

CLIR Drill Answer Key JUNE 2007, SECTION 3

Keep in mind that I personally identified for these CLIRs for these stimuli, but that doesn't mean they are the only possible correct CLIRs. Wording will always vary. Look at the hole my CLIR is exploiting and see if your CLIR is attacking a similar point in the stimulus. If it is attacking the same vulnerability and avoiding the pitfalls shown by the incorrect CLIRs in the previous exercise, then it is probably good to go.

1. Situation: **P1** [Someone living in a cold climate buys a winter coat that is stylish but not warm in order to appear sophisticated.]

Analysis: **C** [People are sometimes willing to sacrifice sensual comfort or pleasure for the sake of appearances.]

Argument → Loophole What if they're not sacrificing comfort because they're layering?

2. **P1** [After replacing his old gas water heater with a new, pilotless, gas water heater that is rated as highly efficient,]
P2 [Jimmy's gas bills increased.]

Paradox → Resolution What if Jim used more gas after the replacement?

3. Carolyn: **P1** [The artist Marc Quinn has displayed, behind a glass plate, biologically replicated fragments of Sir John Sulston's DNA, calling it a "conceptual portrait" of Sulston.] **P2** [But to be a portrait, something must bear a recognizable resemblance to its subject.]

Arnold: **C** [I disagree. Quinn's conceptual portrait is a maximally realistic portrait,] **P1** [for it holds actual instructions according to which Sulston was created.]

Debate → Controversy whether something has to bear a resemblance to its subject in order to be called a portrait

4. **P1** [Many corporations have begun decorating their halls with motivational posters in hopes of boosting their employees' motivation to work productively.] **P2** [However, almost all employees at these corporations are already motivated to work productively.] **C** [So these corporations' use of motivational posters is unlikely to achieve its intended purpose.]

Argument → Loophole What if you can still boost motivation that's already present?

5. Atrens: **P1** [An early entomologist observed ants carrying particles to neighboring ant colonies and inferred that the ants were bringing food to their neighbors.] **P2** [Further research, however, revealed that the ants were emptying their own colony's dumping site.] **C** [Thus, the early entomologist was wrong.]

Argument → Loophole What if there was food in the dumping site?

6. **P1** [Jablonski, who owns a car dealership, has donated cars to driver education programs at area schools for over five years.] **P2** [She found the statistics on car accidents to be disturbing, and she wanted to do something to encourage better driving in young drivers.] **P3** [Some members of the community have shown their support for this action by purchasing cars from Jablonski's dealership.]

Premise Set → Inference Jablonski has benefited from her donation.

7. Antonio: **P1** [One can live a life of moderation by never deviating from the middle course.] **C** [But then one loses the joy of spontaneity and misses the opportunities that come to those who are occasionally willing to take great chances, or to go too far.]
- Marla: **C** [But one who, in the interests of moderation, never risks going too far is actually failing to live a life of moderation:] **P1** [one must be moderate even in one's moderation.]

Debate → Controversy whether never deviating from the middle counts as a life of moderation

8. Advertisement: **P1** [Fabric-Soft leaves clothes soft and fluffy, and its fresh scent is a delight.] **P2** [We conducted a test using over 100 consumers to prove Fabric-Soft is best.] **P3** [Each consumer was given one towel washed with Fabric-Soft and one towel washed without it.] **P4** [Ninety-nine percent of the consumers preferred the Fabric-Soft towel.] **C** [So Fabric-Soft is the most effective fabric softener available.]

Argument → Loophole What if any fabric softener would have been preferable over none?

9. Naturalist: **C** [The recent claims that the Tasmanian tiger is not extinct are false.] **P1** [The Tasmanian tiger's natural habitat was taken over by sheep farming decades ago, resulting in the animal's systematic elimination from the area.] **P2** [Since then naturalists working in the region have discovered no hard evidence of its survival, such as carcasses or tracks.] **IC** [In spite of alleged sightings of the animal, the Tasmanian tiger no longer exists.]

Argument → Loophole What if no evidence for survival doesn't necessarily prove extinction (lack of evidence ≠ evidence of lacking)?

10. **P1** [Advertisers have learned that people are more easily encouraged to develop positive attitudes about things toward which they originally have neutral or even negative attitudes if those things are linked, with pictorial help rather than exclusively through prose, to things about which they already have positive attitudes.] **C** [Therefore, advertisers are likely to _____.]

Premise Set → Inference pictorially link their products to known positives.

11. **P1** [Feathers recently taken from seabirds stuffed and preserved in the 1880s have been found to contain only half as much mercury as feathers recently taken from living birds of the same species.] **P2** [Since mercury that accumulates in a seabird's feathers as the feathers grow is derived from fish eaten by the bird.] **C** [these results indicate that mercury levels in saltwater fish are higher now than they were 100 years ago.]

Argument → Loophole What if the mercury in the feathers of the 1880's birds degraded and disappeared over 100+ years?

12. **P1** [Novel X and Novel Y are both semiautobiographical novels and contain many very similar themes and situations, which might lead one to suspect plagiarism on the part of one of the authors.] **C** [However, it is more likely that the similarity of themes and situations in the two novels is merely coincidental.] **P2** [since both authors are from very similar backgrounds and have led similar lives.]

Argument → Loophole What if similar backgrounds wouldn't necessarily yield similar themes without plagiarism?

13. Therapist: **P1** [Cognitive psychotherapy focuses on changing a patient's conscious beliefs.] **C** [Thus, cognitive psychotherapy is likely to be more effective at helping patients overcome psychological problems than are forms of psychotherapy that focus on changing unconscious beliefs and desires.] **P2** [since only conscious beliefs are under the patient's direct conscious control.]

