

Critical Reasoning

INTRODUCTION

Critical Reasoning (CR) is ability to reason clearly to evaluate and judge arguments. You are using this skill a lot during your everyday life while reading newspapers or watching movies. When you think that the movie is pushing the limit of the Reasonable or the news sounds less reasonable than the movie that was pushing the limit, you are using your Critical Reasoning skills to produce these conclusions. The argument you meet can be anything from a classical argument to an advertisement or a dialog. Critical Reasoning questions will ask you to manipulate the argument to weaken/strengthen it, find the conclusion, assumption, explanation, do an inference or supplement a statement, etc. Whatever it is that you have to do, you will need 2 things to succeed: know the basic structure of arguments and clearly understand the argument.

In general, most of them, arguments consist of evidence, usually 2 pieces, a conclusion - the main point of an argument, and an assumption - the bridge between the evidence and conclusion. The majority of the arguments you encounter on the test will be 3 step arguments:

Evidence 1 + Evidence 2 = Conclusion.



Example 1: Last week Mike was detained for shoplifting at a groceries store near his house, but he has been a Christian for 10 years, therefore, the police must have been wrong accusing him in stealing.

Note: There are two pieces of evidence: 'Mike was accused of stealing' and that 'he is a Christian'. The conclusion is that '**the police are wrong**'. Therefore, our huge assumption here is that 'a Christian could not have stolen anything.'

Example 2. There are a lot of mosquitoes outside today, please do not turn on the light in the room because a lot of them will fly in.

Note: Here the evidences are 'there are a lot of mosquitoes outside today' and 'do not turn on the light'. The conclusion is that '**Many will fly in**' and the assumption is 'mosquitoes will approach the light.'

There is no set scheme for structure in CR, but since the majority of the arguments are only a few sentences long, the conclusion usually comes in the first or the last sentence. However, some of the arguments encountered will not have a conclusion at all or will have just an implied one.

Strategy to Crack Critical Reasoning Questions

This strategy is not the easiest way to do CR (the easiest would be read-and-answer), but it lets you get the most questions right spending less time per correct answer.

1. Read the questions first; this is needed so that you would know what to look for and what to do: find an assumption, strengthen/weaken, infer something or else; do not worry about the details in the question, read for keywords, such as strengthen, deny, or explain. [Use symbols for convenience, e.g. + for strengthen or – for weaken].
2. Read the passage very attentively because in contrast to Reading Comprehension, there is very little text here and mostly everything is important; try to read only once. Reread if required.
As you read, look for the problem in the passage (evaluate how convincing it is)
3. Paraphrase (reword) the passage. It is a very important step because when you do a paraphrase, you check whether you understood the passage and at the same time you extract the skeleton of the argument, making it easier to identify the conclusion and the assumption. Very often, the paraphrase of the passage will be pretty close to the conclusion. It is not surprising, since the conclusion is the main point and evidence just supports it.) Your paraphrase should be as close to the text and as simple as possible so that you would understand it easily and at the same time could fully trust it. Do not make it too general nor too detail oriented. When you do a paraphrase, do it in three steps: Evidence1, Evidence2, and Conclusion; put "therefore" word before you start your conclusion, this will help you to set it off.
4. Read the question again (now with more understanding of what is being asked; reading the question 2 times, it will also help you to make sure your answer exactly what is stated and that you understand the question.)
5. Answer before reading the answer choices. There are two reasons for this :
 - (i) if you can think of the correct answer or at least the general direction that the answer choice needs to be, you will identify it among the wrong choices much faster, thus spend less time reading the answers, which usually take 30 seconds to cover.
 - (ii) Often students are seduced by the author's wording. One reads a few words that were used in the passage and the brain identifies this choice with the passage, thus making it seem more right that it needs to be. The more problems you practice with, the more chance is you will guess the right answer even before reading it.

6. Go through the answers, first time scan them for YOUR answer choice (usually you will guess correctly in 60-70% of cases), if you did not find it, reread them more attentively.
7. Draw a grid to eliminate the wrong answers easier. Use “✓” for a sure answer, “✗” for a definitely wrong answer choice, and “?” for an answer that may be right or questionable. This will help to concentrate only on a few answer choices and will prevent you from reading same answers several times if you get confused or keep having troubles locating the right answer.

TYPES OF CRITICAL REASONING QUESTIONS

Critical reasoning questions will ask you to:

1. Identify the inference / Must be true question
2. Identify the assumption.
3. Strengthen an argument.
4. Weaken an argument.
5. Select the best conclusion / Main Point
6. Identify the paradox
7. Evaluation/ Reasoning
8. Identify a parallel argument/Structure.

1. Identify the Inference / Must be True Question

These type of questions are extremely common. An **Inference** means the same thing as “must be true”. **Conclusions** differ from **inferences** in that conclusions are the result of premises and inferences are something that must be true. The following are the typical Inference (Must be true) based Questions:

- If the statements above are true, which of the following must also be true?
- Which of the following is [implied, must be true, implicit, most reasonably drawn] in the passage above?
- Which of the following inferences is best supported by the statement made above?

How to tackle “Identify the inference / Must be true questions”:

- Read the stimulus and look for the argument.
- Note that Must Be True questions may not contain an argument. They may just be a series of facts. Nevertheless, try to find the argument.
- Avoid choices which contain absolute statements - never, always, none, only etc. Although these words might appear in some correct choice, you should be very sure about them.
- Some of the options can be eliminated as they go beyond the scope of the passage. Note that an inference can be based on only some of the information provided and not the complete passage.

EXAMPLE 1. Stimulus Argument

Increases in funding for police patrols often lower the rate of crimes of opportunity such as petty theft and vandalism by providing visual deterrence in high-crime neighborhoods. Levels of funding for police patrols in some communities are increased when

federal matching grants are made available.

Question :

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

Options :

- (a) Areas with little vandalism can never benefit from visual deterrence.
- (b) Communities that do not increase their police patrols are at higher risk for crimes of opportunity late at night.
- (c) Federal matching grants for police patrols lower the rate of crimes of opportunity in some communities.
- (d) Only federal matching grants are necessary to reduce crime in most neighborhoods.
- (e) None of these

Sol. : (c) is a summary of the information provided; it is the logical end of a chain of reasoning started in the stimulus argument. The sequence of events goes like this :

Increased funding → Increased visual deterrence
→ Lower crime

The last statement could be mapped as follows:

Federal grants → Increased patrol funds

(c) makes the chain complete by correctly stating that federal grants can lead to lower crime in some communities. Now the logical chain becomes:

Federal grants → Increased funding → Increased visual deterrence → Lower crime

The other answer choices may not be correctly inferred because they go beyond the scope of the argument. They may be objectively, factually correct, or they may be statements that you would tend to agree with. However, you are limited to the argument presented when choosing a correct answer.

