

The burden of maintaining the U.S. highway system falls disproportionately on the trucking industry. Trucks represent only about 10 percent of the vehicles on U.S. roads. Yet road use taxes assessed on trucks amount to almost half the taxes paid for highway upkeep and repair.

**1. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?**

- (A) The trucking industry has enjoyed record after-tax profits in three of the past four years.
- (B) Because of their weight, trucks cause over 50 percent of the damage sustained by highway surfaces each year.
- (C) Without an economically viable trucking industry, the cost of goods in the United States would rise significantly.
- (D) Road use taxes paid by trucking companies have decreased by 3 percent over the past five years.
- (E) Due to years of neglect, U.S. highways today are badly in need of major repairs and rebuilding.

It's time we stopped searching for new statistics to suggest that we are not spending enough on education. In fact, education spending increased 30 percent overall during the last decade.

**2. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?**

- (A) Despite increased spending on education, enrollment in our elementary and secondary schools declined about 4 percent during the last ten years.
- (B) Our spending on gasoline increased more than 100 percent during the last decade.
- (C) When adjusted for inflation, our per-pupil expenditure on education this year is less than it was ten years ago.
- (D) Eleven other economically developed nations spend more on education than we do.
- (E) The achievement levels of our students have been declining steadily since 1960, and the last decade produced no reversal in this trend.

In 1980, a Danish ten-øre coin minted in 1747 was sold at auction for \$8,000. Eleanor Bixby owns another Danish ten-øre coin minted in 1747. When she puts it on the market next week, it will fetch a price over \$18,000.

**3. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the conclusion drawn above?**

- (A) Since 1980, the average price for rare coins has increased by over 150 percent.
- (B) There are only four coins like the one in question in the entire world.
- (C) Since 1980, the consumer price index has risen by over 150 percent.
- (D) In 1986, a previously unknown cache of one hundred coins just like the one in question was found.
- (E) Thirty prominent, wealthy coin collectors are expected to bid for Bixby's coin.