

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify the difference between a Fact, an Inference and a Judgement
- How to handle questions based on them

Facts: deal with pieces of information that one has heard, seen or read, and which are open to discovery or verification. Verification is the key word

Inferences: are conclusions drawn about the unknown, on the basis of the known

Judgements: are opinions that imply approval or disapproval of persons, objects, situations, and occurrences in the past, the present or the future.

While solving a question, in my opinion, students are able to decide upon Facts very easily. For example: 1.85 lakh students took CAT 2011.

They face difficulty in deciding upon if the given statement is a Judgment or Inference.

Judgment is somewhat “personal”. It is what a person believes to be true, and do not have any proof that if it will be accepted by everybody. So it is like a “personal opinion”. For example, a teacher looks at the progress report of his student and says that – “You will be a rich man in future”. This statement is a personal opinion of the teacher, and everybody around may not agree with the statement. Besides, this statement cannot be verified to be true at the same time.

Difference between Judgment and Inference:

Judgment and Inference differ on the ground of “logically verifiability”. Inference can be logically verified to be right or wrong whereas Judgment is a personal opinion and does not have scope of being verified.

Consider the following example from CAT 2006:

1. According to all statistical indications, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has managed to keep pace with its ambitious goals.
2. The Mid-day Meal Scheme has been a significant incentive for the poor to send their little ones to school, thus establishing the vital link between healthy bodies and healthy minds.

3. Only about 13 million children in the age group of 6 to 14 years are out of school.

4. The goal of universalisation of elementary education has to be a pre-requisite for the evolution and development of our country.

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|----------|----------|
| (a) IIFJ | (b) JIJJ |
| (c) IJFJ | (d) IJFI |
| (e) JIFI | |

Consider Statement 1

According to all statistical indications, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has managed to keep pace with its ambitious goals.

Explanation

This statement talks about some goals, and how Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has managed to achieve those. To substantiate it, statement resorts to “all statistical indications”. To analyze this statement, we would start with the Double Y Junction test:

Can we verify this for being true or false? – Yes, definitely.

Since we can verify this statement to be true or false, hence, this statement is Inference.

Consider Statement 2

The Mid-day Meal Scheme has been a significant incentive for the poor to send their little ones to school, thus establishing the vital link between healthy bodies and healthy minds.

Explanation

Can we verify “thus establishing the vital link between healthy bodies and healthy minds” this?

We are not required to verify the link between healthy bodies and healthy mind. Rather we need to verify the linkage between Mid-day Meal Scheme and poor sending their little ones to school?

We cannot reliably verify this statement, hence, this statement is Judgment.

Consider Statement 3

Only about 13 million children in the age group of 6 to 14 years are out of school.

Explanation

This is not an opinion, neither personal nor collective. This is simply a piece of data – hence, a fact.

Consider Statement 4

The goal of universalisation of elementary education has to be a pre-requisite for the evolution and development of our country.

Explanation

This statement is again a personal opinion – talking about future. There is no reliable way through which we can check the veracity of this future event. Hence, this statement is a Judgment.

Now we summarize the whole discussion:

Statement 1	Inference
Statement 2	Judgment
Statement 3	Fact
Statement 4	Judgment

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

PRACTICE EXERCISES

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Direction: *From the alternatives, choose the one which correctly classifies the four sentences as a*

- F: Fact: If it relates to a known matter of direct observation, or an existing reality or something known to be true,
 J: Judgment: If it is an opinion or estimate or anticipation of common sense or intention,
 I: Inference: If it is a logical conclusion or deduction about something, based on the knowledge of facts.
- Q.1** A. If India has embarked on the liberalization route, she cannot afford to go back.
 B. Under these circumstances, being an active supporter of WTO policies will be a good idea.
 C. The WTO is a truly global organization aiming at freer trade.
 D. Many member countries have already drafted plans to simplify tariff structures.
 (a) FJFI (b) IFJF
 (c) IJFF (d) IFIF
- Q.2** A. The Minister definitely took the wrong step.
 B. Under these circumstances, he had many other alternatives.
 C. The Prime Minister is embarrassed due to the Minister's decision.
 D. If he has put the government in jeopardy, the Minister must resign.
 (a) JFFI (b) IFJI
 (c) FFJI (d) IFU
- Q.3** A. The ideal solution will be to advertise aggressively.
 B. One brand is already popular amongst the youth.
 C. Reducing prices will mean trouble as our revenues are already dwindling.
 D. The correct solution will be to consolidate by aggressive marketing.
 (a) JFIJ (b) FJJI
 (c) IJFF (d) JJIF
- Q.4** A. If democracy is to survive, the people must develop a sense of consumerism.
 B. Consumerism has helped improve the quality of goods in certain countries.
 C. The protected environment in our country is helping local manufacturers.
 D. The quality of goods suffers if the manufacturers take undue advantage of this.
 (a) IJFJ (b) JFJI
 (c) IJJF (d) IFJJ
- Q.5** A. Unless the banks agree to a deferment of the interest, we cannot show profits this year.
 B. This would not have happened had we adopted a stricter credit scheme.
 C. The revenues so far cover only the cost and salaries.
 D. Let us learn a lesson: we cannot make profits without complete control over credit.
 (a) IJJF (b) IJFI
 (c) FJIF (d) FJFI
- Q.6** A. Qualities cannot be injected into one's personality.
 B. They are completely dependent on the genetic configuration that one inherits.
 C. Hence, changing our inherent traits is impossible as the genes are unalterable.
 D. The least one can do is to try and subdue the "bad qualities".
 (a) FIJI (b) JFFI
 (c) JFIJ (d) JIFI
- Q.7** A. Everything is purposeless.
 B. Nothing before and after the existence of the universe is known with certainty.
 C. Man is a part of the purposeless universe, hence, man is also purposeless.
 D. There is only one way of adding purpose to this universe: Union with Him.
 (a) JFIJ (b) FJJI
 (c) JFFI (d) IJFJ
- Q.8** A. Everyday social life is impossible without interpersonal relationships.
 B. The root of many misunderstandings has been cited in poor relations among individuals.
 C. Assuming the above to be true, social life will be much better if people understand the importance of good interpersonal relations.
 D. A study reveals that interpersonal relations and hence, life in general can be improved with a little on the art of individuals.
 (a) FJIJ (b) JFIF
 (c) FIFJ (d) IFFJ
- Q.9** A. The prices of electronic goods are falling.
 B. Since we have substantial reductions in import duties, this is obvious.
 C. The trend is bound to continue in the near future.
 D. But the turnover of the electronic industry is still rising, because consumers are increasing at a rapid rate.