2. Identify the Assumption

An assumption is an unstated premise that supports the author’s conclusion. It’s the connection between the stated premises and the conclusion. An assumption is something that the author’s conclusion depends upon. Assumption questions are extremely common and have types that look like this:

- Which of the following most accurately states a hidden assumption that the author must make in order to advance the argument above?
- Which of the following is an assumption that, if true, would support the conclusion in the passage above?

How to approach “Identify the assumption Questions”

- Look for gaps between the premises and the conclusion. Ask yourself why the conclusion is true. Before you progress to the answer choices, try to get feel of what assumption is necessary to fill that gap between the premises.
- Beware of extreme language in the answer choices of assumption questions. Assumptions usually are not

extreme. "Extreme" answer choices usually contain phrases such as always, never, or totally.

EXAMPLE 2. Stimulus Argument

Traditionally, decision making by doctors that is carefully, deductively reasoned has been considered preferable to intuitive decision making. However, a recent study found that senior surgeons used intuition significantly more than did most residents or mid-level doctors. This confirms the alternative view that intuition is actually more effective than careful, methodical reasoning.

Question :

The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

Options :

- (a) Senior surgeons are more effective at decision making than are mid-level doctors.
- (b) Senior surgeons have the ability to use either intuitive reasoning or deductive, methodical reasoning in making decisions.
- (c) The decisions that are made by mid-level and entry-level doctors can be made as easily by using methodical reasoning as by using intuitive reasoning.
- (d) Senior surgeons use intuitive reasoning in making the majority of their decisions.
- (e) None of these

Sol. (a) The correct answer is (a), which provides a missing link in the author's reasoning by making a connection from the evidence: that intuition is used more by senior surgeons than other, less-experienced doctors, and the conclusion: that, therefore, intuition is more effective. None of the other choices helps bridge this gap in the chain of reasoning. Although some of the other statements may be true, they are not responsive to the question. In fact, they mostly focus on irrelevant factors such as appropriateness, ease of application, ability, etc.

3. Strengthen an Argument

Assumptions connect premises to conclusions. An argument is strengthened by strengthening the assumptions. Here are some examples of Strengthen question types :

- The conclusion would be more properly drawn if it were made clear that...
- Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn in the passage above?

How to approach "Strengthen an argument"

- Once you have identified the argument of the passage, i.e. the evidence(s) + conclusion, try putting in each option with the argument. Check if the assumption(s) you have drawn is (are) strengthened if you accept the content of the option as true.

EXAMPLE 3. Stimulus Argument

Three years after the Bhakra Nangal Dam was built, none of the six fish species native to the area was still reproducing adequately in the river below the

dam. Because the dam reduced the average temperature range of the water from approximately 40° to approximately 10°, biologists have hypothesized that sharp increases in water temperature must be involved in signaling the affected species to begin their reproduction activities.

Question :

Which of the following statements, if true, would most strengthen the scientists' hypothesis?

Options :

- (a) The native fish species were still able to reproduce in nearby streams where the annual temperature range remains approximately 40°.
- (b) Before the dam was built, the river annually overflowed its banks, creating temporary backwaters that were used as breeding areas for the local fish population.
- (c) The lowest temperature ever recorded in the river prior to dam construction was 30°; whereas the lowest recorded river temperature after construction was completed has been 40°.
- (d) Non-native fish species, introduced after the dam was completed, have begun competing with the native species for food.
- (e) None of these

Sol. (a) most strengthens the conclusion that the scientists reached. It does so by showing that there is a control group. In other words, a similar population, not subjected to the same change as the population near the dam, did not experience the same type of result. Here the basic assumption about the conclusion that scientists reached is that 'because of the reduction of average temperature range of the water, the reproduction of the native fish species has reduced drastically'. Option (a) clearly strengthens the assumption.

4. Weaken an Argument

Assumptions connect premises to conclusions. An argument is weakened by weakening the assumptions. Here are some examples of Weaken question types :

- Which of the following, if true, would weaken the conclusion drawn in the passage above?
- The argument as it is presented in the passage above would be most strengthened if which of the following were true?

How to approach "Weaken an argument"

- Once you have identified the argument of the passage, i.e. the evidence(s) + conclusion, try putting in each option with the argument. Check if the assumption(s) you have drawn is (are) weakened if you accept the content of the option as true.

EXAMPLE 4. Stimulus Argument

A drug that is very effective in treating some forms of cancer can, at present, be obtained only from the

bark of the Raynhu, a tree that is quite rare in the wild. It takes the bark of approximately 5,000 trees to make one pound of the drug. It follows, then, that continued production of the drug must inevitably lead to the raynhu's extinction.

Question :

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the above conclusion?

Options :

- (a) The drug made from Raynhu bark is dispensed to doctors from a central authority.
- (b) The drug made from the Raynhu bark is expensive to produce.
- (c) The Raynhu generally grows in largely inaccessible places.
- (d) The Raynhu can be propagated from cuttings and cultivated by farmers.
- (e) None of these

Sol. (d) provides an alternate source of the Raynhu bark. Even though the tree is rare in the wild, the argument is silent on the availability of cultivated trees. The author of the argument must be assuming that there are no Raynhu trees other than those in the wild, in order to make the leap from the stated evidence to the conclusion that the Raynhu is headed for extinction. The option (d) weakens the assumption - 'there are limited raynhu trees' - by saying that there are other ways as well for the propagation of Raynhu. The other answer choices all contain information that is irrelevant. Note that the correct choice does not make the conclusion of the argument impossible. In fact, it is possible that there may be domesticated Raynhu trees and the species could still become extinct. Answer choice (d) is correct because it makes the conclusion about extinction less likely to be true.

5. Conclusion / Main Point Question

In Main Point / Conclusion questions, you have to identify the conclusion of an argument. You are trying to find the author's point and should approach this question in a similar way to the reading comprehension main point questions. They come in several different formats:

- The main point of the passage is that...
- Which of the following statements about... is best supported by the statements above?
- Which of the following best states the author's conclusion in the passage above?
- Which of the following conclusions can be most properly drawn from the data above?

The conclusion of arguments in Main Point questions is usually not directly stated. To find the conclusion, identify the premises and then identify the conclusion drawn from the premises. Main Point questions differ from the other Critical Reasoning questions in that the argument in the

stimulus is usually valid. (In most other Critical Reasoning questions the reasoning is flawed.) Conclusion questions require you to choose the answer that is a summary of the argument.

How to approach "Main Point Questions":

- Main Point answers must be within the scope of the passage.
- Your opinions or information outside of the passage are always outside of the scope.
- Some of the options given can be out of the scope of the passage.
- Knock out answers with extreme wording. Main Point answers typically do not use *only*, *always*, *never*, *best* or any strong words that leave little room.

EXAMPLE

5. Stimulus Argument

People should be held accountable for their own behaviour, and if holding people accountable for their own behaviour entails capital punishment, then so be it. However, no person should be held accountable for behaviour over which he or she had no control.

