

SECTION II
Time—35 minutes
25 Questions

Directions: The questions in this section are based on the reasoning contained in brief statements or passages. For some questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question. You should not make assumptions that are by commonsense standards implausible, superfluous, or incompatible with the passage. After you have chosen the best answer, blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

1. In his new book on his complex scientific research, R frequently imputes bad faith to researchers disagreeing with him. A troubling aspect of R's book is his stated conviction that other investigators' funding sources often determine what "findings" those investigators report. Add to this that R has often shown himself to be arrogant, overly ambitious, and sometimes plain nasty, and it becomes clear that R's book does not merit attention from serious professionals.

The author of the book review commits which one of the following reasoning errors?

- (A) using an attack on the character of the writer of the book as evidence that his person is not competent on matters of scientific substance
- (B) taking it for granted that an investigator is unlikely to report findings that are contrary to the interests of those funding the investigation
- (C) dismissing a scientific theory by giving a biased account of it
- (D) presenting as facts several assertions about the book under review that are based only on strong conviction and would be impossible for others to verify
- (E) failing to distinguish between the criteria of being true and of being sufficiently interesting to merit attention

2. Having an efficient, attractive subway system makes good economic sense. So, the city needs to purchase new subway cars, since the city should always do what makes good economic sense.

The conclusion drawn above follows logically if which one of the following is assumed?

- (A) The city should invest in an efficient, attractive subway system.
- (B) Cost-effective subway cars are an integral part of an efficient subway system.
- (C) Investment in new subway cars makes better economic sense than many of the other investment options open to the city.
- (D) New subway cars are financially affordable.
- (E) New subway cars are required in order for the city to have a subway system that is efficient and attractive.

3. Restaurant manager: In response to requests from our patrons for vegetarian main dishes, we recently introduced three: an eggplant and zucchini casserole with tomatoes, brown rice with mushrooms, and potatoes baked with cheese. The first two are frequently ordered, but no one orders the potato dish, although it costs less than the other two. Clearly, then, our patrons prefer not to eat potatoes.

Which one of the following is an error of reasoning in the restaurant manager's argument?

- (A) concluding that two things that occur at the same time have a common cause
- (B) drawing a conclusion that is inconsistent with one premise of the argument
- (C) ignoring possible differences between what people say they want and what they actually choose
- (D) attempting to prove a claim on the basis of evidence that a number of people hold that claim to be true
- (E) treating one of several plausible explanations of a phenomenon as the only possible explanation

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4. For newborns of age four to six weeks whose mothers have been the primary caregivers, the following is true: When the newborns are crying due to hunger or other similar discomfort, merely hearing the mother's voice will lead to a temporary halt in crying, while the voices of others do not have this effect.

Which one of the following is most reasonably supported by the information above?

- (A) Babies more easily learn to recognize the voices of their mothers than the voices of other people.
 - (B) A mother's voice is the first thing a baby learns to recognize.
 - (C) Babies associate the voice of the primary caregiver with release from discomfort.
 - (D) Often only a primary caregiver can provide comfort to a newborn.
 - (E) Discomfort in newborns is best relieved by hearing the mother's voice.
5. Many elementary schools have recently offered computer-assisted educational programs. Students' reactions after several years have been decidedly mixed. Whereas students have found computers very useful in studying arithmetic, they have found them of little help in studying science, and of no help at all with their reading and writing skills.

Which one of the following, if true, most helps to explain the students' mixed reactions?

- (A) Students in these schools began reading and doing arithmetic before learning to use computers.
- (B) Of the disciplines and skills mentioned, the exactness of arithmetic makes it most suitable to computer-assisted education.
- (C) Many elementary school teachers are reluctant to use computer technology in their classrooms.
- (D) Young students are more likely to maintain interest in training programs that use the newest computers and video graphics than in those that do not.
- (E) The elementary schools have offered more computer-assisted programs in reading and writing than in arithmetic and science.

6. The notion that one might be justified in behaving irrationally in the service of a sufficiently worthy end is incoherent. For if such an action is justified, then one would be behaving rationally, not irrationally.

