

# 18 Statement: Arguments



Statement and Arguments are very important sections of critical reasoning. In this, a statement about a *political, social, or economic* topic is presented, followed by arguments in support or opposition to the statement. The candidate must first assess the statement, then the arguments in the context of the statement, before deciding which of the arguments is the most compelling and is also assisting in the formulation of the best perspective on the topic.

## WHAT IS AN ARGUMENT?

In simple terms, an argument is a viewpoint on a topic that is backed up by evidence. The aspirant must assess the persuasiveness of the provided argument, determining whether it is weak or strong. An argument, in other words, is a set of two or more phrases, clauses, or sentences that incorporates a proposition or conclusion.

### Arguments can be of two types:

1. **Strong Arguments:** Strong arguments are those that are valid, strong, and factual, discuss strength, are clearly connected to the statement and meet the logic requirement. Following are the types of strong arguments-
  - **Arguments that include already proven facts:** The provided argument is a well-known fact that is usually true in this form of a strong argument.
  - **Arguments in which the outcome is expected based on previous experience:** Because of past events, the arguments in this form of a strong argument are accurate.
  - **Arguments that state the universal truth:** The arguments in this form of a strong argument are certain or

universally accepted to be true and are often scientifically established.

2. **Weak Arguments:** Weak arguments are ones that are just vaguely related to the statement and do not meet the logic criteria; they are erroneous, weak, and incorrect. Following are the types of weak arguments-

- **Arguments that are ambiguous in nature:** This type of weak argument does not define how the argument relates to the course of action or what the author intends to communicate; hence, these arguments are weak.
- **Arguments that are redundant in nature:** Arguments are redundant in this type of weak argument, and they do not provide a thorough analysis of the issue at hand; hence, they are weak in nature.
- **Arguments that are interrogative in nature:** The argument in this form of weak argument is made up of the arguer's rebuttal to a question.

Now, let us look at the following *example* to understand the concept better.

**Statement:** Has the Indian economy suffered as a result of globalisation?

### Arguments:

- (i) Yes. Indian businesses are being pushed out by multinational corporations.
- (ii) No. Because multinationals sell standard-quality goods at an affordable rate.

Now here, let us take a closer look at the issue. The question, here, is if the Indian economy has 'suffered' because of globalisation. As a result, we must determine if the arguments present any evidence or basis that would conclusively indicate that the economy is being affected or not.

As per argument (i), Indian businesses are unable to compete with their overseas rivals. As a result, we might claim that 'Indian companies are being damaged.' However, Indian businesses are not the only ones who make up the Indian economy. Foreign corporations also contribute to the economy of the country. As a result, the argument is weak. Argument (ii) claims that international corporations that have arrived in India in terms of globalisation are selling standard products at reasonable prices, because of which, the customer benefits. Is this, however, 'no damage to the national economy?' The declarations make no mention of whether Indian businesses were offering inferior items at higher costs. We can use our external information to create a

### Tips and Tricks

- A strong argument should provide a genuine diagnostic of the circumstance represented in the statement, whereas the nature of weak arguments is that they are vague.
- Before answering the questions on statement and argument reasoning, conduct a basic assessment of the questions.
- A strong argument should include an in-depth examination of the topic at hand, whereas a weak argument is overly simplistic and often unnecessary.
- If an argument is based on a universal truth, it is always strong. But, a weak argument contradicts the known facts.
- If an argument is vague, it can be dismissed.
- A strong argument should be backed up by facts or well-established ideas and should also be related to the given statement, whereas arguments that incorporate the terms only, definitely, the best until, until, etc will most likely be weak.

generalisation that globalization is beneficial; however, this is disputed and dependent on the individual's perspective. As a result, we can say that argument (ii) is also a weak argument. Therefore, both the arguments are weak.

In the following *examples*, each of the given questions is followed by a series of arguments. You must determine which of the arguments is 'strong' and which is 'weak.'