Question :

Which of the following is the most logical conclusion of the argument above?

Options :

- (a) People should not be held accountable for the behaviour of other people.
- (b) People have control over their own behaviour.
- (c) People cannot control the behaviour of other people.
- (d) People have control over behaviour that is subject to capital punishment.
- (e) None of these

Sol. (b) The correct response is (b). The argument includes the following two premises:

Premise 1: People are accountable for their own behaviour.

Premise 2: People are not accountable for behaviour they cannot control.

Here's the logical conclusion based on these two premises:

Conclusion: People can control their own behaviour.

- (a) would require that people never have control over the behaviour of other people. Yet the argument does not provide this premise.
- (b) would require that people should not be held accountable for the behaviour of other people. Yet the argument does not provide this premise.
- (d) is not inferable. The argument allows for the possibility that a person might not have control over another person's behaviour which is subject to capital punishment.
- (e) None of these

6. Identify the Paradox

These questions present you with a paradox, a seeming contradiction or discrepancy in the argument, and ask you

to resolve it or explain how that contradiction could exist. In other words, there are two facts that are both true, and yet they appear to be in direct conflict with one another. Here are some examples of the ways in which these questions are worded:

- Which of the following, if true, would help to resolve the apparent paradox presented above?
- Which of the following, if true, contributes most to an explanation of the apparent discrepancy described above?

How to approach “Identify the paradox questions”

- Read the argument and find the apparent paradox, discrepancy, or contradiction.
- State the apparent paradox, discrepancy, or contradiction in your own words.
- Use process of elimination. The best answer will explain how both sides of the paradox, discrepancy, or contradiction can be true. Eliminate answers that are out of scope.

EXAMPLE 6. Stimulus Argument

Town Y is populated almost exclusively by retired people and has almost no families with small children. Yet Town Y is home to a thriving business specializing in the rental of furniture for infants and small children.

Question :

Which of the following, if true, best reconciles the seeming discrepancy described above?

Options :

- The business specializing in the rental of children’s furniture buys its furniture from distributors outside of Town Y.
- The few children who do reside in Town Y all know each other and often stay over night at each other’s houses.
- Many residents of Town Y who move frequently prefer to rent their furniture rather than buy it outright.
- Many residents of Town Y must provide for the needs of visiting grandchildren several weeks a year.
- None of these

Sol. (d) The correct answer (d), explains why a town of mostly retired residents might need to rent children’s furniture. The other answer choices all contain irrelevant information. This further illustrates the fact that, on all question types, if you eliminate the irrelevant choices, the remaining choice will most likely be correct.

7. Evaluation/Reasoning Based Questions

Reasoning questions ask you to describe how the argument was made, not necessarily what it says. These questions are closely related to assumption, weakening, and strengthening questions. The correct answer identifies a question that must be answered or information that must be gathered to determine how strong the stimulus argument is. The information will be related to an assumption that

the author is making. Another type of question that you will encounter asks you to *identify a flaw* in the stimulus argument. The question tells you that there is a problem with the logic of the argument. You just have to choose the answer that describes the flaw. Here are some examples of the ways in which these questions are worded:

- How does the author make his point?
- A major flaw in the argument above is that it...
- A’s response has which of the following relationships to B’s argument?

How to approach Reasoning Questions

- Read the argument and find the conclusion.
- State the reasoning in your own words.
- Check whether the reasoning given in the various options fall in line with the reasoning described above.

EXAMPLE 7. Stimulus Argument

Some observers have taken the position that the recently elected judge is biased against men in divorce cases that involve child custody. But the statistics reveal that in 40% of such cases, the recently elected judge awards custody to the fathers. Most other judges award custody to fathers in only 20%–30% of their cases. This record demonstrates that the recently elected judge has not discriminated against men in cases of child custody.

Question :

The argument above is flawed in that it ignores the possibility that

Options :

- A large number of the recently elected judge’s cases involve child custody disputes.
- The recently elected judge is prejudiced against men in divorce cases that do not involve child custody issues.
- The majority of the child custody cases that have reached the recently elected judge’s court have been appealed from a lower court.
- The evidence shows that men should have won custody in more than 40% of the recently elected judge’s cases involving divorcing fathers.
- None of these

Sol. (d) The correct answer (d), points out a flaw in the argument. Specifically, it points out that the author of the argument was comparing the recently elected judge to other judges, not to the evidence presented in the recently elected judge’s cases. In other words, the author of the argument made an unwarranted assumption that the recently elected judge did not rule against many men in custody battles where the evidence clearly favored the men. As with strengthening and weakening questions, the correct answer in flaw questions often involves unwarranted assumptions.

EXAMPLE 8. Stimulus Argument

Although dentures produced through a new computer-aided design process will cost more than twice as much as ordinary dentures, they should still be cost effective. Not only will fitting time and X-ray expense be reduced, but the new dentures should fit better, diminishing the need for frequent refitting visits to the dentist's office.

Question :

Which of the following must be studied in order to evaluate the argument presented above?

Options :

- (a) The amount of time a patient spends in the fitting process versus the amount of money spent on X-rays
- (b) The amount by which the cost of producing dentures has declined with the introduction of the new technique for producing them
- (c) The degree to which the use of the new dentures is likely to reduce the need for refitting visits when compared to the use of ordinary dentures
- (d) The amount by which the new dentures will drop in cost as the production procedures become standardized and applicable on a larger scale
- (e) None of these

Sol. (c) The correct answer (c), highlights an assumption in the stimulus argument. It shows that the author must be assuming that the reduction in refitting with the new dentures compared to ordinary dentures is significant in order to conclude that that difference will help offset an initial outlay that is twice as much. In other words, if you answer the question posed by answer choice (c) with "not much," the argument is weakened. If you answer it with "a tremendous amount," the argument is strengthened. The other answer choices are all irrelevant because no matter what the answers are, there is no impact on the relationship between the evidence presented in the stimulus argument and its conclusion.

8. Identify a Parallel Argument/Structure.

The last type of Critical Reasoning question is the *parallel structure* question. In this type of question, you must choose the answer that has the same structure as the stimulus argument. In other words, you have to find the

argument that is analogous to the given argument in that it includes the same relationship between the evidence presented and the conclusion. Here are some examples of the ways in which these questions are worded:

- Which of the following is most like the argument above in its logical structure?
- Which of the following is a parallel argument to the above given argument?

EXAMPLE 9. Stimulus Argument

It is true that it is against international law to provide aid to certain countries that are building nuclear programs. But, if Russian companies do not provide aid, companies in other countries will.

Question :

Which of the following is most like the argument above in its logical structure?