Which one of the following arguments is most similar in its reasoning to the argument above?

- (A) A representative of the law, such as a judge or a police officer, ought not to commit crimes. For if representatives of the law commit crimes, they will be ineffective in preventing crime.
- (B) One cannot intend to spill a glass of water accidentally. Spilling it accidentally means that the act will not have been done intentionally.
- (C) One cannot live the good life and be unhappy. If one's own neighbors see that one is unhappy, then they will see that one is not living the good life.
- (D) Doctors cannot perform self-diagnosis, for they cannot objectively evaluate their own symptoms, and thus will be practicing poor medicine.
- (E) One ought not to have both a cat and a goldfish. The goldfish is the natural prey of the cat, so it is unethical to place it at the cat's disposal.

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7. A certain moral system holds that performing good actions is praiseworthy only when one overcomes a powerful temptation in order to perform them. Yet this same moral system also holds that performing good actions out of habit is sometimes praiseworthy.

Which one of the following, if true, does the most to reconcile the apparent conflict in the moral system described above?

- (A) People who perform good actions out of habit have often acquired this habit after years of having resisted temptation.
 - (B) Most people face strong moral temptation from time to time but few people have to endure it regularly.
 - (C) People virtually always perform actions they think are good, regardless of what other people may think.
 - (D) Since it is difficult to tell what is going on in another person's mind, it is often hard to know exactly how strongly a person is tempted.
 - (E) It is far more common for people to perform good actions out of habit than for them to do so against strong temptation.
8. **Conservationist:** The risk to airplane passengers from collisions between airplanes using the airport and birds from the wildlife refuge is negligible. In the 10 years since the refuge was established, only 20 planes have been damaged in collisions with birds, and no passenger has been injured as a result of such a collision. The wildlife refuge therefore poses no safety risk.
- Pilot:** You neglect to mention that 17 of those 20 collisions occurred within the past 2 years, and that the number of birds in the refuge is rapidly increasing. As the number of collisions between birds and airplanes increases, so does the likelihood that at least one such collision will result in passenger injuries.
- The pilot counters the conservationist by
- (A) attempting to show that the conservationist's description of the facts is misleading
 - (B) questioning the conservationist's motives for reaching a certain conclusion
 - (C) asserting that dangerous situations inevitably become more dangerous with the passage of time
 - (D) discrediting the moral principle on which the conservationist's argument is based
 - (E) disputing the accuracy of the figures cited by the conservationist

9. A university study reported that between 1975 and 1983 the length of the average workweek in a certain country increased significantly. A governmental study, on the other hand, shows a significant decline in the length of the average workweek for the same period. Examination of the studies shows, however, that they used different methods of investigation; thus there is no need to look further for an explanation of the difference in the studies' results.

The argument's reasoning is flawed because the argument fails to

- (A) distinguish between a study produced for the purposes of the operation of government and a study produced as part of university research
 - (B) distinguish between a method of investigation and the purpose of an investigation
 - (C) recognize that only one of the studies has been properly conducted
 - (D) recognize that two different methods of investigation can yield identical results
 - (E) recognize that varying economic conditions result in the average workweek changing in length
10. Although the charter of Westside School states that the student body must include some students with special educational needs, no students with learning disabilities have yet enrolled in the school. Therefore, the school is currently in violation of its charter.
- The conclusion of the argument follows logically if which one of the following is assumed?
- (A) All students with learning disabilities have special educational needs.
 - (B) The school currently has no student with learning disabilities.
 - (C) The school should enroll students with special educational needs.
 - (D) The only students with special educational needs are students with learning disabilities.
 - (E) The school's charter cannot be modified in order to avoid its being violated.

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11. Some psychologists claim that, in theory, the best way to understand another person would be through deep empathy, whereby one would gain a direct and complete grasp of that person's motivations. But suppose they are right; then there would be no way at all to achieve understanding, since it is psychologically impossible to gain a direct and complete grasp of another person's motivations. But obviously one can understand other people; thus these psychologists are wrong.