**Example 1. Statement:** Should 'Sanskrit' be taught in India's schools as a mandatory subject?

### Arguments:

- (i) No. We do not have teachers that are qualified enough to teach such a difficult language.
- (ii) Yes. Sanskrit is an ancient language and there is a desperate need to protect it at all costs.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

### Answer: C

**Explanation:** Argument (i) depends on a person's perspective, as there are different teachers in every school and some of them may be qualified enough, while some maybe not. As a result, argument (i) is not particularly convincing. When we talk about the second argument, although it is true that we should be proud of our ancient language, making 'Sanskrit' compulsory in schools is not desirable solely for this reason. Hence, argument (ii) is not strong either.

**Example 2. Statement:** Should it be mandatory for female students to master self-defence?

### Arguments:

- (i) Yes. In a world where instances of attacks on women are on the rise, self-defence training has become an important aspect of women's safety.
- (ii) No. Even if girls do learn self-defence, they will never be as physically strong as the assaulter.

- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
- B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
- C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
- D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Argument (i) is compelling because, with the rise in assault cases, girls need to be prepared to defend themselves. Argument (ii) does not hold strong simply because it varies from one person to another.

**Example 3. Statement:** Should India's public universities be free?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes, improving literacy levels is the only way to develop India.
  - (ii) No, it would contribute to the exchequer's already tremendous load.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Argument (i) is weak since it contains the word "only," whereas argument (ii) is strong because such a step would definitely necessitate vast sums of money and result in a financial drain.

**Example 4. Statement:** Should all government agencies and departments implement a system of exclusively granting jobs to the children of government employees?

**Arguments:**

- (i) No. It denies many qualified people a chance to succeed, and the government might suffer as a result.
  - (ii) No. The government owes its responsibilities to all of its citizens, as per the idea of equality.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.

- C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
- D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** If taken care of; merit, impartial evaluation, and equal opportunity for all can enable the government to recruit qualified officials while also achieving the Constitution's goals. As a result, both arguments are valid.

**Example 5. Statement:** Should every university student in India be required to participate in military training?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Only in this manner can a strong and resilient nation be built.
  - (ii) Yes. It is the only way to instil discipline in the youth.
  - (iii) No. Repulsion follows compulsion in every case.
  - (iv) No. This is a violation of an individual's fundamental democratic freedom to choose his or her courses.
- A. Only arguments (i) and (ii) are strong.
  - B. Only arguments (ii) and (iv) are strong.
  - C. Only arguments (iii) and (iv) are strong.
  - D. None of the above.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Making military training mandatory for all university students would undoubtedly improve India's troops and instill strong discipline among them, but it is not the only way to accomplish these goals. As a result, neither (i) nor (ii) holds up. Furthermore, students who are truly willing to join the armed services and serve the country will be able to defend the country better than those who are forced to do so. Every student has the fundamental right to pursue a vocation of his or her choosing. As a result, both (iii) and (iv) hold true.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**Directions:** Each question begins with a statement, followed by two or more arguments denoted by the numerals (i), (ii), and so on. You must assess which of the arguments are 'strong' arguments and which are 'weak' arguments, and then select an answer from the options presented below each question.

- 1. Statement:** Should it be compulsory for students in grades V and VI to take board exams?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Students must be trained from the start to tackle such challenging assessments in today's competitive environment.
  - (ii) No. Students will be compelled to learn and will not embrace education if we put such additional strain on them.
- A. Only (i) is strong.
  - B. Only (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Exams will prepare students for competitions later in life. As a result, (i) is valid. On the other hand, the essential basics of subjects should be taught to the students in Classes V and VI in a gradual process using practical examples and practice in an entertaining manner. They do not need to be forced to study, and their age does not allow them to withstand the stress and load of exams. Therefore, both (i) and (ii) hold strong.

- 2. Statement:** Should the government open more engineering schools in the country?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. The country is in desperate need of qualified engineers.
- (ii) No. The government should make sure that quality education is being

provided in the existing engineering schools, as most of them lack the required facilities.

- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
- B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
- C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
- D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Undoubtedly, offering modern and advanced infrastructure to existing engineering schools may enable them to generate more and more qualified engineers, since they can accommodate even more students and give them quality education. As a result, only argument (ii) is valid, whereas argument (i) is not.

