

Statement and Assumptions

Whenever we say something (in any conversation) there are certain assumptions which must be true for the statement to make sense. In other words an assumption is something that is ‘taken for granted’ in the context of a statement.

Most questions on Statement and Assumptions give you a statement and follow it up with two further statements which have to be tested for whether they are implied in the original statement or not. In order to identify whether an assumption is implied in a statement the best way to do so is to look at the original statement in the question by negating the assumption which is being tested. In case the assumption being tested is implied, negating it will have the effect of weakening the argument of the original statement.

Directions: In each question below is given a statement followed by two assumptions numbered I and II. Consider the statement and decide which of the given assumption is implicit.

Given answer

- (a) If only assumption I is implicit.
- (b) If only assumption II is implicit.
- (c) If both I and II are implicit.
- (d) If neither I nor II is implicit.

Example 1

Statement

Strong programming skills cannot be the only criteria for a successful career in the field of Information Technology.

Assumptions

- I. Bright careers in Information Technology are not linked only with strong programming skills.
- II. If a person has excellent communication skills as well as strong programming skills, only then would he be successful.

Solution

Clearly, there should be some other skills such as interpersonal skills, communication skills, negotiation skill, etc., for a successful career. Hence, assumption I is implicit. Assumption II is not implicit because it talks only about communication and technical skills. Hence option (a) is correct.

Note: Try the negation test in this question. If Assumption 1 is not true, i.e. “Bright careers in Information Technology are not linked only with strong programming skills” is untrue, then the argument contained in the statement “Strong programming skills cannot be the only criteria for a successful career in the field of Information Technology” loses its strength. Hence, this assumption is implicit in the statement.

Example 2

Statement

The maximum IAS exam selection will be from our institute—A director of a coaching institution.

Assumptions

- I. Most of the students who study in this institute are genius.
- II. Teachers of the coaching institution are preparing their students thoroughly.

Solution

Assumption I is irrelevant because there might be some other genius students who are studying in other coaching institutions. Assumption II is implicit.

A coaching institution can only claim such statements if it is preparing its students thoroughly. Hence, option (b) is correct.

Example 3

Statement

Over a cricketing career most players would do well to remember that there is only one thing that overcomes hard luck—hard work.

Assumptions

- I. If a cricketer is hardworking, he/she can easily tackle the toughest phases of his cricketing career.
- II. A cricketer writes his/her own destiny by hard work.

Solution

Both the statements are implicit. All cricket players face difficult times in their careers, but only those succeed, who confront these phases bravely and work hard to overcome them. In this way, hard luck becomes insignificant for a cricketer. Hence, option (c) is correct.

Example 4

Statement

The case of Marion Jones clearly indicates that if taking drugs play a vital role in the performance of athletes, there is absolutely no use of spending time to watch the athletics in the Olympics.

Assumptions

- I. Cricketers, hockey players and footballers are not involved in doping. So we can spend time to watch such games.
- II. Asian athletes do not win medals because they refrain from taking drugs.

Solution

Both the assumptions are irrelevant. In the statement nothing is said about other games and as such negating that assumption has no effect on the strength of the argument in the statement. Besides, the performance of Asian athletes is irrelevant to the argument. Hence, option (d) is correct.

Example 5

Statement

A Reliance Fresh Retail store was attacked by vegetable vendors in Ranchi.

Assumptions

- I. Reliance Fresh has affected the livelihood of local vegetable vendors.
- II. Reliance Fresh stores are built in thickly populated areas.

Solution

Assumption I is implicit because somewhere down the line, Reliance Fresh is affecting the local vendors. That is why they have been violent. Assumption II is irrelevant because nothing is mentioned regarding the location of the stores. Hence, option (a) is correct.

EXERCISE

Directions:

- (a) If only assumption I is implicit.
- (b) If only assumption II is implicit.
- (c) If both I and II are implicit.
- (d) If neither I nor II is implicit.

1. **Statement** UPSC is tougher than MPPSC. So I will appear in MPPSC.

Assumptions I. Every graduate should appear in MPPSC.