Options :

- (a) It is true that it is against United States policy to negotiate with kidnappers. But if the United States wants to prevent loss of life, it must negotiate in some cases.
- (b) It is true that it is illegal to sell diamonds that originate in certain countries. But there is a long tradition in Russia of stockpiling diamonds.
- (c) It is true that it is illegal for an attorney to participate in a transaction in which there is an apparent conflict of interest. But, if the facts are examined carefully, it will clearly be seen that there is no actual conflict of interest in the defendant's case.
- (d) It is true that it is against the law to steal cars. But someone else certainly would have stolen that car if the defendant had not done so first.
- (e) None of these

Sol. (d) The correct answer (d), has the same structure as the stimulus argument. If you just replace "aid to developing nuclear powers" with "car theft," and "Russian companies" with the "defendant," it is essentially the same argument. Sometimes the parallel structure is easier to see if you use symbols to represent the terms of the argument: It is true that X is illegal. But, if Y doesn't do it, others will. Granted, the stimulus argument is in the future tense and the credited answer is in the past tense. However, it certainly is *most* like the stimulus.

EXERCISE

Directions (Qs. 1 to 17) : Study the following paragraphs and answer the question that follows :

- Wendy, a student, is an avid backgammon player. All students play either chess or checkers, but some checkers players do not play chess because they do not understand chess strategy. Backgammon players never play checkers, because they do not find checkers challenging. Therefore, Wendy must understand chess strategy.
Which of the following must be true for the conclusion drawn above to be logically correct?
 - All chess players understand chess strategy.
 - Backgammon is more challenging than checkers.
 - Chess is more challenging than backgammon.
 - All students who find backgammon challenging play checkers.
 - None of these
- Our school district should not spend its money on the new Verbal Advantage reading program. After all, our students get all the reading practice they need by studying history and science.
The argument above depends on which the following assumptions?
 - The Verbal Advantage program would not help the students learn history and science.
 - Other reading programs are just as effective but less expensive than the Verbal Advantage program.
 - The Verbal Advantage program involves only reading practice.
 - Teaching students history and science is more important than teaching them reading skills.
 - None of these
- Efficiency is all right in its place, in the shop, the factory, the store. The trouble with efficiency is that it wants to rule our play as well as our work; it won't be content to reign in the shop, it follows us home.
It can be inferred from the above passage that
 - Efficiency can become all - pervading
 - Efficiency does not always pay
 - Efficiency can be more of a torture than a blessing
 - both (b) and (c)
 - None of these
- The company encourages its managers to interact regularly, without a pre-set agenda, to discuss issues concerning the company and society. This idea has been borrowed from the ancient Indian concept of religious congregation, called *satsang*. Designations are forgotten during these meetings; hence, it is not uncommon in these meetings to find a sales engineer questioning the CEO on some corporate policy or on his knowledge of customers

Based on the information provided in the above passage, it can be inferred that

- The company is concerned about its reputation with its employees.
 - The company believes in fostering the spirit of dialogue without degenerating it into a position-based debate.
 - The company has some inter-personnel problems in the past due to which it felt the need for these corporate satsangs.
 - All of the above
 - None of these
- From Cochin to Shimla, the new culture vultures are tearing down acres of India's architectural treasures. Ancestral owners often fobbed off with a few hundred rupees for an exquisitely carved door or window, which fetches fifty times that much from foreign dealers, and yet more from the drawing room sophisticates of Europe and the US. The reason for such shameless rape of the Indian architectural wealth can perhaps, not wrongly, be attributed to the unfortunate blend of activist disunity and local indifference.
It can be inferred from the above passage that
 - The environment created by the meeting between activist disunity and local difference is ideal for antique dealers to thrive in India.
 - Only Indians are not proud of their cultural heritage and are hungry for the foreign currency that is easily available in return of artefacts.
 - Most Indian families have heirlooms which can be sold at high prices to Europeans and Americans.
 - India provides a rich market for unscrupulous antique dealers.
 - None of these
 - Developed countries have made adequate provisions for social security for senior citizens. State insurers (as well as private ones) offer medicare and pension benefits to people who can no longer earn. In India, with the collapse of the joint family system, the traditional shelter of the elderly has disappeared. And a state faced with a financial crunch is not in a position to provide financial security. So, it is advisable that the working population give serious thought to building a financial base for itself.
Which one of the following, if it were to happen, weakens the conclusion drawn in the above passage the most
 - The insurance sector is under developed and trends indicate that it will be extensively privatized in the future.
 - The insurance sector is under developed and trends indicate that it will be extensively privatized in the future.
 - India is on a path of development that will take it to a developed country status, with all its positive and negative implications.

- (d) If the working population builds a stronger financial base, there will be a revival of the joint family system.
- (e) None of these
7. Animals in general are shrewd in proportion as they cultivate society. Elephants and beavers show the greatest signs of this sagacity when they are together in large numbers, but when man invades their communities they lose all their spirit of industry. Among insects, the labours of the bee and the ant have attracted the attention and admiration of naturalists, but all their sagacity seems to be lost upon separation, and a single bee or ant seems destitute of every degree of industry. It becomes the most stupid insect imaginable, and it languishes and soon dies.
- Which of the following can be inferred from the above passage
- (a) Humankind is responsible for the destruction of the natural habitat of the animals and insects.
- (b) Animals, In general, are unable to function effectively outside their normal social environment.
- (c) Naturalists have great admiration for bees and ants, despite their lack of industry upon separation.
- (d) Elephants and beavers are smarter than bees and ants in the presence of human beings.
- (e) None of these
8. Szymanski suggests that the problem of racism in football may be present even today. He begins by verifying an earlier hypothesis that clubs' wage bills explain 90% of their performance. Thus, if players' salaries were to be only based on their abilities, clubs that spend more should finish higher. If there is pay discrimination against some group of players—fewer teams bidding for black players thus lowering the salaries for blacks with the same ability as whites—that neat relation may no longer hold. He concludes that certain clubs seem to have achieved much less than what they could have, by not recruiting black players.
- Which one of the following findings would best support Szymanski's conclusion?
- (a) Certain clubs took advantage of the situational hiring above-average shares of black players.
- (b) Clubs hired white players at relatively high wages and did not show proportionately good performance.
- (c) During the study period, clubs in towns with a history of discrimination against blacks, under performed relative to their wage bills
- (d) Clubs in one region, which had higher proportions of black players, had significantly lower wage bills than their counterparts in another region which had predominantly white players.
- (e) None of these
9. The pressure on Italy's 257 jails has been increasing rapidly. Those jails are old and overcrowded. They are supposed to hold up to 43,000 people -----9, 000 fewer than now. San Vittore in Milan, which has 1, 800 inmates, is designed for 800. The number of foreigners inside jails has also been increasing. The minister in charge of prisons fears that tensions may snap, and so has recommended to government an amnesty policy ?

Which one of the following, if true, would have most influenced the recommendation of the minister?

