

ANSWERS AND RATIONALE: LOGICAL REASONING QUESTIONS – SAMPLE SET FOR MAY 30, 2020

1.1 Answer: (b)

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) – a law that forbids employers from checking job applicants’ details on social media. The author describes how employers may avoid legal troubles they might encounter if they “ask interviewees about their religion, sexual preference, or political affiliation” by using social media to filter job applicants based on beliefs, looks, and habits. If the change described in option (b) were brought into effect, employers would no longer be able to do this, thereby avoiding the problem the author describes. Option (d) describes the opposite of this, and may in fact make the problem worse; therefore, it cannot be the correct answer. Option (a) may not help solve the problem, since employers would be able to check job applicants’ social media details even if they have met them in person, and so, it cannot be the correct answer. Option (c) would have no effect on the practice of employers checking job applicants’ social media details, and so, it cannot be the correct answer.

1.2 Answer: (d)

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) - social consensus and guidelines that are accepted by members of a society are brought about by effective laws, not the other way around. The author describes how Preeta Bansal argues that “effective laws and standards of ethics are guidelines accepted by members of a society, and that these require the development of a social consensus”. If option (d) were true, it would be directly contrary to Preeta Bansal’s arguments, and therefore, weaken it. Each of the other options restates Preeta Bansal’s argument in one form or the other, and thus, none of them would weaken her argument. Given this, none of the other options can be the correct answer.

1.3 Answer: (c)

Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) - the ownership of ideas was not considered important enough to spur debate and the development of copyright laws – the dramatic changes brought about by the printing press spurred this. The author describes how debates about the ownership of ideas raged for about 300 years after the creation of the printing press, and how this led to the emergence of copyright laws. Based on this, it is possible to infer that the question of the ownership of ideas was not debated much before the emergence of the printing press, since it was not considered very important, and that it was the dramatic changes brought about by the printing press that led to debate on this topic and the passage of copyright laws. Options (a) and (d) contradict the author’s arguments, and so, neither can be the correct answer. While the author says that the printing press “helped spur” the decline of the Holy Roman Empire, there is nothing in the passage to suggest that such a decline would have been avoided altogether had strong copyright laws been in place at the time the printing press was developed, and so, option (b) cannot be the correct answer.

1.4 Answer: (a)

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) - laws and ethical practices evolve over a long time, and the human mind cannot keep pace with the advances enabled by computers. The author’s statements at the beginning of the fifth paragraph of the passage, and the last sentence of the passage, both support this statement. Options (b) and (c) state the opposite of this, and thus, neither can be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support option (d), and so, it cannot be the correct answer.

1.5 **Answer:** (d)

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) - they act as premises in support of the author's conclusion. Generally speaking, a 'premise' is the part of an argument that offers evidence in support of a conclusion. Since the author's conclusion rests on the difference between the pace of development of laws and ethical practices on the one hand, and technology on the other, statements (i) and (ii) act as premises for the conclusion. Given these statements support the author's conclusion, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. Similarly, since they merely provide support to the conclusion, and are not conclusions in themselves, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. And since these statements provide support for the author's conclusion, it would be wrong to say that the conclusion is a mere assumption, and therefore, option (c) cannot be the correct answer either.
