

CHAPTER – 14

STRONG AND WEAK ARGUMENTS, COURSES OF ACTION

Strong and weak arguments

Introduction

Some examinations consist of questions based on identifying strong and weak arguments. In these questions a proposal followed by two arguments is given. One has to examine the arguments in the context of the given proposal so as to determine their strength. The statements given in these questions, normally, are of interrogative nature.

Before discussing the methodology of solving the questions, let us discuss the two important concepts, “Proposal” and “Argument”.

Proposal : Most of the questions are based on a “Proposal”. A proposal, here, means a course of action to be taken up.

Example :

- (1) Should liquor be banned?
- (2) Should wild-life be preserved?

Argument: A proposal is followed by two arguments. An argument maybe in favour of or against the proposal. One has to check the strength of the argument. This cannot be misconstrued as considering only favourable arguments. It is irrelevant whether an argument is favourable or adverse to a proposal. Both favourable and adverse arguments are considered provided both of them are strong enough in their own ways.

The supporting argument normally bases its support on a positive result or a positive feature, that would follow, on implementing the course of action proposed in the statement. Similarly, the opposing argument takes its support on the basis of a negative result or a negative feature that (it thinks) follows if the proposed course of action is implemented.

Strength of an argument: An argument is considered to be strong, if it provides a valid and directly related reason either in favour of or against the proposal made.

While considering the arguments, one has to adhere to the following norms:

- (1) The argument is to be considered true, unless it is opposing the generally accepted facts. In other words, the authenticity of the argument cannot be questioned as long as it is not against established facts.
For example, if one argument suggests that Mohd. Ali is stronger than Mike Tyson, we have to take it as true.
- (2) Personal opinion about the proposal shall be ignored. Even if one has an opinion about the proposal, in discussion it cannot be taken into consideration. In other words, the judgement should always be unbiased.
- (3) Sometimes one may come across a situation in which an argument [say “India should declare war against the whole world”] is absurd. But if it is strong enough in the given context it has to be taken as a

strong argument. One cannot deny this argument terming this as absurd.

To determine the strength of an argument, one has to follow a methodical way which is explained below.

PRELIMINARY SCREENING:

In this stage, the given arguments are read superficially certain arguments are so obvious that they can be eliminated in one glance. Read the argument and discard it if it is :

- ambiguous
- disproportionate
- irrelevant
- comparative
- simplistic

Ambiguous:

The argument should have clarity in the reason suggested in it. The argument should be contextual and express its support or opposition to the given statement in explicit terms.

Example:

Statement:
Should India wage war against China?

Argument:
No, both India and China are at fault.

Analysis :
Here, though the argument refers to the subject in the statement, it has no clarity. We cannot find out what the argument wants to say. Thus, the argument is ambiguous.

Disproportionate:

The reasons given in the argument, in support or against the given statement, should be comparable to the magnitude of the situation given in the statement. It should be neither same as “trying to kill an elephant with a needle” nor “trying to kill a mosquito with a sword”.

Example:

Statement:
Should every citizen be asked to use only pencil to write instead of pen?

Argument:
Yes, usage of pencil leads to reduction in wastage of paper. This helps in protection of environment.

Analysis:
The argument links usage of pencil to protection of environment, because errors can be rectified on the same paper instead of using a new paper and hence wastage of paper can be reduced. This measure, in practice, makes little difference to the environment, hence, the argument is rejected.

Irrelevant:

The argument should relate its reasoning to the context given in the statement.

Example:

Statement:

Should the syllabus for primary classes be reduced, to enable the students to understand the concepts piece meal?

Argument:

- I. No, it gives more leisure to students, which may lead to juvenile delinquency.
- II. No, the syllabus should include subjects that help in increasing IQ levels of students.

In the given statement, a course of action is suggested to achieve the ultimate aim of enabling students to understand the subjects better. The arguments should base their reasoning as to whether the suggested action results in achievement of the ultimate aim or not. The reason given in argument (I) is out of context when compared to the statement. Hence, this argument is irrelevant.

