

Statement and Argument: Patterns, Traps, and Solving Techniques

1■■■ Direct Logical Argument Pattern

- Type: Straightforward reasoning.
- Trick: Strong if logical, factual, socially beneficial.
- Weak if emotional or vague.

2■■■ Opinion vs Fact Confusion Pattern

- Watch for "I think", "I feel" — they're weak.
- Choose objective, fact-based reasoning.

3■■■ Emotional Appeal Trap

- Emotional sympathy ≠ logical strength.
- Example: "No, because they are poor" → weak.

4■■■ Overgeneralization Pattern

- Beware words like "all", "always", "never".
- Strong arguments are specific and practical.

5■■■ Irrelevant Argument Pattern

- Argument must relate directly to the statement.
- Example: "No, because cigarettes are expensive" → irrelevant.

6■■■ Realistic vs Idealistic Pattern

- Prefer practical reasoning over ideal goals.
- Ideal = emotional, Realistic = logical.

7■■■ Cause–Effect Pattern

- Strong if clear link between action and consequence.
- Example: Ban diesel → reduces pollution.

8■■■ Social vs Individual Benefit Pattern

- Choose argument for collective benefit > personal comfort.

9■■■ Legal vs Moral Justification Pattern

- Legal/systemic reasoning is stronger than moral appeal.

■ Double Argument Pattern

- Sometimes both arguments can be strong if both are logical and non-contradictory.

■ Quick Trick Table

Weak Argument Indicators Strong Argument Indicators Emotional, personal, moral Logical, factual, practical Uses "always", "never" Balanced and realistic Individual viewpoint Social or national perspective Assumptions, beliefs Cause–effect reasoning Idealistic or vague Concrete, feasible

■ Exam Strategy Summary

1. Read the statement twice – grasp the issue fully.
2. Check relevance of the argument.
3. Identify emotional vs logical tone.
4. Prefer social/systemic logic.
5. Avoid extreme or impractical reasoning.

■ Special Note:

Students often get stuck when both arguments sound “right”. Remember – the question asks which one is “stronger”, not “agreeable”. Logical, evidence-based reasoning always wins.