

Even after numerous products made with artificial sweeteners became available, sugar consumption per capita continued to rise. Now manufacturers are introducing fat-free versions of various foods that they claim have the taste and texture of the traditional high-fat versions. Even if the manufacturers' claim is true, given that the availability of sugar-free foods did not reduce sugar consumption, it is unlikely that the availability of these fat-free foods will reduce fat consumption.

1. Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the argument?

- A. Several kinds of fat substitute are available to manufacturers, each of which gives a noticeably different taste and texture to products that contain it.
- B. The products made with artificial sweeteners did not taste like products made with sugar.
- C. The foods brought out in sugar-free versions did not generally have reduced levels of fat, but many of the fat-free versions about to be introduced are low in sugar.
- D. People who regularly consume products containing artificial sweeteners are more likely than others to consume fat-free foods.
- E. Not all foods containing fat can be produced in fat-free versions.

Just as a bicycle chain may be too tight, so may one's carefulness and conscientiousness be so tense as to hinder the running of one's mind.

2. Which one of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the argument above?

- (A) Just as a clock may be wound too tightly, so may one's time be spent fruitlessly in the pursuit of perfection.
- (B) Just as a carousel may spin too quickly, so may one's rapid concentration on several problems prevent a resolution of difficulties.
- (C) Just as a machine may be oiled too much, so may one's heavy drinking of alcoholic beverages lead to complete dissipation.
- (D) Just as a raging river may be frozen into stillness during the winter, so may one's career falter at certain times of the year.
- (E) Just as a boxer may become too tense before a big fight, so may one's personal concerns stand in the way of professional success.

Rain-soaked soil contains less oxygen than does drier soil. **The roots of melon plants perform less efficiently under the low-oxygen conditions present in rainsoaked soil.** When the efficiency of melon roots is impaired, the roots do not supply sufficient amounts of the proper nutrients for the plants to perform photosynthesis at their usual levels. It follows that **melon plants have a lower-than-usual rate of photosynthesis when their roots are in rain-soaked soil.** When the photosynthesis of the plants slows, sugar stored in the fruits is drawn off to supply the plants with energy. Therefore, ripe melons harvested after a prolonged period of heavy rain should be less sweet than other ripe melons.

3. In the argument given, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- A. The first states the conclusion of the argument as a whole; the second provides support for that conclusion.
- B. The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument as a whole; the second provides evidence that supports an objection to that conclusion.
- C. The first provides support for an intermediate conclusion that supports a further conclusion stated in the argument; the second states that intermediate conclusion.
- D. The first serves as an intermediate conclusion that supports a further conclusion stated in the argument; the second states the position that the argument as a whole opposes.
- E. The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second supports the conclusion of the argument.