, activities that could easily be carried out from the comfort of their homes. So it makes sense for companies to encourage their employees to use telecommuting services and work from home rather than travel to the office every day.

In order to evaluate the above argument, it would be useful to determine each of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) Whether the cost of telecommuting will more than offset the increased productivity that comes about from its use.
- (B) Whether the day to day work of most companies involves considerable physical interaction amongst their employees.
- (C) Whether a large part of the work of an average employee can be conducted using telecommuting services.
- (D) Whether the use of telecommuting service will lead to increased revenues for the companies adopting this service.
- (E) Whether the general traffic situation is likely to dramatically improve in the future.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Let's look at each of the choices and check whether it is relevant to the argument.

- A. Relevant. If there is no cost benefit of telecommuting, then companies may not want to make use of it.
- B. Relevant. If employees' work requires physical interaction then telecommuting may not make sense.
- C. Relevant. If a large part of an employee's work entails coming to the office then it may not make sense to use telecommuting.
- D. **Correct.** Even if the revenues remain the same, the cost could go down because of telecommuting, leading to increased profits from the same revenue base. So it does not matter whether the revenues go up or not.
- E. Relevant. If the traffic situation improves dramatically in the future, then it might take care of the problem associated with coming to work.

- 29) Buyers of used cars must love the colour white. Of all the used cars sold in the country this year, as many as 60% were white.

Which of the following most weakens the argument?

- (A) The colour white is easier to maintain and hides scratches really well, unlike other colours such as black.
- (B) White has been the most preferred car colour of new car buyers in the country for several decades now.
- (C) The prices of used cars do not vary on the basis of the colour of the cars.
- (D) There are more new cars sold in the country than used cars.
- (E) The huge depreciation costs on new cars make it very attractive to buy used cars in the country.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The argument assumes that all or a majority of these 60% of buyers actually want to buy white cars. However, what if white is the colour that is most often available for sale? Then the used car buyers won't really have a choice but to buy whatever colour is available, in this case white. Thus, they would have to buy the white cars even if they may not necessarily love the colour white. Choice B provides one such possibility. If most new car buyers prefer to buy white cars then obviously most used cars available for sale will also be white since it is these new cars that eventually end up in used car lots.

A – Why people love the colour white is not our concern in the argument.

B - Correct.

C – If anything, this strengthens the argument by suggesting that lower price is not the reason people prefer to buy white cars.

D – The number of new or used cars sold in the country is not of any concern to us.

E – Again, why people prefer to buy used cars is not our concern; why they prefer to buy white cars is.

- 30) Researchers have found that one in five patients hospitalized for heart attack experiences a major depression. According to the cardiologists who conducted the research, the depressed patients are 55 percent more likely than other heart attack patients to need hospital care for a heart problem again within a year and three times as likely to die from a future attack or other heart-related conditions.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must be true?

- (A) If a person dies of a heart attack, there is a high probability that he may have been suffering from depression as well.
- (B) If a patient needs to be re-hospitalised for a heart related problem within a year of his earlier heart attack, it is very likely that he may be suffering from depression.
- (C) There are some similarities between symptoms of depression and symptoms of a heart attack in a patient.
- (D) Depressed people are more likely to die of a heart attack than are people who do not suffer from depression.
- (E) Suffering from a heart attack can lead to depression in some people.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Since this is an Inference question, let's look at each answer choice and eliminate.

- A. This may or may not be the case. The argument never states that there is a causal link between all depression and heart attack cases. It just states that those depression patients who have already had a heart attack have a greater chance of suffering or dying from a heart ailment.
- B. **The correct answer.** This is definitely true because for such a patient, there is a 55% chance that he may be suffering from depression.
- C. The argument never makes any mention of the symptoms of heart attack or of depression.
- D. Same as A; there is no direct link between depression and heart attacks for regular people.
- E. While this may look good, the argument never states what is the reason for this depression—heart attack or something else.

- 31) To prevent the incidence of highway robberies, the government of Baptesia formed a Highway Patrol Force two years back whose sole task was to patrol the country's highways and prevent highway robberies. Ever since the formation of the Highway Patrol Force, there have been only a handful of highway robberies and the individual losses suffered in these robberies were far less than the expenses incurred on maintaining the Highway Patrol Force. The government of Baptesia should, thus, disband the Highway Patrol Force and provide compensation to victims of highway robberies instead.