The argument is most vulnerable to the criticism that it

- (A) fails to adequately define the key phrase "deep empathy"
 - (B) assumes something that it later denies, resulting in a contradiction
 - (C) confuses a theoretically best way of accomplishing something with the only way of accomplishing it
 - (D) accepts a claim on mere authority, without requiring sufficient justification
 - (E) fails to consider that other psychologists may disagree with the psychologists cited
12. The five senses have traditionally been viewed as distinct yet complementary. Each sense is thought to have its own range of stimuli that are incapable of stimulating the other senses. However, recent research has discovered that some people taste a banana and claim that they are tasting blue, or see a color and say that it has a specific smell. This shows that such people, called synesthiacs, have senses that do not respect the usual boundaries between the five recognized senses.

Which one of the following statements, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) Synesthiacs demonstrate a general, systematic impairment in their ability to use and understand words.
- (B) Recent evidence strongly suggests that there are other senses besides sight, touch, smell, hearing, and taste.
- (C) The particular ways in which sensory experiences overlap in synesthiacs follow a definite pattern.
- (D) The synesthetic phenomenon has been described in the legends of various cultures.
- (E) Synesthiacs can be temporarily rid of their synesthetic experiences by the use of drugs.

13. Essayist: One of the claims of laissez-faire economics is that increasing the minimum wage reduces the total number of minimum-wage jobs available. In a recent study, however, it was found that after an increase in the minimum wage, fast-food restaurants kept on roughly the same number of minimum-wage employees as before the increase. Therefore, laissez-faire economics is not entirely accurate.

The essayist's argument depends on assuming which one of the following?

- (A) If laissez-faire economics makes an incorrect prediction about the minimum wage, then all the doctrines of laissez-faire economics are inaccurate.
 - (B) Minimum-wage job availability at fast-food restaurants included in the study was representative of minimum-wage job availability in general.
 - (C) No study has ever found that a business has decreased the number of its minimum-wage employees after an increase in the minimum wage.
 - (D) The fast-food restaurants included in the study did not increase the average wage paid to employees.
 - (E) The national unemployment rate did not increase following the increase in the minimum wage.
14. Some people claim that every human discovery or invention is an instance of self-expression. But what they seem to ignore is that, trivially, anything we do is self-expressive. So, until they can give us a more interesting interpretation of their claim, we are not obliged to take their claim seriously.

Which one of the following, if true, provides the most support for the reasoning above?

- (A) All claims that are trivial are uninteresting.
- (B) Most people do not take trivial claims seriously.
- (C) No claims that are trivial are worthy of serious consideration.
- (D) Every claim is open to both interesting and uninteresting interpretations.
- (E) Every interpretation is either trivial or uninteresting.

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Questions 15–16

Camera manufacturers typically advertise their products by citing the resolution of their cameras' lenses, the resolution of a lens being the degree of detail the lens is capable of reproducing in the image it projects onto the film. Differences between cameras in this respect are irrelevant for practical photography, however, since all modern lenses are so excellent that they project far more detail onto the film than any photographic film is capable of reproducing in a developed image.

15. Which one of the following most accurately states the main point of the argument?
- (A) Camera manufacturers ought to concentrate on building other desirable qualities into their cameras' lenses, rather than concentrating only on the lenses' resolution.
 - (B) Apart from differences in resolution, there is no practical difference among modern cameras in the quality of the images that they produce.
 - (C) Advertised differences among cameras in the resolution of their lenses have no practical bearing on the cameras' relative quality as photographic tools.
 - (D) In concentrating their advertising on the issue of image quality, manufacturers are making a mistake about the interests of potential purchasers of cameras.
 - (E) Differences among photographic films in the amount of detail they reproduce have a more significant effect on the quality of the developed image than do differences in the resolution of camera lenses.
16. The argument depends on assuming which one of the following?
- (A) The definition of the term "resolution" does not capture an important determinant of the quality of photographic instruments and materials.
 - (B) In determining the amount of detail reproduced in the developed photographic image, differences in the resolutions of available lenses do not compound the deficiencies of available film.
 - (C) Variations in the method used to process the film do not have any significant effect on the film's resolution.
 - (D) Flawless photographic technique is needed to achieve the maximum image resolution possible with the materials and equipment being used.
 - (E) The only factors important in determining the degree of detail reproduced in the final photographic print are the resolution of the camera's lens and the resolution of the film.