Argument (II) has relevance to the above statement, as it reasons on the same lines as the statement. The statement should include whatever it wants to achieve through the suggested course of action.

Comparative:

The argument should suggest why or why not the proposed action be implemented, basing on favourable or adverse results that follow after implementation. But it should not support or deny the suggestion, because such action has been taken up or not taken up elsewhere.

Example:

Statement:

Should India reform its taxation policy?

Argument:

- I. Yes, it helps in rationalisation of taxes.
- II. Yes, many countries are doing so.

Analysis:

Argument (I) is a valid argument because it is based on a positive result that would follow the suggested action.

Argument (II) is not based on any resulting effect of the suggested action. It is only comparing with other countries. Others may have their own reasons for taking up such measures. Hence, this is not a valid argument.

Simplistic:

These kind of arguments, though they are related to the statements, make a simple assertion or there is no substantiation to strengthen the argument.

Example:

Statement:

Should India wage war against Pakistan?

Argument : I. Yes, it should be done immediately.

Argument : II. No, it is not going to help.

Analysis:

Argument (I) simply suggests that it should be done immediately, but does not give any reason as to why it should be done. Hence, this argument is too simple.

Argument (II) does not show how it is not going to help. Of course, it has shown a reason why such an action should not be taken up, but does not dwell deep into the reason. Hence, argument (II) is also simplistic.

Let us take a few examples to understand how the above methods help in solving questions.

Directions for examples:

Mark your answer as

- Choice (1) if only argument I is strong.
- Choice (2) if only argument II is strong.
- Choice (3) if either I or II is strong.
- Choice (4) if neither I nor II is strong.
- Choice (5) if both I and II are strong.

Examples:

1. Should male labourers be paid more than female labourers?

Arguments:

- I. Yes. Even physiologists confirm that the structure of male body is such that males can do more work when compared to females, in a fixed period of time.
- II. No. This puts a question mark over gender equality in the society.

Solution:

Argument I: It talks about the opinion of physiologists. Here, we cannot check the validity of the physiologists' opinion. We have to assume that the information given is true and check whether such information supports the proposal strongly. If the information is true, then it gives a valid reason for higher wages given to males. Hence, this is a strong argument.

Argument II: There are many factors which cause inequality in the society. Lower wages is not a cause for inequality. Therefore, argument II cannot be considered a strong argument. Only statement I is a strong argument. Choice (1)

2. Should X Ltd sack the existing Managing Director, owing to his consistent failure in earning profits for the company?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, because all the competitors are consistently growing and making profits.
- II. No, because the whole industry is in recession and no company has been able to make profits.

Solution:

Argument I: This gives a valid reason to sack the existing Managing Director. All the other companies are making profit, except X Ltd. It is the responsibility of the Managing Director to run the company on profitable lines. Hence, argument I is strong.

Argument II: This gives a valid reason for not sacking the existing Managing Director as the industry is experiencing a recession. But we have to observe that only one of the two statements can be true. That is both cannot be true simultaneously. In other words, if one is considered to be a strong argument the other one becomes weak. Therefore, either I or II is strong. Choice (3)

TRUTH IN THE ARGUMENT:

Here, we check whether the result or effect mentioned in the argument does really follow, in the given context, on implementation of the suggested action.

Normally, the result will follow, if

- it is logical,
- it is an established fact,
- it is based on experiences.

The above are only a few limits, but it has to be decided based on sheer commonsense. We discard all such arguments, where the result does not follow.

ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE OF RESULT:

We have already seen that a supporting argument predicts a positive result/ effect on implementing the suggested action. Now, let us consider those arguments, where the result mentioned therein follows.