- 3. Statement:** Should social networking sites completely prohibit people less than 18 years of age from signing up?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Such websites often mislead people under the age of 18.
  - (ii) No. It enables young people to use their right to free speech and expression when they express themselves on such platforms.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** (i) does not explain the situation in which such websites mislead people of age less than 18 years. Furthermore, these kinds of distractions are frequent among both minors and adults, which is one of the main reasons why many organisations prohibit the use of social media platforms. As a result, (i) is weak. (ii) is weak because there are other ways to exercise the legitimate right to freedom of expression, and allowing people under the age

of 18 access to social media platforms solely for that purpose would be incorrect.

- 4. Statement:** Should there be a limit on the number of people who can run in parliamentary elections in each constituency?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. The parliamentary elections will be more impactful as voters will be able to make an informed decision when casting their vote.
  - (ii) No. In a democracy, anyone who meets the qualification requirements can run for parliament, so there should be no constraints on the same.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Obviously, if there were fewer candidates, voters would have an easier time making a decision. As a result, argument (i) is valid. Furthermore, everyone who meets the Constitution's requirements should be given a chance and should not be refused just to reduce the number of candidates. As a result, argument (ii) is also valid.

- 5. Statement:** Should all pharmaceuticals that are manufactured and patented in any Western country be first tested in India prior to being given a license to sell to the wider population?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Many of these drugs have varying doses and duration for the population of India, therefore it is crucial to keep track of them.
  - (ii) No. This is not permitted, hence it cannot be achieved.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Evidently, the government is concerned about the citizens' health. Therefore, before the government grants any kind of a license to sell a product, such as pharmaceuticals, it is very necessary to first investigate it properly and see if it works in the Indian setting too. As a result, only argument (i) is valid.

- 6. Statement:** Is there a way to control pollution in this modern world?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. If people are able to recognise the dangers that pollution poses and decide to work together to eliminate it, pollution can be minimised eventually.
  - (ii) No. Overcrowding on roads, in industries, and in organisations, and also an ever-expanding population hungry to capture more and more land for residential construction is inevitable.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** On one hand, pollution control appears to be unattainable due to the constantly increasing needs and demands of the public, but on the other hand, pollution control is possible through a cooperative effort of the masses. As a result, both of the arguments will withstand.

- 7. Statement:** Should victory take precedence over participation?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Every sportsman is now a professional who survives primarily on prize money.
- (ii) No. In India, sportsmen make more money through sponsorships than match fees.

- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
- B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
- C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
- D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The primary statement is a statement that may be applied to a wide range of circumstances. Sports have been used to prove argument (i) and as a result, it is a weak argument. Argument (ii) discusses sponsorships that are not covered by the main statement. As a result, none of the arguments is valid.

- 8. Statement:** Should the state place limitations on journalists' access to confidential or sensitive data in order to minimise media frenzy?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. It can lead to bullying of those who have been impacted by the issue and are suspected of being engaged in it.
  - (ii) Yes. The press occasionally creates frenzy and broadcasts misleading data.
  - (iii) No. The media should have complete access to all the data because the media is the finest source for exposing societal flaws.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only (ii) and (iii) are strong.
  - C. Only (i) and (ii) are strong.
  - D. All (i), (ii), and (iii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** All the arguments are strong as they provide a legitimate reason to support the primary statement.

- 9. Statement:** Would it be appropriate for a cricket team to have multiple captains during a match?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Having many heads come to a consensus before making a choice is always preferable.
- (ii) No. In such a circumstance, one must make judgments on the fly, and there

will be no time to settle opposing viewpoints among the captains on the field.

- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
- B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
- C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
- D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Every individual may hold a different viewpoint. As a result, making a decision on the spot may take longer. Hence, only argument (ii) is strong.

- 10. Statement:** Is there a need to ban foreign films in India?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. They show a foreign lifestyle that has a harmful impact on Indian people's beliefs.
  - (ii) No. The artistic quality of foreign films is extraordinary and they deserve to be seen by the world.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Foreign films clearly represent a foreign lifestyle, but this only aids in learning more. As a result, argument (i) is inadequate. Furthermore, argument (ii) is not sufficient enough to reverse the prohibition. As a result, (ii) is not strong either.