- (a) Opinion polls have indicated that many Italians favour a general pardon.
- (b) The opposition may be persuaded to help since amnesties must be approved by a two-thirds majority in parliament.
- (c) During a recent visit to a large prison, the Pope whose pronouncements are taken seriously, appealed for 'a gesture of clemency'
- (d) Shortly before the recommendation was made, 58 prisons reported disturbances in a period of two weeks.
- (e) None of these
10. Although in the limited sense of freedom regarding appointment and internal working, the independence of the Central Bank is unequivocally ensured, the same cannot be said of its right to pursue monetary policy without co-ordination with the central government. The role of the Central Bank has turned out to be subordinate and advisory in nature.
- Which one of the following best supports the conclusion drawn in the passage?
- (a) The decision of the chairman of the Central Bank to increase the bank rate by two percentage points sent shock waves in industry, academic and government circles alike.
- (b) Government has repeatedly resorted to monetisation of the debt despite the reservations of the Central Bank.
- (c) The central Bank does not need the central government's nod for replacing soiled currency notes.
- (d) The inability to remove coin shortage was a major shortcoming of this government.
- (e) None of these
11. "If you want a hassle-free holiday package for city M, then join only our tour. Hurry up; only a few seats available" – An advertisement of XYZ Tourist Company.
- If the above statement is true then which of the following has been assumed while making the statement?
- (a) No seats may be available with other tour operators for city M.
- (b) Nowadays people have a lot of money to spend on their comforts.
- (c) Travel packages offered by other tour operators are neither cheap nor comfortable.
- (d) Many people desire convenience and comfort while going for a holiday.
- (e) None of these
12. Psychological research indicates that college hockey and football players are more quickly moved to hostility and aggression than are college athletes in non-contact sports such as swimming. But the researchers' conclusion—that contact sports encourage and teach participants to be hostile and aggressive—is untenable. The football and hockey players were probably more hostile and aggressive to start with, than the swimmers. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn by the psychological researchers?

- (a) The football and hockey players became more hostile and aggressive during the season and remained so during the off season, whereas there was no increase in aggressiveness among the swimmers.
- (b) The football and hockey players, but not the swimmers, were aware at the start of the experiment that they were being tested for aggressiveness.
- (c) The same psychological research indicated that the football and hockey players had a great respect for cooperation and team play, whereas the swimmers were most concerned with excelling as individual competitors.
- (d) The research studies were designed to include no college athletes who participated in both contact and non-contact sports.
- (e) None of these
13. The argument for liberalisation which answers the worries of the Left parties about the possible trade deficits created by the opening up of the Indian economy goes thus: 'In today's economic scenario, where there are many trading countries, the trade between two specific countries need not be balanced. The differing demands of goods and services and the differing productive capabilities of the same among different countries will cause a country like India to have trade deficits with some countries and surpluses with other countries. On the whole, the trade deficits and surpluses will balance out in order to give a trade balance'. Which of the following conclusions best summarises the argument presented in the passage above?
- (a) Left parties need not worry about trade deficits in India since its trade will always be in balance even though it runs a deficit with a single country.
- (b) India's trade deficits and surpluses with other countries always balance out.
- (c) The Left parties in India should not be concerned about India's trade deficits with specific countries because they will balance out in the long run.
- (d) None of these
- (e) None of these
14. In a famous experiment at the IISC campus, when a cat smelled milk, it salivated. In the experiment, a bell was rung whenever food was placed near the cat. After a number of trials, only the bell was rung, whereupon the cat would salivate even though no food was present. Such behaviour has been observed in other animals such as dogs, monkeys, etc. and is a vital input for training domesticated animals. Which of the following conclusions may be drawn from the above experiment?
- (a) The ringing of a bell was associated with food in the mind of the cat.
- (b) Cats and other animals can be easily tricked.
- (c) A conclusion cannot be reached on the basis of one experiment.
- (d) Two stimuli are stronger than one.
- (e) None of these
15. A mail-order company recently had a big jump in clothing sales after hiring a copywriter and a graphic artist to give its clothing catalog a magazine-like format designed to appeal to a more upscale clientele. The company is now planning to launch a housewares catalog using the same concept. The company's plan assumes that
- (a) An upscale clientele would be interested in a housewares catalog
- (b) Other housewares catalogs with magazine-like formats do not already exist
- (c) The same copywriter and graphic artist could be employed for both the clothing and housewares catalogs
- (d) Customers to whom the old clothing catalog appealed will continue to make purchase from catalogs with the new format
- (e) None of these
16. The fare-paying capacity of people who travel on routes connecting to small towns is very low. Most successful airlines which operate in such regions have a large number of seats. Which of the following can be inferred from the above information?
- (a) Regional airlines are quite profitable.
- (b) People from cities are increasingly travelling to small towns.
- (c) Regional airlines have to charge low fares in order to be profitable.
- (d) The number of people travelling from small towns to cities is massive.
- (e) None of these
17. All existing and upcoming hotels within a 5 km radius of national parks and sanctuaries in India will have to pay 30% of their annual turnover as tax to the government. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the facts/information given in the above statement?
- (a) The tax collected from the hotels will be used for the betterment of these national parks and sanctuaries.
- (b) Hotels which are sponsored by the government will not have to pay any tax even if these are located within the 5 km radius of such wildlife hotspots.
- (c) The ecosystem of the national parks and sanctuaries is adversely affected even if the hotels are located outside the 5 km radius.
- (d) Government allows the construction of hotels within 5km radius of national parks and sanctuaries.
- (e) Such a step is taken by the environment ministry to boost eco-tourism and perk up revenue collection of State governments.

Directions (Qs. 18-20): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

The prospects for the Indian economy this year will be influenced by the behaviour of the monsoon and expansion of commerce and trade. The Eleventh Plan has envisaged a growth target of 8%. If the agriculture sector does well and the world trade

conditions improve then it is possible to achieve a growth of 6-7%. We need to improve our economy and aim at a higher rate of growth in order to feed our population, maintain the standard of living and improve the quality of life. It is now more than 10 years since we have adopted reforms. We need to go forward in liberalisation but we cannot throw open the market for everything. There are sectors like village industries which need protection.

18. Which of the following is an assumption which is implicit in the facts stated in the above paragraph?
 - (a) India should adopt economic policies of developed countries.
 - (b) Free market strategy is beneficial for India, but not in all the sectors.
 - (c) Over the last few years, we have achieved sustained growth.
 - (d) A very good monsoon is expected this year.
 - (e) None of these
19. Which of the following is an inference which can be drawn from the facts stated in the paragraph?
 - (a) The world trade conditions don't affect Indian economy.
 - (b) The world trade conditions have a major impact on Indian economy.
 - (c) Indian economy has been downgraded since last decade.
 - (d) Govt should cut the subsidies in order to obtain sustained growth.
 - (e) None of these
20. Which of the following is a conclusion which can be drawn from the facts stated in the above paragraph?
 - (a) India may become a super economic power some day.
 - (b) The standard of living of people has continuously degraded in India.
 - (c) Growth of Indian economy and a good monsoon are complement of each other.
 - (d) Indian economy is on the peak of growth.
 - (e) None of these

Directions (Qs. 21-23): Study the following information to answer the given questions.