The above argument is flawed because:

- (A) It ignores the fact that the presence of the Highway Patrol Force could be the reason for the small number of highway robbery attempts in the past two years.
- (B) It unjustifiably assumes that the government has enough money to pay compensation to the victims of highway robberies.
- (C) It ignores the possibility that the Highway Patrol Force could be used for other purposes instead of being disbanded.
- (D) It makes use of unverified facts to arrive at a conclusion.
- (E) It does not consider data from other countries, that have similar task forces, before arriving at its conclusion.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Highway Patrol Force had been created to prevent or reduce the number of highway robberies and now that the Force has managed to do so, it makes no sense to disband it. It is like punishing them for their success. For all we know, the highway robberies could start unabated once again if the Patrol Force were to be disbanded. Thus, Choice A is the correct answer.

A - Correct.

B – As per the argument, it would cost the government less money to pay compensation than it does to maintain the Patrol force.

C – Whether the Patrol Force can be put to other purposes is not the concern of the argument.

D – There is nothing to suggest that the facts mentioned in the argument are unverified.

E – There is no reason to consider data from other countries.

- 32) A recent survey of buyers of luxury cars in Beecham city has revealed that males who are between 40 and 50 years of age and who live in the Southern part of the city are more likely to buy these cars than is any other demographic group in the city. Maxpages is a magazine that contains articles primarily relevant to males in the age group of 40 to 50 years and is circulated only in the Southern part of Beecham city. Using the findings of this survey, Terence, who owns two luxury car showrooms in Beecham city, has decided to advertise in the Maxpages magazine.

Which of the following would be most useful to know in determining whether Terence should advertise in the Maxpages magazine?

- (A) What is the exact number of luxury cars that were sold in all of Beecham city in the last one year?
- (B) What percent of the total car market is the luxury car market in Beecham city?
- (C) Do women and children play a major role in determining which luxury car to buy?
- (D) Is the luxury car market in Beecham city expected to grow over the next few years?
- (E) Would it be cheaper to advertise in some other magazine that is targeted at people of all age groups?

Answer: C

Explanation:

The argument states that since most buyers of a particular product belong to a particular demographic group, it makes sense to advertise in a magazine that is targeted at that particular group. But what if the actual purchase decision was not taken by this group but by some other group such as women and children? Then it would make more sense to advertise in magazines targeted at women and children. Choice C raises this point and is the correct answer.

- A. This fact has no bearing on which magazine Terence should advertise in.
- B. This could have a bearing on deciding whether Terence should open a luxury car showroom anywhere in Beecham City. However, that is not the question at hand.
- C. **The correct answer.**
- D. Same as B.
- E. Irrelevant. The idea is to advertise in the magazine that is targeted at the prospective customer.

33) Which of the following best completes the passage below?

A study was recently conducted to determine whether power lines caused some kind of negative health effects. The researchers surveyed everyone living within 200 meters of high-voltage power lines over a 15-year period and looked for statistically significant increases in rates of over 1000 ailments. The study found that the incidence of childhood leukaemia was four times greater among those who lived closest to the power lines. However, this statistic by itself should not be a cause for alarm, because_____.

- (A) childhood leukemia can also be caused by other genetic factors
- (B) another study has found that most of the children who suffer from childhood leukemia stay far away from power lines
- (C) the number of potential ailments, that is, over 1000, was so large that it created a high probability that at least one ailment would exhibit statistically significant difference just by chance alone
- (D) there was no significant correlation between the other 999 diseases and how close to power lines a person stayed
- (E) childhood leukaemia, unlike leukaemia in adults, can be cured by medicines and therapy and is rarely fatal

Answer: C

Explanation:

Since the leading word into the blank is *because*, we need to strengthen the fact that the statistic given in the stimulus is not a cause for concern. Choice C does this best by stating that the number of diseases that the study took into consideration was very large to be statistically significant. An analogy for this could be related to the stock markets, where if you track 1000 stocks for how the stock performed on the days on which you wore a black T-shirt, you will most likely find a correlation between some stocks performing well and the colour of your T-shirt. This cannot lead you to conclude that on the days you wear a black T-shirt, the stocks of these companies will perform well.