- 11. Statement:** Should university education be halted for a period of time?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. It will help decrease the number of unemployed educated people.
  - (ii) No. It will obstruct the nation's future development.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: B**



**Explanation:** Clearly, unemployment is not caused by a lack of advanced education. Moreover, it has resulted in more career prospects. As a result, argument (i) is a little ambiguous. Furthermore, higher education aids in the development of a country. As a result, argument (ii) is valid.

**12. Statement:** Should students at Indian universities wear uniforms as they do in schools?

**Arguments:**

- (i) No. Undergrads should not be forced to wear uniforms and should be allowed to choose their attire for the day.
- (ii) Yes, because all of the students will be properly attired, the atmosphere of the colleges will improve.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Apparently, after years of severe discipline and adherence to the school's formal dress code, youngsters must be given some leeway in college life as they prepare to take on life's responsibilities. Furthermore, schools employ uniform to ensure the safety of students, a factor that is less important in universities. As a result, argument (i) is appealing. In addition, the college's atmosphere is determined by the students' commitment and decorum, not by their clothes. As a result, argument (ii) is ambiguous.

**13. Statement:** Is it reasonable for the government to spend so much money on defence?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. The country's security is of paramount importance.
- (ii) No, this money can be used to help the country prosper during peacetime.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.

D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Unquestionably, defence is required for the country's safety, which is of paramount importance. As a result, the argument (i) is valid. Furthermore, only when a country is safe from external provocations can it focus on internal progress and development. As a result, argument (ii) is invalid.

**14. Statement:** Should a university or institution have a student association?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. It is extremely important. Students are the next generation of political figures.
- (ii) No. This will give the campus a political vibe.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The creation of a students' association will be a good initiative to provide students with basic political education. It will, however, foster a similar political climate on campus. As a result, both arguments are valid.

**15. Statement:** Is sex education something that should be taught in schools?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. This is something that all progressive nations practise.
- (ii) No. In co-educational schools, we will be unable to impart it as it might distract the students and make them feel uncomfortable around each other.
- (iii) Yes. It would undoubtedly contribute to the removal of existing misunderstandings and the physical and emotional health of the youth of today.
- (iv) No. It will obliterate the moral integrity and highly regarded value system that our ancestors instilled in us.

- A. Only (i), (iii), and (iv) are strong
- B. Only (ii), (iii), and (iv) are strong
- C. All (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) are strong
- D. None of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Clearly, a policy cannot be implemented in India just on the basis that it is implemented in other nations, because each country has its environment and circumstances. As a result, argument (i) is a dubious proposition. In addition, providing sex education in co-educational institutions, where girls and boys study together, may degrade the atmosphere and impede academic progress. As a result, argument (ii) is convincing. Sex education at schools, on the other hand, might assist kids to clear up their preconceptions and concerns at a time when they might otherwise be hesitant to address the subject with others. Furthermore, sex is an important element of students' future lives, and knowledge of it is neither regressive nor embarrassing. As a result, argument (iii) is persuasive, whereas argument (iv) is ineffective. Therefore, only arguments (ii) and (iii) are strong.

**16. Statement:** Should a censor board be appointed to monitor commercials produced by various organisations?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Many times, a commercial has sparked heated controversy by depicting scenarios that are harmful to our cultural structures.
- (ii) No. Having a censor board for a variety of reasons is unrealistic.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Argument (i) is persuasive because many commercials contain undesirable content, which has sparked national debate. Argument

(ii) is unconvincing because commercials can be supervised by a censor board.

**17. Statement:** Should the state provide an "unemployment allowance" to educated unemployed youth of the nation?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. It would provide them with financial assistance to help them find work or create a 'self-employment' business.
- (ii) No. It will stifle their will to work in order to support themselves, promoting lethargy among the jobless people.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Young individuals who are unable to find work due to a huge number of applications in all professions must undoubtedly be provided with a stipend to help them maintain themselves. As a result, argument (i) is correct. Allowances like these, on the other hand, would stifle their will to work and render them indolent. As a result, argument (ii) also holds true.

**18. Statement:** Should all new and major factories be based in Bangalore?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. There will be more employment opportunities.
- (ii) No. The city's pollution will worsen.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** In this case, both of the arguments are viable. The establishment of new factories will create more employment



opportunities, but it will also raise pollution.