In this, we will try to figure out whether the predicted positive result, in case of supporting argument, is beneficial or not. Similarly, in case of opposing argument, we will try to figure out whether the predicted result is really disadvantageous. If the predicted result is beneficial / disadvantageous, then the argument is considered to be strong.

The argument, that is filtered through these three steps, is considered to be a strong argument.

The following example helps in a clear understanding of the above discussion.

Example:

Statement:

Should interest rates on bank deposits be increased to attract more customers?

Arguments:

- (1) Yes, people get attracted towards higher interest rates on their savings.
- (2) No, in present scenario, people are giving preference to safety of their funds.
- (3) No, it leads to inflation.
- (4) Yes, the interest rate on advances is already hiked.
- (5) Yes, many banks are doing so.

Analysis:

From the statement, it is clear that the action (increasing interest rates on deposits) is suggested to achieve a specific goal i.e., attracting more customers. In this case, the arguments should base their support on whether or not such goal can be achieved through the suggested action.

Arguments (3), (4) and (5) do not talk about attracting customers. Hence, these are not strong arguments as they are irrelevant to the context.

Moreover, argument (5) is a comparative one. Comparative arguments are not strong arguments.

Argument (1) supports the statement by showing a reason for customers to get attracted.

Argument (2) opposes the statement by indicating why the suggested action would not help in achieving the goal.

Thus, arguments (1) and (2) are strong for their own reasons.

If the given statement does not attach any purpose for the proposed action, the way we look at the argument changes. Now, observe how the previous statement is expressed.

Statement:

Should interest rates on bank deposits be increased?

Analysis:

Now, the question of relevance does not arise, because the statement does not attach any purpose for the suggested action, any purpose/ disadvantages of such action can be given as an argument. In any case, argument (5) is a weak argument because it is comparative.

Argument (1) based its support on a positive result (attraction of new customers), which is beneficial to the bank. Hence, argument (1) is strong.

Argument (2) suggests that the bank should concentrate on ensuring safety of funds, which is the need of the hour, but not increasing interest rates. In the present scenario, argument (2) is strong.

Argument (3) bases itself on a negative effect that would follow such action. If interest rates on deposits are increased, banks tend to increase interest rates on advances as well, in order to maintain profitability. This leads to increase in cost of production. Ultimately, this leads to inflation.

Here, we can see that the result obtained above logically follows the argument, as it is an established fact that increase in inflation is harmful to economy. Thus, argument (3) is strong.

Argument (4) does not give any valid reason as to why the interest rates be increased due to increase in the interest rates on advances. Hence, argument (4) is weak.

Before going to the exercise, let us summarise the above discussion.

Summary:

- (1) A supporting argument bases its support on a positive result/effect that follows if the proposed action is implemented and an opposing argument bases itself on a negative result/effect.
- (2) The strength of an argument is checked through the following four steps.
 - (i) Preliminary screening - Discard all such arguments which are ambiguous, simplistic, disproportionate, irrelevant or comparative.
 - (ii) Truth in the argument - Check whether the result/effect discussed in the argument really follows.
 - (iii) Desirability / Harmfulness - If the result / effect follows, check whether such result is really desirable/harmful.
- (3) An argument which is filtered through the above three steps is called a strong argument.
- (4) Take help of generally accepted facts, past experiences, etc., in analysing the strength of an argument.

Courses of Action

Introduction

In this category of questions, a statement delineating a problem is given followed by certain other statements, which could be solutions to the problem identified in the main statement. Out of these, the student has to identify those statements which are practical and feasible solutions to the problem and pick them as possible courses of action to be followed.

Definitions

Statement: A formal account of facts, views, problems or situations expressed in words.

Course of Action: A practical and feasible action, administrative or otherwise, which solves a problem or alleviates a given condition or improves the situation.

These questions require:

- (1) A clear and unbiased understanding of the given statement.
- (2) Identification of the problem within the statement.

Only when these two things are done will the student be in a position to actually think of a possible solution to the problem and with this idea in mind he will pick up a choice that matches it.