- A. Our concern is proximity to power lines; we are not concerned with the other causes of leukemia.
- B. But how do we explain the results of the study mentioned in the stimulus.
- C. **The correct answer.**
- D. Even if this is the case, we still need to explain the correlation between that one disease—leukemia—and proximity of people to power lines.
- E. We are concerned with the cause of the disease and not its cure.

- 34) The mayor of Newtown is up for re-election in a month's time and is extremely apprehensive of his chances. According to a recent survey conducted by a news channel in Hampstead, Newtown's most populous suburb, more than 80 percent of the respondents stated that they would not vote for the current mayor.

The mayor's apprehensions are based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) The people who were part of the survey will in no case change their mind.
- (B) The opinion of the residents of Hampstead is a pretty accurate representation of the opinion of the residents of Newtown as a whole.
- (C) The mayor was recently involved in a corruption scandal that received a lot of negative publicity in the print media.
- (D) The mayor did not do enough to help the victims of the hurricane that struck Newtown last year.
- (E) In the last three elections for the post of the mayor in Newtown, the incumbent mayor has never been re-elected to office.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The use of the word *survey* in the stimulus should give you a hint that you need to look for a problem of Representativeness in this question. The mayor's conclusion is based on the results of the survey but the survey was conducted only in Hampstead. What if the residents of Hampstead don't like the mayor for personal reasons? Then the residents of other localities might still vote for the mayor and the mayor could still win.

So, for the mayor to conclude that his chances are not very good, he has to assume that the survey in question was representative of the entire population of Newtown. Choice B states this best and is the correct answer.

A lot of the choices (C, D, E) provide additional negative points about the mayor but these are irrelevant to the argument at hand, since the evidence in the argument is the survey of voters.

- A. The mayor's conclusion is based on the results of the survey. What happens after the survey (whether people change their mind or not) is irrelevant.
- B. The correct answer.**
- C. This is not the reason why the mayor fears his chances.
- D. Same as Choice C.
- E. Same as Choice C.

- 35) According to a nationwide survey of college students, 70% of the students who major in Science in high school were likely to pursue an engineering degree in college. Interestingly, according to the same survey, 70% of the students pursuing an engineering degree in college had not majored in science in high school.

Which of the following inferences is best supported from the above statements?

- A. The number of students who studied science in high school is the same as the number of students who are pursuing an engineering degree in college but who did not major in science in high school.
- B. There are more students pursuing science in high school than there are students pursuing science in colleges in the country.
- C. A student's major in high school has no impact on the specialization she chooses to pursue in college.
- D. There are more students pursuing an engineering degree who had taken up a non-science major in high school than there are students pursuing an engineering degree who had majored in science in school
- E. 30% of the students pursuing an engineering degree in the country had taken up a non-science major in high school.

Answer: D

Explanation:

According to the stimulus, 70% of the students who are pursuing an engineering degree in colleges within the country had not majored in science in high school. Choice D states this best and should be the correct answer.

A – The stimulus only talks about percentages. It never gives us any actual numbers so there is no way we can infer this.

B – Same as Choice A.

C – In fact, the opposite is true since a majority of the student's pursuing science in high school took up science in college as well.

D - Correct.

E – Again, the opposite is true, as is clearly stated in the stimulus.

- 36) Customer reviews are becoming a fixture on retail and consumer brand websites, with over 70% of retailers planning to feature them by the end of the year. The accelerated adoption of customer reviews indicates a more enlightened approach to handling negative comments, that is, the acknowledgment that occasional negative reviews do not hurt sales.

Under which of the following conditions is the above strategy likely to backfire?

- (A) The quality of the product in question is so poor that a customer is not likely to buy it in the first place.
- (B) There are frequent negative reviews for a product.
- (C) The 20% of the retailers who do not launch this feature decide to offer huge discounts on their products.
- (D) The customers of a product never come to know about the existence of this feature on the product website.
- (E) It costs retailers a considerable sum of money to implement this feature on their respective websites.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The argument states that the occasional negative review will not hurt sales but what if the negative reviews became more frequent. Then this strategy of encouraging customers to post reviews may backfire. Choice B states this and is the correct answer.

