1.Question 1

Have a look at the following statement. Which sentence is the conclusion?

*I have the right to leave work after lunch. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 24, everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours. I have been working an unreasonable amount of hours.*

The first sentence

2.Question 2

Have a look at the following argument. What is one problem with the argument?

*According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 24, everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours. I have been working an unreasonable amount of hours. Therefore, I have the right to leave work after lunch.*

The second premise is not strong, because the definition of ‘reasonable’ is unclear and needs to be further illustrated.

3.Question 3

Have a look at the following argument. What is the problem with the conclusion?

*I have the right to leave work after lunch. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 24, everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours. I have been working an unreasonable amount of hours.*

The conclusion is not the most logical result of the premises.

1.Question 1

Have a look at the following passage. What is wrong with the argument?

*Every morning, as it gets closer to midday, the temperature rises. At the same time, I always start to feel hungry. Therefore, an increase in temperature makes me hungry.*

*Check one option.*

It assumes that there is a cause-effect relationship between the two trends.

2.Question 2

Which of the following statements can be considered hasty generalizations?

All homeless people are unemployed.

3.Question 3

Have a look at the following passage. What is wrong with the counter-argument?

*Argument: Research suggests that restorative and reparative punishments, such as community-service sentences, result in a reduction of repeat offenders. This is particularly the case for minor, non-violent offenses. The justice system should reduce the amount of prison sentences and increase the number of community-service sentences for minor, non-violent offences.\**

*Counter-argument: According to crime statistics, between 50% and 60% of all released prisoners will re-offend. If you take criminals out of jail and let them free on the street you will be putting innocent people’s lives in danger.\**

*\*Arguments are fictional*

It misrepresents the original argument.

1.Question 1

What is one of the downsides to using deductive reasoning in a university context?

Deductive reasoning needs to use strong, fixed language and this means it can be more easily attacked and disproven than other forms of reasoning.

2.Question 2

What are the two main types of reasoning that you find at university?

Reasoning that moves from general statements to specific conclusions.

Reasoning that moves from specific observations to general conclusions

Consider the following argument:

The Artape people have lived on the island of Staples for between 20,000 and 25,000 years. A number of archaeological sites have been radiocarbon dated to around 19,000 BC, although there is evidence of some tools being used by hunters as early as 23,000 BC. They are thought to have migrated across from Africa on land bridges that existed before the last ice age. Archaeological evidence, such as oral stories, rock pictures and some ancient fossils, suggests that there was trade between the main land and the smaller island across these land bridges, but this stopped when the seas rose around 12,000 years ago.\*

\*Fictional people & history

What kind of reasoning is evident here?

This is an example of reasoning from general observations to specific conclusions.

1.Question 1

What is the problem with the following ‘laundry list’ approach to the issue of homelessness?

Mental health issues >

Poverty > homelessness

Unemployment >

The list only indicates a one way relationship between the causes and effect.



The list doesn’t demonstrate the relationship between each factor and how they are related.

2.Question 2

How can re-framing the following statement as a cycle (or a ‘feedback loop’) help create a better understanding of the issue?

*Mental health issues, unemployment and poverty are all factors that lead to homelessness.*

It demonstrates that the factors are all inter-related and therefore a solution that addresses only one factor would not be sufficient to solve the issue.

Thinking in terms of a cycle shows that it is not only a cause-effect relationship, and that homelessness itself can contribute to the factors of mental health issues, unemployment and poverty as well.

3.Question 3

As well as the benefits mentioned in regards to the feedback loop above, why else would it be useful to see the issue of homelessness through a systems thinking perspective, looking at the issue as a web of interrelated components?

To be able to see what occurs between each of the individual components

It helps understand the complexity of the issue and to see the bigger picture.