Technique to answer the question:

Problem – Solution

We accept a course of action,

- (i) if it solves the problem contained in the statement.
- (ii) if it is practical.

Effectiveness of a course of action: A suggested course of action can be accepted if it is an accepted fact or an indication from past experience or a logical measure. Let us discuss each of these in detail.

(a) If the suggested course of action is an established fact.

Here, we have to make use of our common knowledge of worldly realities and facts.

Let us understand this with the following example:

Statement: Water-borne diseases are rampant.

Course of action: Drink boiled water.

Analysis:

It is an established fact that boiled water protects against water-borne diseases. As drinking boiled water is a measure to prevent health hazards, this is an apt course of action.

(b) If the suggested course of action is an indication based on past experiences.

Here, the suggested course of action is an aftermath of previous incidences, based on something which has happened in the past - again concerning our awareness regarding various activities.

For example:

Statement: "Despite several laws, child labour is continuing unabated." A survey report in 2016.

Course of action: Pass another law to curtail child labour.

Analysis: From the statement, it is evident that we already have laws to curtail child labour. Our experience indicates that failure in enforcement of laws and ignorance of the people are the reasons for persistence of this social problem. Hence, basing on our past experience, such a course of action is not a valid one.

(c) If the suggested course of action logically follows:

In certain cases, it is logic that leads to a decision, as shown in the following example.

Statement: Mr. X wants to buy a car owned by Mr. Y.

Course of action: Mr. X should get the car inspected by an experienced mechanic before making the deal.

Analysis:

Mr.X is purchasing a car from Mr.Y. It implies that he is buying a second hand car. It is logical that while buying a second hand car, one should know the condition of the car, which can be best verified by an experienced mechanic only. Thus, the suggested course of action logically follows the given statement.

Practicality of the suggestion:

Certain suggestions may not be practical for implementation, though they may appear logical. Similarly, certain suggested courses of action, though they may solve the problem, can still result in a new problem. Such suggestions should not be accepted.

The suggested course of action should be properly matched to the magnitude of the given problem. The suggestion should neither be like 'killing a mosquito with a knife' nor 'killing an elephant with a needle'.

It may be suggested that people should be asked not to shout in order to increase their life expectancy, because shouting leads to noise pollution, which further leads to stress, thus reducing the life expectancy. Of course, shouting may lead to noise pollution, but it is only a minor component contributing to noise pollution.

Let us understand this better with the help of the following example.

Statement: Government is unable to eliminate tax evasion.

Course of action: Abolish all taxes.

Analysis:

Logically, when there is no tax, question of tax evasion does not arise. But this leads to new problem. Government will not have any revenue to take up developmental activity. Thus such a suggestion should not be accepted as it leads to a new problem.

Fact-follow-up action:

So far we have discussed a "problem-solution" pattern of question. Certain statements merely give facts. The suggested course of action offers a measure to improve the situation.

We follow the methods discussed above for "fact-follow-up action" kind of questions as well.

Initially, we check whether the suggested course of action would induce improvement in the situation or reduce intensity of the problem. Then we check whether that suggestion is practical or not.

The following points are also to be kept in mind while validating the suggested courses of action.

Points to Remember:

- A. A negative course of action should not be taken.
- B. The given solution should be practical.

- C. A solution which brings in benefits or solves the problem after an inordinate delay should be avoided.
 - D. The course of action should pertain directly to the problem.
 - E. The course of action proposed should independently be able to solve a problem and it should not be contingent to some other 'to' conditions being met.
 - F. It should not result in another problem.
- Now let us discuss the above points with the help of an example.

Statement: 'X' area has extremely fertile soil. But the farmers of this area are in distress and in debts, as their crops have been failing for the last 3 years, as a result of inadequate rainfall. Some of the farmers have even gone to the extent of committing suicide.