- A. If the customer doesn't buy the product then there will be no reviews—negative or positive.
- B. The correct answer.**
- C. This may lead to a temporary reduction in sales for the remaining 80% of the retailers but is in no way connected to the strategy of encouraging customers to post product reviews.
- D. In this case the strategy may not work but it will definitely not backfire either. There will be at worst no effect.
- E. This again has no connection with the strategy backfiring.

- 37) All the winners of the Great Indian Derby in the past 60 years have been horses that have been in the racing circuit for at least two years. While nobody knows for sure what the correlation between the two is, it remains beyond doubt that the winner of the Great Indian Derby will always be a horse that has been competing in races for at least two years.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above statements?

- (A) If a horse has been competing in races for two years or more, it will definitely win the Great Indian Derby.
- (B) The Great Indian Derby is more competitive than other horse races in the country.
- (C) The racing experience that comes as part of being active in the racing circuit for at least two years plays a valuable role in making a horse victorious in the Great Indian Derby.
- (D) It is possible, on the off chance, for a horse to win the Great Indian Derby even if it has not been active in the racing circuit for at least two years.
- (E) If a horse has not been part of the racing circuit for at least two years, it will not win the Great Indian Derby.

Answer: E

Explanation:

The stimulus clearly states that a horse has no chance of winning the Derby if it has not been active in the racing circuit for at least two years. Thus, E can be best inferred from this. Do not let Choice A confuse you. To be active in the racing circuit for two years is a necessary criterion to win the Great Indian Derby but not necessarily a sufficient one. It is possible for a horse to lose even after satisfying this criterion; however, if a horse does not satisfy this criterion, then it will definitely lose.

B – The stimulus does not provide us information about any other horse race.

C – The stimulus never tells us whether it is the racing experience or something else. For all you know, it could be the strength and endurance that comes as part of being active in the racing circuit for two years that is the reason for the success of these horses.

D – The stimulus says no such thing. In fact, it quite clearly says that such a possibility is very unlikely.

E - **Correct.**

- 38) For the past two decades, Eton Coaching Institute has been the market leader in preparing students for the entrance test to medical schools in the country. While several new players have set up shop in the last few years, and have shown good results, it remains without doubts that if a student wishes to ace the medical school entrance test, his best chances are with Eton Coaching Institute.

The statements above, if true, best support which of the following assertions?

- (A) There is something unique about the books provided by the Eton Coaching Institute that makes its students perform well in the medical school entrance test.
- (B) If a student does not join the Eton Coaching Institute, he will most likely fail to clear the medical school entrance test.
- (C) The teachers at Eton Coaching Institute are probably better than those at other institutes.
- (D) A student could clear the medical school entrance test, even if he hasn't prepared with the Eton Coaching Institute.
- (E) If a student has prepared with the Eton Coaching Institute, he will clear the medical school entrance test.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Since this is an Inference Question, we need to go through each answer choice one by one.

- A. Not necessarily. The books provided by Eton could very well be the same as those provided by other institutes; maybe it's the teachers at Eton who are unique.
- B. Extreme inference. The argument never states anything about the chances of a student clearing the medical entrance test. Maybe for other institutes the chances are 2% and for Eton the chances are 10% but even then 90 out of 100 students enrolled at Eton (and 98 of the 100 enrolled at other institutes) will not clear the test.
- C. This is the opposite of Choice A. It could very well be that the books at Eton are better and the teachers are not.
- D. **The correct answer.** The argument never states that a student's only chance of clearing the test is with Eton but that his best chances are with Eton. It is very much possible that a student enrolls with some other institute (or doesn't enrol with any institute) and yet manages to clear the test.
- E. Same as Choice B.

- 39) It is extremely unlikely that the incumbent governor will be voted back to office in the coming elections. According to a recent survey of residents of the state, more than 80% expressed dissatisfaction with the governor's performance and almost 60% stated that they would vote for the governor's opponent.

Which of the following most strongly supports the argument?