- II. One should avoid tougher things because one might fail in them and failure might lead to a loss of time. On the other hand if something is easy the chances of succeeding are high.

2. **Statement** Rahim is a tall boy

Assumptions I. Rahim's father's height is 6 feet 7 inches.

- II. Any height above 6 feet is considered to be tall.

3. **Statement** What is the distance of my home from my office?

Assumptions I. My home is at the centre of the city.

- II. My office is 10 km away from the park, which is 1 km away from my home.

4. **Statement** A says to B "Refer to the Cambridge dictionary instead of the Oxford dictionary to be good at English."

Assumptions I. B wants to be good at English.

- II. A is a good advisor.

5. **Statement** Narayan the CEO of the company says to his employee, “Achieve the targets we have set for you or I will fire you.”
- Assumptions** I. With Narayan’s statement, the employee will work hard to achieve his targets.
- II. All bosses are in the habit of intimidating their employees.
6. **Statement** In the last year, Lucknow University has launched a number of management courses for the better future of its students.
- Assumptions** I. These courses may attract students.
- II. Lucknow University is conscious about the future of students.
7. **Statement** “We should take permission from the director of the college in order to organise the annual fest.” One student to another.
- Assumptions** I. Without the director’s permission we can’t organise the annual fest.
- II. The director does not want to celebrate annual fests.
8. **Statement** “If you want to specialise in Human Resource Management in India, join XLRI.”
- Assumptions** I. XLRI provides specialisation in HRM.
- II. XLRI has the best HRM course in India.
9. **Statement** Most rural folks are uneducated and therefore superstitious.
- Assumptions** I. Education increases rational thinking.
- II. Rural folks don’t go to school.
10. **Statement** Since the exam is held on the third Sunday of November it is going to be held on 18th November this year.
- Assumptions** I. This year it will not be held on 15th, 19th, 20th or 21st of November.
- II. This year it will not be held on 16th or 17th November.
11. **Statement** “See it first only on our channel”, an advertisement of a news channel.
- Assumptions** I. Advertising is the first and most important thing for every channel.
- II. Other news channels do not want to show things first.
12. **Statement** To keep my knowledge about world affairs strong I always read *The Economist* magazine.
- Assumptions** I. There is no other magazine except *The Economist* for world affairs.
- II. *The Economist* is a cheap magazine.
13. **Statement** The present condition of law and order is the worst of all time.
- Assumptions** I. The present government does not pay heed to the requirements of maintaining law and order.

II. In earlier days, the law and order condition was better.

14. **Statement** India's contribution to the growing global market of management consultancy may touch \$5 billion by 2030, which is 10 per cent of the current export size.

Assumptions I. The current export size is \$50 billion.

II. The current year is 2010.

15. **Statement** A Harvard University study raises fresh concerns about the anti-allergy drug Crocin which is prescribed to patients following antibiotic medication. Compared with other two anti-allergy drugs (one of the three must be prescribed), this study shows that Crocin significantly raises the risk of adverse side effects following antibiotic medication.

Assumptions I. There is no risk if one of the two other anti-allergy drugs are administered.

II. It is necessary to take an anti-allergy drug after antibiotic medication.

16. **Statement** Children whose mothers eat more Frito Lays during pregnancy have higher motor skills and more athletic capability than those whose mothers eat little, according to a new British study.

Assumptions I. Those whose mothers don't eat Frito Lays have zero motor skills and athletic capability.

II. It is essential for pregnant women to have Frito Lays in order to have children with higher motor skills and more athletic capability.

17. **Statement** Many students were caught red-handed and rusticated while using unfair means during the recent university examinations.

Assumptions I. The University authorities have never taken such strong actions earlier.

II. The examination administration committee had prior knowledge about this issue.

18. **Statement** The parents of majority of the students of IIM Ahmedabad have decided to withdraw their wards from the institute to protest against the sharp fee hike.

Assumptions I. It is likely that such attempts will make the IIM Ahmedabad authority to rethink the sharp fee hike.