Courses of action:

1. The farmers should be asked to migrate to an area with sufficient rainfall.
2. Water should be brought in tankers from the nearby river to irrigate the farms.
3. A proposal should be submitted to the government to build a dam on the nearby river and to construct irrigation canals to irrigate area 'X'. This would take at least 12 years for completion.
4. Afforestation should be taken up on top-most priority in the neighbouring state, which could improve rainfall.
5. A channel, linking the river to the area 'X', be built immediately, subject to the clearance from the State and the Central governments as also from environmental agencies.
6. Farmers should sell their lands to clear their debts.
7. Government should impose moratorium on a recovery of loans from farmers and provide assistance to farmers to grow arid crops.

Let us analyse each of the suggested courses of action one by one.

Sol:

1. This is not the right course of action, as it is a negative approach. (Point A)
2. This could solve the problem. However, the idea suggested is impractical and very costly to implement. (Point B)
3. This is a measure that would provide a long term solution but its benefits would accrue only after a very long delay. Hence, it is not a feasible solution as the immediate problem is not redressed. (Point C)
4. There is no link to show that afforestation in the neighbouring state would improve the rainfall in area X and as such this does not directly redress the problem. (Point D)
5. This proposes building a channel immediately, which would connect the river and the area X, which would solve the problem. However, this proposal requires clearance from environmental agencies and two government bodies which generally takes a lot of time. Hence, this is not a proper course of action. (Point E)
6. Logically it may appear to be a solution, but the farmers will become landless and this course of action will add more troubles for them. As this suggestion creates a new problem, i.e., it is invalid. (Point F)

7. This is a positive suggestion. Moratorium on loan recovery gives time to farmers to stabilise. Growing arid crops is a logical solution for unirrigated lands. Hence, it is a valid course of action.

Directions for questions 1 to 5: In each question below a statement is given followed by two courses of action, numbered I and II. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc., on the basis of the information given in the statement. You have to assume everything in the statement to be true, then decide which of the two suggested courses of action logically follow(s) for pursuing. Mark your answer as

- (A) if only I follows.
- (B) if only II follows.
- (C) if either I or II follows.
- (D) if neither I nor II follows.
- (E) if both I and II follow.

Examples:

1. **Statement:** Children nowadays prefer watching TV programmes, meant for adults, to studying in the evenings.

Courses of action:

- I. Parents should switch off TV sets during their child's study hours.
- II. Children who insist on watching these type of programmes should be whipped.

Sol: The statement outlines the basic problem of children forsaking study time and wasting it in watching programmes meant for adults. Obviously, any action which makes the students study, without wasting time on worthless pursuits, would be welcome.

I is a practical course of action and solves the problem. Hence, it follows.

II is an extreme action, hence it does not follow.

Therefore, choice (A) is the answer. Choice (A)

2. **Statement:** Most of the pavements are crowded with the display of various articles, sold by hawkers at cheap rate, thus causing traffic congestion.

Courses of action :

- I. Passersby buying such articles on the road should be prosecuted.
- II. The local authorities should try and provide a market place for these hawkers so that they too can earn their living without causing inconvenience.

Sol: The problem given in the statement is the blockage of traffic, caused by the hawkers who occupy the footpaths to display their wares. The problem can be set right if the root cause is identified and it is eliminated. The root cause here is that hawkers do not have a market place or substitute to reach their customers other than attracting the passersby walking on the pavement. This can be eradicated by providing the hawkers an alternate place to peddle their wares, as proposed by II, hence it follows. I is an extreme action on account of the word 'prosecuted', hence it is rejected. Therefore, choice (B) is the answer. Choice (B)

3. **Statement:** As per a survey conducted by the Ministry of Tourism, it has been found that leading hotels in the country have incurred a cumulative loss of 175 crores as a result of a sharp drop in tourist inflows on account of the tension prevailing in Kashmir and the related terrorist activities.

Courses of action:

- I. The government should provide financial assistance to the tourism industry.
- II. The government should inform all the tourists who intend to travel to India, to safeguard themselves.