- (A) The views of most of the state's residents are in concordance with the views of the survey's respondents.
- (B) The governor has received a lot of bad publicity in the past owing to his involvement in a corruption scandal.
- (C) The survey only covered a small fraction of the state's populace.
- (D) The governor's opponent is very popular amongst the residents of the state.
- (E) The newspapers in the state are against the governor and favour his opponent instead.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The use of *survey* in the stimulus should give you a hint that you need to look for the problem of Representativeness in this question. The argument assumes that the views of the people in the survey are representative of those in the state as a whole. Choice A states this best and is the correct answer.

A. The correct answer.

- B. Even though this is negative information, this does not have any connection with our evidence and so is irrelevant. For all you know, the bad publicity could be for the wrong reasons, which the public may have later realised and so now it might want to vote for the incumbent governor.
- C. This is the opposite of the correct answer. This raises doubts about the conclusion by suggesting that the evidence may not be representative in nature.
- D. The popularity of the governor's opponent is not the question in the argument.
- E. Same as Choice D. This is not the issue at hand.

- 40) The decision to ban the use of hands-free mobile phone headsets while driving is not justified. There is no doubt that mobile phone use while driving is distracting and dangerous. However, it is dangerous because drivers use their hands and eyes to operate the phone, when their full physical attention should be on the road. Hands-free technologies allow for mobile phone use without such distractions, and these options should remain legal.

Which of the following, if true, undermines the argument above?

- (A) The functioning of the eyes and the hands is governed by the brain and there is considerable evidence to show that the use of mobile phones distracts the brain.
- (B) Most good quality hands-free headsets are expensive which will discourage people from buying them.
- (C) Just because something is legal does not necessarily mean that it is safe.
- (D) There have been some incidents of road accidents involving drivers who were talking on the mobile phones using hands-free technology while driving at the time of the accident.
- (E) There are other technologies available, such as the use of Bluetooth to connect one's mobile phone to the car's speaker system, that are safer than the use of hands-free devices.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The argument assumes that drivers will be able to use their hands and eyes unhindered if they use a hands-free headset. Choice A weakens this by suggesting that this will not be the case because the use of mobile phone distracts the brain, that will in turn distract the hands and eyes because the brain controls their functioning.

A. The correct answer.

- B. The price is outside the scope of the argument. The question is whether the use of hands-free headsets should be allowed at all.
- C. True, but to weaken the argument, we have to show how the use of hands-free headsets is unsafe.
- D. The operative word here is *some*. There could be other reasons for these accidents as well, such as over-speeding or carelessness of the pedestrians.
- E. The availability of other technologies is outside the scope. The question is whether the use of hands-free headsets is safe or not.

- 41) Researchers from a data analysis firm have found that the three most popular combinations—11234, 1111, and 0000—account for close to 20 percent of all four-digit passwords. The researchers also found that every four-digit combination that starts with 19, ranks above the 80th percentile in popularity, with those in the upper 1900s coming in the highest. Also quite common are combinations in which the first two digits are between 01 and 12 and the last two are between 01 and 31.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must be true?

- (A) The password 1922 will most likely be less popular than 1981.
- (B) The password 0123 will most probably be more common than 2331.
- (C) If a password were to be selected from a random list of 100 four-digit passwords, there is a very high possibility that it will be 1234, 1111, or 0000.
- (D) One out of three four-digit passwords will be 1234, 1111, or 0000.
- (E) Passwords starting with 19 are more popular than those starting with 21.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Since this is an inference question, let's look at each answer choice and eliminate.

- A. **The correct answer.** Since the numbers in the upper 1900s are more popular than the rest, 1981 has to be more popular than 1922.
- B. While you may think this is correct based on the last sentence of the argument, all that can be inferred from that sentence is that the password 0123 will be a popular one. We cannot infer anything about how it would compare with the password 2331. There could be some other characteristic of 2331 that makes it more popular than 0123.
- C. Not necessarily. All that the argument states is that these three comprise close to 20% of all passwords, so there's only a 20% chance that the chosen password will be one of these three.
- D. In fact, one out of *five* four digit passwords will be one of the three mentioned since the chances are 20%.
- E. We know that passwords starting with 19 are popular, but we don't know anything about passwords starting with 21.