Science is a sort of news agency comparable in principle to other news agencies. But this news agency gives us information which is reliable to an extraordinarily high degree due to elaborate studies spread over centuries. So, science should be read with the same interest with which we read news.

21. Which of the following will weaken the above argument?
 - (a) Man is an intelligent creature.
 - (b) Science gives information.
 - (c) Scientific information is revised.
 - (d) News agencies cannot verify news.
 - (e) None of these
22. Which of the following may be regarded as an assumption in the above passage?
 - (a) Verification of news is necessary.
 - (b) Science encourages investigative spirit.
 - (c) Science is objective in approach.
 - (d) Science gives us news and not any other information regarding national phenomenon.
 - (e) None of these

23. Which of the following strengthens the argument?
 - (a) Agricultural research is scientific.
 - (b) Science gives abstract theories.
 - (c) Verified information is reliable.
 - (d) Science is a compulsory subject.
 - (e) None of these

Directions (Q. 24-25) : In the following questions a paragraph is given. Read the paragraph carefully and answer the questions which follow each of these paragraph.

Fashion has become one of the largest fads among the youth. The amount of time wastage and expenditure on fashion is very large. What bothers, however, is the fact that fashion is here to stay despite countless arguments against it. What is required, therefore, is that strong efforts should be made in order to displace the excessive craze of fashion from the minds of today's youth.

24. Which of the following statements finds the least support by the argument made by the author in the given paragraph?
 - (a) Youngsters should be motivated to do constructive business rather than wasting time on fashion.
 - (b) The world of fashion being glamorous and glittery attracts people towards itself.
 - (c) Following the latest fashion increases the self-efficacy of people, thus increasing their overall mental abilities.
 - (d) Many universities have implemented a dress code to put a check on the increasing fad amongst the youth which was affecting their grades.
 - (e) None of these
25. Which of the following can be inferred from the given paragraph?
 - (a) The author has made strong efforts to wipe out fashion from the minds of youth.
 - (b) Steps need to be taken in order to control the growing fad of fashion amongst the youth.
 - (c) The author is upset with the shift of fashion from the traditional ethnic wear to western outfits.
 - (d) Fashion world is responsible for lack of creativity among the youth.
 - (e) None of these

Directions (Qs. 26- 28) : Study the following Information carefully and answer the questions given below :

Poverty measurement is an unsettled issue, both conceptually and methodologically. Since poverty is a process as well as an outcome; many come out of it while others may be falling into it. The net effect of these two parallel processes is a proportion commonly identified as the 'head count ratio', but these ratios hide the fundamental dynamism that characterises poverty in practice. The most recent poverty reestimates by an expert group has also missed the crucial dynamism. In a study conducted on 13,000 households which represented the entire country in 1993-94 and again on 2004-05, it was found that in the ten-year period 18.2% rural population moved out of poverty whereas another 22.1% fell into it over this period. This net increase of about four percentage points was seen to have a considerable variation across states and regions.

26. Which of the following is a **conclusion** which can be drawn from the facts slated in the above paragraph ?
- Accurate estimates of number of people living below poverty line in India is possible to be made.
 - Many expert groups in India are not interested measure poverty objectively.
 - Process of poverty measurement needs to take into account various factors to tackle its dynamic nature.
 - People living below poverty line remain in that position for a very long time.
 - None of these
27. Which of the following is an **assumption** which is **implicit** in the facts stated in the above paragraph ?
- It may not be possible to have an accurate poverty measurement in India.
 - Level of poverty in India is static over the years.
 - Researchers avoid making conclusions on poverty measurement data in India.
 - Government of India has a mechanism to measure level of poverty effectively and accurately.
 - None of these
28. Which of the following is an **inference** which can be made from the facts stated in the above paragraph ?
- Poverty measurement tools in India are outdated.
 - Increase in number of persons falling into poverty varies considerably across the country over a period of time.
 - Government of India has stopped measuring poverty related studies.
 - People living in rural areas are more susceptible to fall into poverty over the time
 - None of these

Directions (Qs. 29-31) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

The management of school M has decided to give free breakfast from next academic year to all the students in its primary section through its canteen even though they will not get any government grant.

- The school will have to admit many poor students who will seek admission for the next academic year.
 - The canteen facilities and utensils have to be checked and new purchases to be made to equip it properly.
 - Funds will have to be raised to support the scheme for years to come.
 - All students will get the more nutritious food at free of cost.
 - This decision will attract many students to get admission at school M
 - Breakfast will not be nutritious and safe and it can be harmful for health.
29. Which of the following (A), (B) and (C) can be an immediate **course of action** for the management?
- Only (A)
 - Only (B)
 - Only (C)
 - Both (B) and (C)
 - None of these

30. Which of the following among (A), (B), (E) and (D) may be the **reason** behind the management taking such decision?
- Only (A)
 - Only (B)
 - Both (A) and (E)
 - Only (E)
 - Only (D)
31. Which of the following A, B, E and F may be an immediate **effect** if there will be shortcomings in the proper arrangement of breakfast?
- Only (A)
 - Only (B)
 - Only (E)
 - Only (F)
 - Both (E) and (F)

Directions (Qs. 32-34) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

An advertisement of furniture company :
“The simplest and the most cost-effective way to upgrade your home—

Exchange your old furniture and get 25% to 33% off on the new furniture.

- Now a days, there is no demand for furniture products unless some attractive scheme is offered.
 - Some customers always desire to have best quality and do not bother either for cost or for convenience.
 - Some customers want to keep their home up to date with reasonable cost and with hassles.
 - Generally, these types of advertisements increase the sell of particular products.
 - This advertisement will increase the sell of furniture products of company and customers will also get benefit from this scheme.
 - Now-a-days companies usually cheat customers by giving heavy discount.
32. Which of the following among (A), (B), (C) and (D) is **implicit** in the advertisement given above?
- Only (A)
 - Only (B)
 - Only (C)
 - Both (A) and (C)
 - Only (D)
33. Which of the following among (A), (B), (D) and (E) can be an immediate **cause** for giving this type of advertisement?
- Only (A)
 - Only (B)
 - Only (D)
 - Only (E)
 - Both (A) and (D)
34. Which of the following among (B), (C), (D) and (E) may be a **strong argument** in favour of, both, the company and the customer?
- Only (B)
 - Only (E)
 - Only (C)
 - Only (D)
 - Both (D) and (E)

Directions (Qs. 35-38) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Population increase coupled with depleting resources is going to be the scenario of many developing countries in days to come.