Sol: The problem given here is that of a drop in the volume of tourists visiting India and the resulting losses to hotels. The government compensating the hotel industry is not a valid course of action as the issue of increasing tourism is not redressed. In II, the government is shrugging off the responsibility of safeguarding the tourists, which will have a negative effect on tourism. Hence, both do not follow.
Therefore, choice (D) is the answer. Choice (D)

4. **Statement:** A major rail accident, involving a passenger train, was averted by the prompt action of a wayside signalman, who, on noticing two trains on the same track, promptly diverted one of the trains to the other track.

Courses of action:

- I. The latest technology in automatic signalling, using a network of computers, should be adopted to eliminate maximum errors from the system.
- II. The alert signalman should be rewarded to encourage this trait among other employees.

Sol: The statement tells us how the promptness of the alert signalman averted a tragedy. When we have two trains coming from the opposite directions on the same track it means that the signalling system

has failed at some point or the other. Enquiring into what caused such a mix up and taking remedial measures are the usual steps taken by authorities in such cases. Installing automatic signalling using computers can be one of such measures, which would eliminate occurrence of errors. The alert signalman, who has done such a sterling deed, should be rewarded to encourage this trait. Hence, both I and II are possible courses of action to be adopted. Therefore, choice (E) is the answer.

Choice (E)

5. **Statement:** As part of the road widening project in Hyderabad, the government has decided to demolish the slums and buildings on either side of the road.

Courses of action:

- I. The slum dwellers and the residents of the buildings should be properly rehabilitated by the government.
- II. The government should pay compensation to the slum dwellers and the building residents, before carrying out this project.

Sol: The statement tells us that the government has decided to demolish the slums and buildings in order to widen the roads. When this action is taken the government should either monetarily compensate the affected people or provide rehabilitation or relocation. This is what courses I and II suggest, hence, either of the two follows but not both, as either one on its own seeks to compensate the affected people. Therefore, the answer is choice (C).
Choice (C)

Exercise – 14

Directions for questions 1 to 5: In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between 'strong' arguments and 'weak' arguments. So far as they relate to the question, 'strong' arguments are those which are both important and directly related to the question. 'Weak' arguments are those which are of minor importance and also may not be directly related to the question or may be related to a trivial aspect of the question.

Each question below is followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is a 'strong' argument and which is a 'weak' argument. Mark your answer as
Give answer as

- (A) if only argument I is strong.
- (B) if only argument II is strong.
- (C) if either I or II is strong.
- (D) if neither I nor II is strong.
- (E) if both I and II are strong.

1. Should there be a law to punish parents who get their minor children married?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, A minor girl is physiologically not prepared to conceive a baby.
- II. No, This has been a custom prevailing since many centuries.

2. Should the institute conduct classes in remote villages?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, This will help those students who belong to villages and cannot visit urban areas for studies.
- II. No, This is not an economically viable proposal, as the number of students who attend such classes cannot contribute to break-even.

3. Are there any good politicians left in this world?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, So many poor people are sustaining themselves and improving economically.
- I. No, There is nothing in this world which is completely good or completely bad.

4. Are these sanctuaries, which are meant to protect the endangered animals, necessary?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, These are necessary as it is our responsibility to conserve environment and to provide posterity with a better world to live in.
- II. No, These are a huge burden on our receding economy.

5. Should the teachers be stopped from beating the students?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, Child psychologists say that beating hinders the learning process in a child.
- II. No, Spare the cane and spoil the child.

Directions for questions 6 to 10: Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

6. Most scientists now believe that the near extinction of the cobra in the North Indian forests was due to the extensive hunting down of the poor creature by the tribals of the forest. During the 40s and the 50s cobra was in great demand for its medicinal use which the tribals exploited greatly, the scientists say.

Which of the following, weakens the above argument?