- 42) A tricktykart is similar to a bicycle in that a rider uses pedals to propel it ahead. However, since it has three wheels and not two, a tricktykart cannot technically be considered a bicycle and thus tricktykart manufacturers cannot avail of the tax exemptions available to bicycle manufacturers.

Which of the following is assumed in the argument?

- (A) Since a tricktykart is very difficult to topple over, it is particularly useful for handicapped people and for those lacking a sense of balance.
- (B) Given the similarities between it and a bicycle, a tricktykart should, in fact, be considered a bicycle.
- (C) Any self-propelled vehicle that has more than two wheels cannot be considered a bicycle.
- (D) The government should make an exemption in the case of a tricktykart, given its importance for handicapped people, and provide tricktykart manufacturers with tax concessions.
- (E) A tricktykart cannot run on two wheels.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The argument concludes that since a tricktykart has more than two wheels, it cannot be considered a bicycle. Then the argument has to assume that any vehicle that is similar to a bicycle but has more than two wheels cannot technically be considered a bicycle. Choice C states this best and should be the correct answer.

A – The usefulness of a tricktykart is not our concern.

B – This is a suggestion, but we are supposed to find the assumption and not offer a suggestion.

C - Correct.

D – Same as Choice B.

E – This is, at best, an inference but not an assumption.

43) Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Over the years, supporters of slavery have put forward several view-points to rationalize their belief. One such argument states that some people are meant to be slaves as part of the natural order of the universe, or as part of God's plan, and it is wrong to interfere with this by abolishing slavery. However, such an argument is flawed, because it fails to take into account the fact that _____.

- (A) slavery is a cruel practice that does not find much favour with most people in the world
- (B) just because something is part of God's plan does not mean it is the morally correct thing to do
- (C) slavery is considered illegal in almost all the countries of the world
- (D) there exist no certain criteria to distinguish between natural slaves and those who should not be enslaved
- (E) just because something is meant to be does not mean that it has to be

Answer: D

Explanation:

The sentence leading to the blank states that the argument is flawed so the blank basically has to highlight a flaw in the argument. Remember that the flaw is always linked to the assumption. Those who suggest that some men are meant to be slaves are obviously assuming that there is some way in which one can identify who these men are. The argument cannot be that just because somebody is a slave, he was meant to be a slave. It has to be the other way round, that is, somebody is a slave because he was meant to be a slave. Since there is no criteria for distinguishing between the two, the argument does not hold weight. Choice D states this and is the correct answer.

- A. This could be a negative aspect of slavery in general, but is definitely not a flaw in the argument.
- B. Again, this may make sense logically, but it isn't necessarily a flaw in the argument.
- C. Same as Choices A and B.
- D. The correct answer.**
- E. Again, this looks logical but it's not a flaw.

- 44) The list of the highest salary paying cities in the world is headed by cities in Switzerland. This serves to reaffirm the fact that people in Western European cities on average earn three times more than those in Eastern Europe. The fact that, in Switzerland, deductions from salary are relatively low, further widens the gap between net wage level earned there and in other countries, especially in the rest of Western Europe. The largest wage differences are in Asia, where the highest value (Tokyo) is twelve times higher than the lowest (Delhi).

Which of the following can properly be inferred from the statements above?

- (A) The Swiss pay less money in taxes than do people in the rest of Western Europe.
- (B) Delhi is the poorest city in the Asian continent.
- (C) The wage difference between the richest and poorest cities of Eastern Europe is less than twelve times.
- (D) Switzerland is not situated in Western Europe.
- (E) Tokyo has more rich people than does Delhi.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Since this is an Inference question, let's analyze each choice one by one.

- A. We know that the Swiss have lower deductions from their salary but we don't necessarily know whether these are on account of taxes or some other heads.
- B. All that the stimulus tells us is that the average wage in Delhi is considerably lower than in Tokyo. We don't even know whether we have data for each city in the Asian continent so there is no way we can conclude that Delhi is the poorest city in the continent.
- C. **The correct answer.** The argument states that the difference between the highest and lowest wage rates is highest in Asia, so it has to be lower in all other places such as Eastern Europe.
- D. In fact, the argument suggests that Switzerland is most likely situated in Western Europe.
- E. Again, this depends on the population of the two countries because the wage level in consideration is an average. So it's possible for Delhi to have more rich people than Tokyo but since Delhi also has many more relatively poorer people, this fact pulls the average wage down.