- (A) The population of developing countries will not continue to increase in future.
- (B) It will be very difficult for the governments of developing countries to provide its people decent quality of life.
- (C) Governments of developing countries should make laws and implement them immediately to check the excessive growth of population.
- (D) In developing countries, people get marriages at early age.
- (E) Mostly in developing countries, girls' literacy rate is very low.
35. Which of the following (A), (B), (C) and (D) may be a **conclusion** that logically follows beyond a reasonable doubt from the information given above.
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
- (c) Only (C) (d) Only (D)
- (e) Both (A) and (B)
36. Which of the following (A), (B), (D) and (E) is quite **contrary** to the given information?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
- (c) Only (D) (d) Only (E)
- (e) None of these
37. Which of the following (A), (B), (C) and (D) can be a **course of action** for the governments of developing countries?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
- (c) Only (C) (d) Only (D)
- (e) All of these
38. Which of the following (A), (B), (D) and (E) can be the **reason** behind the population increment?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
- (c) Only (D) (d) Only (E)
- (e) Both (D) and (E)

Directions (Qs. 39-41) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Many private sector banks have reduced interest rate on housing loans in comparison to public sector banks.

- (A) The case should be raised before the regulatory authority for investigation by the public sector banks as they cannot follow such reduction.
- (B) Public sector banks must adopt such policy to remain in competition.
- (C) The public sector banks should advertise their special feature repeatedly so that they do not lose their future customers.
- (D) Now-a-days customers have been very aware on taking house loans. They search everything.
- (E) Sometimes private sector banks reduce interest rate on housing loans for a limit period.
- (F) Public sector banks are more reliable than private sector banks.
39. Which of the following among (A), (B), (C) and (F) can be an immediate **course of action** for the public sector banks?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
- (c) Only (C) (d) Both (B) and (C)
- (e) Either (B) or (C)

40. Which of the following among (B), (C) (D) and (E) can be the **cause** behind the reduction interest rate on housing loans in comparison to public sector banks?
- (a) Only (B) (b) Only (D)
- (c) Only (C) (d) Only (E)
- (e) Both (D) and (E)
41. Which of the following among (A), (B), (E) and (F) may be a **weak argument** in favour of the private sector banks?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
- (c) Only (E) (d) Only (F)
- (e) Both (E) and (F)

Directions (Qs. 42-44) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

There have been quite a few incidents of highway robbery on the super expressway between cities A and B during recent months.

- (A) The local administration should immediately set up police tickets along the expressway to prevent robbery.
- (B) The local administration should immediately close down the expressway till the robbers are apprehended.
- (C) More and more people should be given training on how to tackle with the robbers.
- (D) Due to unemployment people do illegal work.
- (E) There is a lack of security arrangements on the super express way between cities A and B.
- (F) These incidents will increase anarchy in the whole country.
42. Which of the following (A), (B), (C) and (D) may be a practical **course of action** for the local administration?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
- (c) Only (C) (d) Only (D)
- (e) Both (B) and (C)
43. Which of the following among (C), (D), (E) and (F) may be the **effect** of these robberies?
- (a) Only (C) (b) Only (D)
- (c) Only (E) (d) Only (F)
- (e) Both (E) and (F)
44. Which of the following among (C), (D), (E) and (F) may be the **cause** of these incidents of highway robbery?
- (a) Only (C) (b) Only (D)
- (c) Only (E) (d) Only (F)
- (e) Both (D) and (E)

Directions (Qs. 45-47) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

The successful man has the ability to judge himself correctly.

- (A) Inability to judge correctly causes failure.
- (B) To judge others is of no use to a successful man.
- (C) The successful man cannot make a wrong judgement.
- (D) Hard-working is the key of success.
- (E) A successful man can not judge others.
- (F) A successful man does not look in to the future.

45. Which of the following among (A), (B), (C) and (D) is **implicit** in the information given above?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C) (d) ONLY (D)
(e) (A), (B) and (C)
46. Which of the following among (A), (B), (C) and (D) is the **cause** of success?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C) (d) Only (D)
(e) None of the above
47. Which of the following (C), (D), (E) and (F) is a **weak argument** in favour of successful man?
- (a) Only (C) (b) Only (D)
(c) Only (E) (d) Only (F)
(e) Both (E) and (F)

Directions (Qs. 48-50) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Any further increase in the population level in the city by way of industrial effluents and automobile exhaustions would pose a severe threat to the inhabitants.

- (A) All the factories in the city should immediately be closed down.
(B) The automobiles should not be allowed to ply on the road for more than four hours a day.
(C) The government should restrict the issue of fresh licences to factories and automobiles.
(D) Cancer, heart attacks, brain strokes, tuberculosis are the major disease which are rapidly increasing in industrial cities.
(E) All types of pollutants are very harmful for health.
(F) Excessive growth of industries has increased the pollution level in the city.
48. Which of the following among (A), (B), (C) and (D) can be an immediate **course of action** for the Government?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C) (d) Only (D)
(e) All of these
49. Which of the following among (A), (B), (C) and (D) can not be an immediate **course of action** for the government?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Both (A) and (B) (d) Only (D)
50. Which of the following (A), (B), (D) and (E) may be the **effect** of increment in the pollution level in the city?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (D) (d) Only (E)
(e) None of these

Directions (Qs. 51 & 52) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

The standard of education in private schools is much better than Municipal and Zila Parishad-run schools.

- (A) The Municipal and Zila Parishad should make serious efforts to improve standard of their schools.

- (B) All Municipal and Zila Parishad schools should be closed immediately.
(C) Government should raise the standard of education in Municipal and Zila Parishad run schools.
(D) Private schools charge high amount fees for imparting education.
(E) Private sector works better than government sector almost in all areas.
51. Which of the following among (A), (B), (C) and (D) may be the **conclusion** which logically follows the given information?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C) (d) Only (D)
(e) Both (A) and (B)
52. Which of the following among (A), (C), (D) and (E) may be the **reason** behind the better standard of education in private schools?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (C)
(c) Only (D) (d) Only (E)
(e) Both (D) and (E)

Directions (Qs. 53-55) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

A large number of students are reported to be dropping out of school in villages as their parents want their children to help them in farms.

- (A) The governments should immediately launch a programme to create an awareness among the farmers about the value of education.
(B) The government should offer incentives to those farmers whose children remain in schools.
(C) Education should be made compulsory for all children upto the age of 14 and their employment banned.
(D) Poverty is increasing and people do not have proper food to eat.
(E) Mostly parents are illiterate, they do not know the value of education.
(F) Lack of education will hamper the growth of country in future.
53. Which of the following among (A), (B), (C) and (F) can be an immediate **course of action** for the government?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C) (d) (A), (B) and (C)
(e) Both (A) and (B)
54. Which of the following among (D), (E) and (F) may be the **reason** behind the dropping out of school by large number of students?
- (a) Only (D) (b) Only (E)
(c) Only (F) (d) Both (D) and (E)
(e) All of these
55. Which of the following (A), (B), (E) and (F) may be an **effect** of the dropping out of school by large number of students?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (F) (d) Only (E)
(e) None of these

Directions (Qs. 56-58) : Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Admission to all professional courses should be made on the basis of past academic performance rather than through entrance tests.