II. The institution will be closed after 10th of June.

19. **Statement** In the absence of Ravi, Sunil will be teaching mathematics in AMS.

Assumptions I. AMS has only two teachers of mathematics.

II. Ravi is better than Sunil.

20. **Statement** It is clear from the past records of the gym that most people who exercise at the gym regularly maintain the perfect correlation between height and weight.

Assumptions I. Exercise at the gym is essential for everyone.

II. If one wants to have weight according to his height, he should exercise at the

gym regularly.

21. **Statement** “Please switch off your mobile phones while you are in class”, a notice outside a classroom in XYZ.

Assumptions I. Every student of XYZ keeps mobile phones.

II. Switched on mobile phones might distract the atmosphere of the class.

22. **Statement** If you have the desire to excel, we have a job for you.

Assumptions I. If you don’t have a desire to excel, you will not get a job with us.

II. Every job requires the desire to excel.

23. **Statement** “Please submit your fee well before 10th February”, A notice at a coaching institution.

Assumptions I. Unless they are instructed through a notice, a number of students will not submit their fee.

II. The institute will be closed after 10th of August.

24. **Statement** The telephone department has started going home to home to collect bills.

Assumptions I. A substantial number of customers fail to pay their bills in the telephone department.

II. There has been a high default rate in the case of telephone bill payments.

25. **Statement** Use Brylcream to look handsome.

Assumptions I. People want to look handsome.

II. Only ugly people will purchase this product.

Answer Key

1. (b)	2. (d)	3. (d)	4. (a)
5. (a)	6. (c)	7. (a)	8. (c)
9. (a)	10. (c)	11. (d)	12. (d)
13. (c)	14. (a)	15. (b)	16. (b)
17. (d)	18. (a)	19. (d)	20. (d)
21. (b)	22. (b)	23. (a)	24. (c)
25. (a)			

Solutions

1. Only Assumption II is relevant here as it justifies the argument in the statement of going for

easier things rather than tougher things.

2. Both assumptions are invalid and not implied. Hence, option (d) is correct.
3. Neither assumptions are valid. Hence, option (d) is correct.
4. This advice will only be given if Assumption I is true. We cannot assume anything about A's advisory skills hence assumption II is not necessary for the statement.
5. Assumption I is implied as the boss would want (and assumes) this reaction from the employee. The second assumption is invalid.
6. Assumption I is an assumption since the University has launched the courses with this intention. Assumption II is also valid since the launching of these courses shows that the Lucknow University is conscious about the future of its students.
7. Assumption I is obvious while Assumption II is something that we know nothing about.
8. Both assumptions are implied.
9. Assumption I supports the basic conclusion that is drawn in the statement and is hence implied but Assumption II is something that we cannot make a judgement about since it is possible to be uneducated even if you have gone to school.
10. Both Assumptions are implied.
11. The first Assumption is irrelevant while the second is also not implied in the statement since we cannot judge about the intentions of every other news channel on the basis of the statement.
12. Neither Assumption is implied.
13. If the present condition is the worst ever, obviously law and order being the responsibility of the government it must be the case that the present government does not pay heed to the requirements of maintaining law and order. Besides, we can also assume that the condition must have been better earlier.
14. We cannot say anything about the current year.
15. Since one of the three must be prescribed, Assumption II must be implied.
16. We cannot assume that those children whose mothers do not eat Frito Lays have zero motor skills and athletic capability. Hence, assumption I is invalid. However, assumption II is valid.
17. Neither assumption is implied.
18. Assumption I is implicit while the second one is irrelevant to the statement.
19. Neither of the two assumptions are implied in the statement.
20. There could be many different ways of maintaining the perfect correlation between height and weight. Neither assumption is valid.
21. Obviously only assumption II is implied in the statement.
22. Assumption I is directly implied in the statement.
23. This notice will only be required if the institute feels that Assumption I is true. The second assumption is irrelevant.
24. Both assumptions are valid since only when I and II are true will the telephone department feel the need to go house to house for bill payments.
25. This assertion assumes that people would want to look handsome, but the second assumption