- 45) The perceived value of goods and services, rather than just their price, is becoming an increasingly prominent factor in the purchase decisions of modern consumers, a new report has indicated. Thus, it can be concluded that consumers will be increasingly willing to spend extra on goods and services that are high-quality and durable.

For the above statements to be true, which of the following must be true?

- (A) The price of a product plays no role in the making of purchase decisions by modern consumers.
- (B) There is a positive relation between the quality of a product and its durability.
- (C) The modern consumer is not likely to allow the quality of a product to determine his purchase decision.
- (D) The ideal way for manufacturers to charge more for their products is to increase the perceived value of their products in the minds of the modern consumer.
- (E) The durability of a product is in some way related to its perceived value in the minds of modern consumers .

Answer: E

Explanation:

Don't mistake this question for an Inference question; it is in fact an Assumption question. Notice the wording of the question stem; it states which of the choices has to be true for the argument to be true, that is, the assumption.

The evidence states that consumers would be willing to pay more for products that they perceive of greater value than the others. However, the conclusion states that these consumers would be willing to spend more on products that are high quality and durable. Thus, the assumption has to be that high quality and durability are factors that increase the perception of a product in the consumers' minds. Choice E states this and is the correct answer.

- A. Extreme answer choice. The price may play a role but a smaller role than the perception of the product in the consumers' mind.
- B. No such connection can be arrived at on the basis of the argument.
- C. In fact, according to the last sentence of the argument, the quality of the product will be a deciding factor for the modern consumer.
- D. This could be an inference from the argument but is definitely not an assumption. If you are confused, try negating this choice. It will not make any difference to the argument.
- E. **The correct answer.** If you negate this, the argument falls apart.

- 46) Companies X and Y have decided to enter into a joint venture to conduct mining operations together. As per the terms of the agreement, all metals that are unearthed will go to Company X and all non-metals will go to Company Y. Thus, all the Zinconium that is dug out should go to Company Y.

Which of the following most strengthens the argument?

- (A) Zinconium sells for very high prices in the international market.
- (B) The processing of Zinconium requires specialised machinery that is already available with Company Y.
- (C) The agreement between the two companies has no provision of sharing any of the resources that are dug out.
- (D) In terms of its chemical properties, Zinconium has more characteristics in common with non-metals than with metals.
- (E) Company Y will bear a larger proportion of the total cost of conducting the mining operations than will Company X.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The argument clearly states that all metals go to Company X and all non-metals go to Company Y. It then concludes that Zinconium should go to Company Y. Then it obviously assumes that Zinconium is more similar to a non-metal than to a metal. Choice D is the correct answer.

A – The selling price of Zinconium is of no relevance to the argument.

B – This gives you an additional reason why Zinconium should go to Company Y but this has nothing to do with the evidence that is used in the argument. Remember that we always have to strengthen or weaken the connection between the evidence and the conclusion. Company X could always buy such machinery, for all we know.

C – This makes no difference to our assumption.

D - Correct.

E – Same as Choice B.

- 47) The 17 countries of the Eurozone are all united by one currency—the euro, but that doesn't mean that there aren't price disparities in the continent. A sum of 20 Euros can buy you 35 cups of coffee in Portugal but only seven cups of coffee in Greece. The same amount of money can get you 16 cartons of eggs in Malta, but only 7 cartons of eggs in Ireland.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- (A) On an average, a cup of coffee costs more in Portugal than in Greece.
- (B) A carton of eggs costs more in Malta than in Ireland.
- (C) Price disparities are an unusual phenomenon in the countries of the Eurozone.
- (D) The cost of a cup of coffee in Greece is the same as that of a carton of eggs in Ireland.
- (E) Portugal is a cheaper country to stay in than is Greece.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Since this is an Inference question, let's look at each answer choice and eliminate.