Argument → Loophole

What if focusing on what's under the patient's direct control doesn't make patients more effectively overcome psychological problems?

14. Commentator: **P1** [In academic scholarship, sources are always cited, and methodology and theoretical assumptions are set out, so as to allow critical study, replication, and expansion of scholarship.] **P2** [In open-source software, the code in which the program is written can be viewed and modified by individual users for their purposes without getting permission from the producer or paying a fee.] **P3** [In contrast, the code of proprietary software is kept secret, and modifications can be made only by the producer, for a fee.] **IC** [This shows that open-source software better matches the values embodied in academic scholarship.] **P4** [and since scholarship is central to the mission of universities.] **C** [universities should use only open-source software.]

Argument → Loophole

What if the university has other priorities in its software purchasing that outweigh "embodying the values of scholarship" just because it's central to their mission?

15. **P1** [A consumer magazine surveyed people who had sought a psychologist's help with a personal problem.] **P2** [Of those responding who had received treatment for 6 months or less, 20 percent claimed that treatment "made things a lot better."] **P3** [Of those responding who had received longer treatment, 36 percent claimed that treatment "made things a lot better."] **C** [Therefore, psychological treatment lasting more than 6 months is more effective than shorter-term treatment.]

Argument → Loophole

What if people aren't capable of evaluating the effectiveness of their own psychological treatment?

or

What if people who do well tend to stay in treatment longer?

16. Philosopher: **P1** [Nations are not literally persons; they have no thoughts or feelings, and, literally speaking, they perform no actions.] **IC1** [Thus they have no moral rights or responsibilities.] **IC2** [But no nation can survive unless many of its citizens attribute such rights and responsibilities to it.] **P2** [for nothing else could prompt people to make the sacrifices national citizenship demands.] **C** [Obviously, then, a nation _____.]

Premise Set → Inference [A nation] must have its citizens hold a belief about it that is literally false, if it is to survive.

17. **C** [When exercising the muscles in one's back, it is important, in order to maintain a healthy back, to exercise the muscles on opposite sides of the spine equally.] **IC** [After all, balanced muscle development is needed to maintain a healthy back.] **P1** [since the muscles on opposite sides of the spine must pull equally in opposing directions to keep the back in proper alignment and protect the spine.]

Argument → Loophole What if exercising the muscles equally on each side doesn't lead to balanced muscle development?

18. Editorialist: **P1** [In all cultures, it is almost universally accepted that one has a moral duty to prevent members of one's family from being harmed.] **IC** [Thus, few would deny that if a person is known by the person's parents to be falsely accused of a crime, it would be morally right for the parents to hide the accused from the police.] **C** [Hence, it is also likely to be widely accepted that it is sometimes morally right to obstruct the police in their work.]

Argument → Loophole What if hiding a falsely accused person doesn't obstruct the police?

19. Editor: **P1** [Many candidates say that if elected they will reduce governmental intrusion into voters' lives.] **P2** [But voters actually elect politicians who instead promise that the government will provide assistance to solve their most pressing problems.] **P3** [Governmental assistance, however, costs money, and money can come only from taxes, which can be considered a form of governmental intrusion.] **C** [Thus, governmental intrusion into the lives of voters will rarely be substantially reduced over time in a democracy.]

Argument → Loophole What if politicians don't keep their promises?

20. **C** [We should accept the proposal to demolish the old train station.] **P1** [because the local historical society, which vehemently opposes this, is dominated by people who have no commitment to long-term economic well-being.] **P2** [Preserving old buildings creates an impediment to new development, which is critical to economic health.]

Argument → Loophole

What if we don't care about economic health?

or

What if we shouldn't demolish old buildings?

21. Ethicist: **P1** [On average, animals raised on grain must be fed sixteen pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat.] **P2** [A pound of meat is more nutritious for humans than a pound of grain, but sixteen pounds of grain could feed many more people than could a pound of meat.] **P3** [With grain yields leveling off, large areas of farmland going out of production each year, and the population rapidly expanding,] **C** [we must accept the fact that consumption of meat will soon be morally unacceptable.]

Argument → Loophole

What if morally unacceptable ≠ not feeding more people?

22. **P1** [If the price it pays for coffee beans continues to increase, the Coffee Shoppe will have to increase its prices.] **P2** [In that case, either the Coffee Shoppe will begin selling noncoffee products or its coffee sales will decrease.] **P3** [But selling noncoffee products will decrease the Coffee Shoppe's overall profitability.] **P4** [Moreover, the Coffee Shoppe can avoid a decrease in overall profitability only if its coffee sales do not decrease.]

Premise Set → Inference

If the price the Coffee Shoppe pays for beans continues to increase, its profits will decrease.

23. **P1** [Political candidates' speeches are loaded with promises and with expressions of good intention, but one must not forget that the politicians' purpose in giving these speeches is to get themselves elected.] **C** [Clearly, then, these speeches are selfishly motivated and the promises made in them are unreliable.]

Argument → Loophole

What if you can keep a promise made for the purposes of getting yourself elected?

or

What if the politician's purpose in getting themselves elected isn't selfish?

24. Sociologist: C [Romantics who claim that people are not born evil but may be made evil by the imperfect institutions that they form cannot be right.] P1 [for they misunderstand the causal relationship between people and their institutions.] P2 [After all, institutions are merely collections of people.]

Argument → Loophole What if a “collection of people” can be influenced by their institution?

25. P1 [Some anthropologists argue that the human species could not have survived prehistoric times if the species had not evolved the ability to cope with diverse natural environments.] P2 [However, there is considerable evidence that *Australopithecus afarensis*, a prehistoric species related to early humans, also thrived in a diverse array of environments, but became extinct.] C [Hence, the anthropologists’ claim is false.]

Argument → Loophole What if we shouldn’t misread conditionals?