- (A) During the 40s and the 50s claws, antlers, horns, tusks, and other animal parts were in great demand for their medicinal uses which prompted most tribals to kill animals.
- (B) During 40s and the 50s, the government built a dam in the vicinity of North Indian forests.
- (C) The extensive government sponsored logging operations of the 40s and the 50s in the North Indian forests led to the immediate extinction of rodents, a major prey of snakes.
- (D) The government undertook afforestation to revive the forests to prevent extinction of snakes in the North India but failed miserably.
- (E) None of these.

7. It has been seen that whenever a certain movie in Bollywood is a major success, the subsequent movies follow suit, literally. Almost all the movies made after that are of the same type. Obviously, the 'formula' which the public is known to have loved and approved is simply repeated by the people in the industry for sure success.

Which of the following, if true, weakens the above argument?

- (A) The producers and directors in Bollywood actually keep in mind the public mood while making movies.
- (B) A movie's success does not depend upon various parameters like who the hero or heroine is, whose music it has, who's directing or producing it etc.
- (C) Many movies that copied the formula of a successful movie went on to become some of the great flops.
- (D) Almost all the Bollywood authors are uninnovative and have run out of ideas and so tend to simply 'redesign' a recent hit.
- (E) None of these.

8. Despite inflation which has resulted in increased prices of raw materials, a city book manufacturer decided not to increase the price of his books. Instead he decided to use low-priced inferior material. This, he feels will not result in any change in business and continue to give him the same profits as earlier.

Which of the following, if true, strengthens the above argument?

- (A) Most other booksellers in the market charge almost the same as what this book manufacturer does.

- (B) The fashion of reading books is fast catching up with the people in urban society and they are unmindful of the price.
- (C) Most readers are unmindful of the quality of books so far as the print is legible.
- (D) The WTO predicted that inflation in cities would come down in the coming days.
- (E) None of these.
9. Nokia India has two manufacturing units one each in China and Japan. It recently discovered that each mobile manufactured in Japan yield less profit than similar one in China. This is because the tariff on mobiles imported from China to India is 10% less than that when imported from Japan and both are priced equally.
- Which of the following if true, supports the conclusion in the given argument?
- (A) The cost of manufacturing mobiles in Japan is 8% more than that in China.
- (B) The labour cost in China is 12% more than in Japan.
- (C) China and India have a mutually supportive cultural relationship.
- (D) Japan has had an undue competitive edge over China.
- (E) None of these
10. The quantity of junk food sold in Rampur is far greater than that sold in Jaipur. It follows that the people of Jaipur have better nutritional habit than those of Rampur. Scientists claim that most people eat junk food these days which is not good for health. Which of the following, if true, weakens the above argument?
- (A) Most people from Rampur work at Jaipur and buy food items at Jaipur which they leave at home.
- (B) The population of Jaipur is not less than Rampur's.
- (C) Lakhs of devotees from cities visit Rampur's ancient temple of Lord Rama on weekends.
- (D) A recent survey found that on an average a person from Rampur eats four times the quantity of chat a person from Jaipur eats.
- (E) None of these.

Directions for questions 11 to 15: In each question below a statement is given followed by two courses of action, numbered I and II. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc., on the basis of the information given in the statement. Consider everything in the statement to be true, then decide which of the two suggested courses of action logically follow(s) for pursuing. Mark your answer as

- (A) if only I follows.
- (B) if only II follows.
- (C) if either I or II follows.
- (D) if neither I nor II follows.
- (E) if both I and II follow.

11. Statement:
Children fall sick when they eat roadside food.

Courses of Action:

- I. Parents should not allow their children to eat roadside food but rather try to prepare that type of food at home.
- II. The children should be taught about what is healthy food and that the type of food prepared on the road side cause illness.

12. Statement:
Black fume emitted by the vehicles and the factories is causing rapid increase in air pollution which in turn is causing rapid temperature rise in cities.