- A. In fact, a cup of coffee costs more in Greece than in Portugal.
- B. Again, a carton of eggs costs more in Ireland than in Malta.
- C. There is nothing in the argument to suggest this.
- D. **The correct answer.** 20 Euros can buy you 7 cups of coffee in Greece, whereas the same amount of money can buy you 7 cartons of eggs in Ireland. Then the price of a cup of coffee in Greece has to be the same as the price of a carton of eggs in Ireland.
- E. No inferences can be made about how expensive a country is to stay in based on the information given in the argument.

- 48) John, a stock broker, has a list of companies whose stocks he recommends his clients to invest in. Over the past one year, the stock prices of 20 companies listed on the stock exchange has appreciated by 100% or more and 16 of these companies are part of John's list. Thus, John claims that he is an expert at picking stocks and that more and more investors should park their funds with him to get the maximum return on their investment.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most important in determining whether investors should park their funds with John?

- (A) How many companies are there on John's list?
- (B) Whether any other stock broker has also showed similar or better performance last year?
- (C) What is the total number of companies listed on the stock exchange?
- (D) Has John shown similar results in the previous years as well?
- (E) Does John hire the services of someone else to identify stocks in which his clients should invest?

Answer: A

Explanation:

What if John has every company listed on the stock exchange on his list? Then, even though the best performing companies will be part of John's list, the worst performing companies will also be part of his list. As against this, if John has 30 companies on his list, then his strike rate is very good. So to evaluate John's argument, we need to know how many companies he has on his list. Choice A states this and is the best answer.

- A. **The correct answer.**
- B. The performance of other stock brokers is outside the scope of the argument. We are only concerned with evaluating John's argument.
- C. This fact is irrelevant to evaluating John's argument.
- D. John's previous performance is irrelevant in analysing his current performance.
- E. Even if this is the case, it makes sense to invest with John as long as his argument can be justified.

49) Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Measured globally, car use will continue to increase, for as people in emerging markets get rich, they want the mobility and status that car-ownership offers. However, in the rich world, the decades-long link between rising incomes and car use has been severed and miles driven per person have been falling. This does not, however, warrant the conclusion that automobile manufacturers located in rich countries should brace themselves for tough times ahead, since _____.

- (A) a reduction in car use does not necessarily indicate a reduction in car sales.
- (B) fears about smog and global warming have led many people in rich countries to prefer the use of public transport to that of private cars.
- (C) fuel prices are expected to increase further in the next few years.
- (D) there are several new car launches lined up in rich countries over the next couple of years.
- (E) relatively poorer countries will then probably generate even lower car sales.

Answer: A

Explanation:

We need to strengthen the conclusion that just because car use is going down in rich countries, the car sales will not necessarily go down in these countries. Choice A does this best by pointing out that there is no real connection between car purchase and car use. One could purchase several cars but only use them to travel short distances.

A. The correct answer.

- B. This explains why the use of cars in rich countries may have gone down but that's not what we are supposed to do in this question.
- C. If fuel prices increase further, people may not want to buy cars.
- D. Just because new cars are being launched does not mean these will find buyers.
- E. This point is irrelevant to the argument.

- 50) According to the results of a new ground-breaking research, those who wake up early in the morning are generally more alert during the day than those who wake up late. Thus, companies should insist that all their employees wake up early so that they remain alert all through the day.

Which of the following is an assumption in the above argument?

- (A) People who wake up early in the morning will not get lethargic during the day.
- (B) It is a good idea for employees to remain alert during the day.
- (C) Alert employees are generally more productive than lethargic ones.
- (D) An alert nature does not cause people to wake up early in the morning.
- (E) Lethargy can be cured in other ways as well, such as by having a cup of strong coffee.

Answer: D

Explanation:

This question is testing you on causality. The argument concludes that the cause is *waking up early* and the effect is *alertness*. The two assumptions then are that nothing else is responsible for this alertness and that alertness does not lead to waking up early in the morning. Choice D states the second of these and should be the correct answer.

A – This can at best be an inference from the argument but does not have to be the assumption. The assumption will make the argument true whereas this can only be inferred if you assume that the argument is true.

B – Again, this could be an inference but does not have to be the assumption.

C – Same as Choice B.

D - Correct.

E – Other cures for lethargy are outside the scope of the argument.

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