- (a) IFJF (b) FJII
(c) FIJF (d) JIFF
- Q.10** A. In the past, it appears, wealth distribution, and not wealth creation has dominated economic policy.
B. Clearly, the government has not bothered to eradicate poverty.
C. Today's liberalization is far from the hitherto Nehruvian socialism.
D. Results are evident in the form of a boom in the manufacturing sector output and turnover of all industries.
(a) FJIF (b) FIFJ
(c) IJIF (d) JIFF
- Q.11** A. Even for the world's largest advertiser, with an estimated \$9 bn in spendt in 2009, acquiring some new lessons is critical.
B. According to Pritchard, the world is heading towards Marketing 3.0 and that means marketing as a function needs to overhaul itself.
C. We are not there yet, but we are moving towards an inflection point.
D. We are shifting to purpose inspired brand building, a shift from marketing to serving Pritchard states.
(a) FJFJ (b) JFJF
(c) IFJF (d) IJIF
- Q.12** A. Leading B-schools are looking to overhaul the MBA syllabus.
B. Nitin Nohria, the newly-appointed dean of Harvard Business School (HBS), is said to believe that the way management is taught in B-schools contributed to the recent financial crisis.
C. Srikant Datar, another HBS professor, and two of his colleagues have authored a book, *Rethinking the MBA: Business education at a crossroads*, that echoes this theme.
D. It also laments the fact that MBA students are taking less and less interest in their classes and spending more time on networking and attending recruiting events.
(a) JFFI (b) IFFI
(c) IFFJ (d) IJJI
- Q.13** A. Inhaled anesthetics widely used for surgery-particularly the anesthetic desflurane-are a major contributor to global warming.

- B. Dr Susan M. Ryan of University of California and computer scientist Claus J. Nielsen of University of Oslo said that sevoflurane, isoflurane, and desflurane are recognized greenhouse gases.
C. Using desflurane for one hour is equivalent to 235 to 470 miles of driving.
D. The anesthetics usually are vented out of the building as medical waste gases and remain in the atmosphere for a long time.
E. Ryan and Nielsen suggest some simple, knowledge-based decisions that anesthesiologists can follow to minimize their environmental impact.
(a) IFJFF (b) FFFIF
(c) IFFFI (d) IFIIF
- Q.14** A. The hope that battery-operated cars can save the earth's climate by reducing carbon emission is just a fantasy.
B. The technology used for electric car batteries is so backward that they will die within two years.
C. The so-called energy efficient cars will be extremely expensive and cover far less distance on one battery charge than the manufacturers claim.
D. The research carried out by the Institution of Engineering and Technology suggests that claims about the performance of electric vehicles are pure fantasy.
E. The researchers found the batteries are likely to burn out within two years, requiring expensive replacements.
(a) JJFFF (b) JJJIF
(c) JJJFF (d) JIFJI
- Q.15** A. India has a huge stake in Afghanistan.
B. At least some of this is meant to ensure it remains a sovereign state and extremist Taliban influence and Pakistani meddling are minimized.
C. In the last decade, India has spent at least a couple of billion dollars to rebuild ties with Afghanistan.
D. India has built roads, transmission grids, schools, hospitals and the parliament.
(a) IFIF (b) FFFF
(c) JIIF (d) JFIF

ANSWER KEYS

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (a) 8. (b) 9. (c) 10. (c)
11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (b) 14. (b) 15. (c)