Courses of Action:

- I. The authorities should ensure that vehicles and factories do not emit harmful gases beyond a certain limit.
- II. The government should try to reduce the number of vehicles on roads by improving the public transport system and also should not allow the factories to be built in or near the cities.

13. Statement:
More than 50% of today's working youth, who have surplus money, are addicted to drugs.

Courses of Action:

- I. Work stress should be reduced in the office.
- II. The salaries should be cut down.

14. Statement:
Pedestrians find it very difficult to cross the road at the peak hours.

Courses of Action:

- I. The Traffic Control Authority should provide more number of traffic signals and zebra crossings, which enable the pedestrians to cross the road easily.
- II. The authority should build more number of skywalks across the busy roads, which will provide easy crossing for the pedestrians without disturbing the movement of traffic.

15. Statement:
Many deaths are occurring in Village 'X', which has experienced heavy rains in the last three monsoons, due to outbreak of epidemics.

Courses of Action:

- I. The government should dig a side canal to pass the excess rainwater.
- II. Health care system in the village should be strengthened.

Directions for questions 16 to 20: In each question below, a statement is given followed by three courses of action numbered I, II and III. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc., on the basis of the information given in the statement. Consider everything in the statement to be true, then decide which of the three suggested courses of action logically follow(s) for pursuing.

16. Statement:
Every year Malaria gets rampant after the rains.
- Courses of Action:

- I. Pesticides should be properly sprayed on a regular basis.
 II. People should be supplied with mosquito nets and mosquito coils free by the Government.
 III. Using various means of media, people should be informed about the methods to be adopted for prevention from these seasonal diseases.
 (A) Only I and III follow
 (B) Only II and III follow
 (C) Only II follows
 (D) Only I and II follow
 (E) All the three follow
- 17. Statement:**
 Owing to rigging during polls in democratic states, the deserving candidates lose the elections.
- Courses of Action:
 I. Democracy must be abolished.
 II. People must be educated about the value of their vote and they should be made to cast their vote.
 III. Military force should be employed at every polling booth.
 (A) Only II and III follow
 (B) Only II follow
 (C) Either I or III follows
 (D) Only III follows
 (E) All the three follow
- 18. Statement:**
 Students' attendance in regular colleges is falling day by day, while in private coaching centres the situation is just the opposite.
- Courses of Action:
 I. Students must be given individual attention.
 II. At least once in a week they must be given a test.
 III. Without proper attendance, a student must not be allowed to attend the final examinations.
 (A) Only II follows
 (B) I and III follow
 (C) Only III follows
 (D) All the three follow
 (E) None follows
- 19. Statement:**
 It is because of a multiparty system in our country that a coalition government is formed, wherein the country suffers from instability.
- Courses of Action:
 I. There should be only a bi-party system and to this extent the constitution must be amended.
 II. Whenever any party is not in the majority, the elections must be held again.
 III. If there is no absolute majority for any national party, the President should dissolve the Parliament and he should rule the country during that period.
 (A) Only II and III follow
 (B) Only I and II follow
 (C) Only I and III follow
 (D) Only I follows
 (E) None follows
- 20. Statement:**
 Devotees in the pilgrimage places are much disturbed by the loud noise made by the loud speakers and tape records played in the premises of temple streets.
- Courses of Action:
 I. The devotees should be provided with ear plugs.
 II. All those, who make noise by using any of the means, should be strictly warned by the government to adhere to the permissible sound levels, or else face punishment.
 III. Selling and buying must be prohibited in pilgrimage premises.
 (A) Only I follows
 (B) Only II follows
 (C) Only II and III follow
 (D) Only III follows
 (E) None follows

Key

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|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. C | 11. E | 16. A |
| 2. E | 7. D | 12. E | 17. A |
| 3. D | 8. C | 13. D | 18. E |
| 4. E | 9. A | 14. B | 19. D |
| 5. A | 10. C | 15. B | 20. B |