17. Dietary researcher: A recent study reports that laboratory animals that were fed reduced-calorie diets lived longer than laboratory animals whose caloric intake was not reduced. In response, some doctors are advocating reduced-calorie diets, in the belief that North Americans' life spans can thereby be extended. However, this conclusion is not supported. Laboratory animals tend to eat much more than animals in their natural habitats, which leads to their having a shorter life expectancy. Restricting their diets merely brings their caloric intake back to natural, optimal levels and reinstates their normal life spans.

Which one of the following, if true, would most weaken the dietary researcher's argument?

- (A) North Americans, on average, consume a higher number of calories than the optimal number of calories for a human diet.
- (B) North Americans with high-fat, low-calorie diets generally have a shorter life expectancy than North Americans with low-fat, low-calorie diets.
- (C) Not all scientific results that have important implications for human health are based on studies of laboratory animals.
- (D) Some North Americans who follow reduced-calorie diets are long-lived.
- (E) There is a strong correlation between diet and longevity in some species of animals.

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18. Editorialist: The positions advanced by radical environmentalists often contain hypotheses that are false and proposals that are economically infeasible. But there is a positive role to be played even by extremists, for the social and political inertia that attends environmental issues is so stubborn that even small areas of progress can be made only if the populace fears environmental disaster, however untenable the reasons for those fears may be.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main conclusion of the editorialist's argument?

- (A) The little progress that has been made in improving the environment is mainly due to the fear created by radical environmentalists.
 - (B) Radical environmentalists, by promoting their views, stimulate progress on environmental issues.
 - (C) Social and political inertia is most effectively overcome by an extremely fearful populace, regardless of whether its fears are well-founded.
 - (D) Radical environmentalists often put forth untenable positions in order to produce the fear that is required to bring about moderate reforms.
 - (E) Radical environmentalists advocate positions without regard for factual support or economic feasibility.
19. People should avoid taking the antacid calcium carbonate in doses larger than half a gram, for despite its capacity to neutralize stomach acids, calcium carbonate can increase the calcium level in the blood and thus impair kidney function. Moreover, just half a gram of it can stimulate the production of gastrin, a stomach hormone that triggers acid secretion.

Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?

- (A) Cessation of gastrin production is a more effective method of controlling excess stomach acid than is direct neutralization of stomach acid.
- (B) People who avoid taking more than half a gram of calcium carbonate are less likely than average to suffer from impaired kidney function.
- (C) Doses of calcium carbonate smaller than half a gram can reduce stomach acid more effectively than much larger doses do.
- (D) Half a gram of calcium carbonate can causally contribute to both the secretion and the neutralization of stomach acids.
- (E) Impaired kidney function may increase the level of calcium in the blood.

Questions 20–21

Professor Chan: The literature department's undergraduate courses should cover only true literary works, and not such frivolous material as advertisements.

Professor Wigmore: Advertisements might or might not be true literary works but they do have a powerfully detrimental effect on society—largely because people cannot discern their real messages. The literature department's courses give students the critical skills to analyze and understand texts. Therefore, it is the literature department's responsibility to include the study of advertisements in its undergraduate courses.

20. Which one of the following principles most strongly supports Professor Wigmore's argument?
- (A) Advertisements ought to be framed in such a way that their real messages are immediately clear.
 - (B) Any text that is subtly constructed and capable of affecting people's thought and action ought to be considered a form of literature.
 - (C) All undergraduate students ought to take at least one course that focuses on the development of critical skills.
 - (D) The literature department's courses ought to enable students to analyze and understand any text that could have a harmful effect on society.
 - (E) Any professor teaching an undergraduate course in the literature department ought to be free to choose the material to be covered in that course.
21. Which one of the following is an assumption on which Professor Wigmore's argument depends?
- (A) Texts that are true literary works never have a detrimental effect on society.
 - (B) Courses offered by the literature department cannot include both true literary works and material such as advertisements.
 - (C) Students who take courses in the literature department do not get from those courses other skills besides those needed to analyze and understand texts.
 - (D) Forms of advertising that convey their message entirely through visual images do not have a detrimental effect on society.
 - (E) The literature department's responsibility is not limited to teaching students how to analyze true literary works.