- (A) It will be beneficial for those candidates who are unable to bear the expenses of entrance tests.
- (B) Many deserving candidates securing high marks in their qualifying academic examinations do not perform well on such entrance tests.
- (C) The standard of examinations and assessment conducted by different Boards and universities are not comparable and hence there is a need to conduct entrance tests to calibrate them on a common yardstick.
- (D) Entrance tests are mandatory to conduct because there is a lot of corruption in schools.
- (E) If all professional courses are made on the basis of past academic performance, the rate of academic performance will increase.

- (F) The government should organise systematically entrance tests for all professional courses.
56. Which of the following (A), (B), (C), and (D) may be a **strong argument** in favour of organising entrance tests?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C) (d) Only (D)
(e) Both (C) and (D)
57. Which of the following (A), (B), (E) and (F) may be the **effect** if all professional courses are made on the basis of part academic performance?
- (a) Only (A) (b) Only (B)
(c) Only (E) (d) Only (F)
(e) Both (A) and (E)
58. Which of the following (B), (C), (E) and (F) can be a **course of action** for the Government in favour of organising entrance tests?
- (a) Only (B) (b) Only (C)
(c) Only (E) (d) Only (F)
(e) None of these

ANSWER KEY

1	(a)	11	(d)	21	(c)	31	(d)	41	(e)	51	(a)
2	(c)	12	(d)	22	(e)	32	(c)	42	(a)	52	(c)
3	(a)	13	(d)	23	(c)	33	(e)	43	(d)	53	(d)
4	(b)	14	(b)	24	(c)	34	(b)	44	(e)	54	(d)
5	(a)	15	(a)	25	(b)	35	(b)	45	(e)	55	(c)
6	(d)	16	(c)	26	(c)	36	(a)	46	(d)	56	(c)
7	(b)	17	(a)	27	(a)	37	(c)	47	(e)	57	(c)
8	(b)	18	(b)	28	(b)	38	(e)	48	(c)	58	(d)
9	(d)	19	(b)	29	(d)	39	(e)	49	(a)		
10	(a)	20	(c)	30	(c)	40	(b)	50	(c)		

Hints & Explanations

- (a) The argument's premises boil down to the following:

 - Wendy is a student who plays backgammon.
 - All students play either chess or checkers, but no backgammon player plays checkers.

Based on these premises we can conclude that Wendy plays chess. In order to also conclude that Wendy understands chess strategy, we must assume that all chess players understand chess strategy.

Premise: X is an A.
Assumption: All A's are B's.
Conclusion: X is a B.

Statement (a) provides the assumption needed to draw the conclusion.
- (c) The argument boils down to the following, including the unstated assumption provided by (c):

Premise: Students get enough reading practice already.
Unstated assumption (c): The reading program provides only reading practice.
Conclusion: The reading program is unnecessary.

(a) is not a necessary assumption. The argument is not concerned with whether improved reading skills would help the students learn history and science. Rather, the argument involves whether the new program would help improve reading skills.

(b) is not a necessary assumption. The argument is that no additional reading practice is needed, regardless of which program provides that practice.

(d) is not a necessary assumption. The argument does not aim to compare the importance of one discipline over another.
- (a) (a) is the correct choice as the passage says that "efficiency is present everywhere, this makes it all pervading". The passage does not suggest that efficiency does not pay or can be more of a torture.
- (b) (b) is the only option as according to the passage designations can be forgotten and even a subordinate like a sales engineer can question the CEO.
- (a) The passage refers to disunity of activists and local indifference to India's architectural treasures. Thus (a) comes across as a best choice as a situation it created in which antique dealers can thrive. Other options are clearly not suggested may appear correct but is not as apt as (a).
- (d) (d) comes across the right choice, as according to the passage, the working population needs a stronger financial base, since the joint family system is collapsing and thus the elderly are not being given the traditional shelter and the state can't provided it as it faces a financial crunch. Thus (d) is contrary to the conclusion drawn from the passage.
- (b) (b) comes across as the only logical inference from the passage where it is shown that animals in general can function when they are in their normal social environment as explained through the examples of bees, ants, elephant & beavers who cannot work properly when separated or invaded by humans
- (b) Inferring from the passage (b) supports Szymanski's conclusion because the passage suggests that clubs that had spend more on hiring white players should have finished higher. However, there is pay discrimination. So high pay may not mean good performance.
- (d) (d) is the only choice which make sense since the Minister in charge of prisons would be influenced by incidence of disturbance as he had already fears of tensions snapping and have recommended an amnesty policy to his government.
- (a) (a) is the only option that make sense as the passage catagorically mentions that the Central Bank does not have the right pursue a monitary policy without coordination with the central government.
- (d) The use of word 'hassle-free' suggests that the company assumed that people seek convenience and comfort.

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| <p>12. (d) Option (d) is essential for basic conclusion.</p> <p>13. (d) The first statement uses the word 'always', which makes it out of context as per the argument presented. Similarly the second statement is useless as it also uses the word 'always'. The third statement is not correct as it talks only about the trade deficit only and surplus is not mentioned.</p> <p>14. (b) This passage is a typical example of Response to Stimuli. Clearly the cat starts salivating when the bell rings because she has related the ringing of bell with food in the back of her mind.</p> <p>15. (a) The mail-order company received a tremendous response with the help of magazine-like format catalog designed for the upscale clientele. As the company is planning to launch a housewares catalog on the similar concept, the clear cut assumption which the company is making that the upscale clientele would be interested in a housewares catalog also.</p> <p>16. (c) Only this follows by combining the two statements.</p> | <p>17. (a) This seems to be the only logic behind the imposition of tax in such specific areas.</p> <p>18. (b) Read the last two sentences of the paragraph.</p> <p>19. (b) Read the line-"If the agriculture sector does well and world trade conditions improve."</p> <p>20. (c) The Indian economy depends on agricultural sector which depends a lot on monsoon.</p> <p>21. (c) This dents the reliability factor.</p> <p>24. (c) 3 goes in the opposite direction: it talks about the utility of fashion whereas the author does not talk of fashion approvingly.</p> <p>25. (b) Read the last sentence of the paragraph.</p> <p>26. (c) Process of poverty measurement needs to take into account various factors to tackle its dynamic nature.</p> <p>27. (a) It may not be possible to have an accurate poverty measurement in India.</p> <p>28. (b) Increase in number of persons falling into poverty varies considerably across the country over a period of time.</p> |
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