**19. Statement:** Should all university examination bodies allow calculators to be used during exams?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. With the advent of information technology in all sectors, human computations are no longer necessary.
- (ii) No. Knowing how to do manual calculations is crucial for students to understand their concepts.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** People require manual computation methods, and they must be encouraged. As a result, argument (ii) is strong. Argument (i) is also strong in its own way as with the extensive use of computers in all sectors, there is very little need for a person to do manual calculations. Therefore, both arguments (i) and (ii) withstand.

**20. Statement:** Should the legal drinking age in bars and nightclubs be lowered from 21 years?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Once a person reaches the age of 18-20 years, the age at which one can correctly vote, he or she is mature enough to distinguish between the good and the evil, the right and the wrong.
- (ii) No. A person experiences a variety of circumstances by the time they reach this age. Emotional maturity and financial independence are usually achieved after this age. If the age restriction is lowered, the youth will be susceptible to face consequences as a result of uninformed decisions.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.

D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Argument (i) is compelling because it asserts that people reach maturity between the ages of 18 and 20. Argument (ii) is also compelling because it asserts that one does not reach social maturity until they are 21 years old. As a result, both are compelling arguments.

**21. Statement:** Should the government take ownership of all engineering schools in the country?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. This is the only way to make sure that all engineering students receive a standard education.
- (ii) No. The government lacks necessary funding to efficiently administer such institutions.
- (iii) No. Each engineering school should be permitted to operate autonomously.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Only arguments (i) and (iii) are strong.
  - D. None of the above.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Clearly, if such institutes benefit the young generation of the country, the government can pool resources to administer them. As a result, (ii) does not hold up. (iii) fails to present a compelling argument. Consequently, government ownership of the institutes is not required to deliver greater education than is now provided. As a result, (i) is also invalid.

**22. Statement:** Should all individuals found guilty of severe offences such as rape or murder be sentenced to death or given the death penalty beyond a possible suspicion?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. These kinds of harsh penalties will only deter people from doing such horrible atrocities, making the world a safer place.

- (ii) No. Anyone who has confessed to their crimes must be granted the opportunity to improve and live normally.
- A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** A person who commits a horrendous crime such as rape or murder should, without a doubt, be severely punished in order to deter others from attempting such atrocities in the future. As a result, argument (i) is persuasive. Furthermore, it is impossible to know whether an offender is truly sorry for his actions; he may do so simply to avoid imprisonment. Therefore, argument (ii) fails.

**23. Statement:** Should all of the city's illegitimate buildings be totally destroyed?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. By doing so, a strong message will be sent to the public, and they will avoid building illegal constructions.
- (ii) No. What will happen to the people who live in these buildings?
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Unauthorised structures would be destroyed to send a strong message to deceitful constructors and to remind people not to engage in similar projects in the area. Illegal structures place an unnecessary strain on the city's infrastructure, therefore this is critical. As a result, only argument (i) is valid.

**24. Statement:** Should handloom enterprises in rural regions be encouraged?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. Individuals living in rural areas are very creative.

- (ii) Yes. To a certain degree, this would assist in resolving the unemployment crisis.
- (iii) No. People who live in rural areas are not skilled.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.
  - D. All (i), (ii), and (iii) are strong.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Handloom industries, certainly, need to be pushed in order to provide more employment opportunities for rural populations in their own localities. Therefore, (ii) holds strong. There is no proof that individuals living in rural areas are very creative or very unskilled; hence, arguments (i) and (iii) are vague.

**25. Statement:** Should a candidate's performance in an interview really be considered the deciding factor in his selection process?

**Arguments:**

- (i) Yes. It is one of the only ways to assess a candidate's personality, aspirations, and motivations.
- (ii) No. In terms of evaluation, it is extremely subjective.
  - A. Only argument (i) is strong.
  - B. Only argument (ii) is strong.
  - C. Neither (i) nor (ii) is strong.
  - D. Both (i) and (ii) are strong.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Apparently, aside from interviews, there are various forms of written assessment that can be used to assess a candidate's interests. As a result, argument (i) is insufficient. Without a doubt, the interview is a subjective evaluation of a candidate's personality. Therefore, argument (ii) is valid.