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22. Sociologist: Some people argue that capital punishment for theft was an essential part of the labor discipline of British capitalism. Critics of such a view argue that more people were executed for theft in preindustrial England than were executed in England after industrialization. But such a criticism overlooks the fact that industrialization and capitalism are two very different social phenomena, and that the latter predated the former by several centuries.

Which one of the following most accurately describes the role played in the passage by the point that capitalism and industrialization are distinct?

- (A) It is cited as some evidence against the claim that capital punishment for theft was an essential part of the labor discipline of British capitalism.
- (B) It is cited as a direct contradiction of the claim that capital punishment for theft was an essential part of the labor discipline of British capitalism.
- (C) It is an attempt to conclusively prove the claim that capital punishment for theft was an essential part of the labor discipline of British capitalism.
- (D) It is cited as a fact supporting the critics of the view that capital punishment for theft was an essential part of the labor discipline of British capitalism.
- (E) It is an attempt to undermine the criticism cited against the claim that capital punishment for theft was an essential part of the labor discipline of British capitalism.

23. To be horrific, a monster must be threatening. Whether or not it presents psychological, moral or social dangers, or triggers enduring infantile fears, if a monster is physically dangerous then it is threatening. In fact, even a physically benign monster is horrific if it inspires revulsion.

Which one of the following logically follows from the statements above?

- (A) Any horror-story monster that is threatening is also horrific.
- (B) A monster that is psychologically dangerous, but that does not inspire revulsion, is not horrific.
- (C) If a monster triggers infantile fears but is not physically dangerous, then it is not horrific.
- (D) If a monster is both horrific and psychologically threatening, then it does not inspire revulsion.
- (E) All monsters that are not physically dangerous, but that are psychologically dangerous and inspire revulsion, are threatening.

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24. Lawyer: The defendant wanted to clear the snow off his car and in doing so knocked snow on the sidewalk. This same snow melted and refroze, forming ice on which the plaintiff fell, breaking her hip. We argue that the defendant maliciously harmed the plaintiff, because malice is intention to cause harm and the defendant intentionally removed the snow from his car and put it on the sidewalk, which, unbeknownst to the defendant at the time, would subsequently cause the injury suffered by the plaintiff.

The flawed reasoning in which one of the following is most similar to that in the lawyer's argument?

- (A) Alice asked her sister to lie in court. Unbeknownst to Alice's sister, lying in court is against the law. So what Alice asked her sister to do was illegal.
- (B) Bruce wanted to eat the mincemeat pie. Unbeknownst to Bruce, the mincemeat pie was poisonous. So Bruce wanted to eat poison.
- (C) Cheryl denigrated the wine. Cheryl's sister had picked out the wine. So though she may not have realized it, Cheryl indirectly denigrated her sister.
- (D) Deon had lunch with Ms. Osgood. Unbeknownst to Deon, Ms. Osgood is generally thought to be an industrial spy. So Deon had lunch with an industrial spy.
- (E) Edwina bought a car from Mr. Yancy, then resold it. Unbeknownst to Edwina, Mr. Yancy had stolen the car. So Edwina sold a stolen car.

25. Although wood-burning stoves are more efficient than open fireplaces, they are also more dangerous. The smoke that wood-burning stoves release up the chimney is cooler than the smoke from an open flame. Thus it travels more slowly and deposits more creosote, a flammable substance that can clog a chimney—or worse ignite inside it.

Which one of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) The most efficient wood-burning stoves produce less creosote than do many open fireplaces.
- (B) The amount of creosote produced depends not only on the type of flame but on how often the stove or fireplace is used.
- (C) Open fireplaces pose more risk of severe accidents inside the home than do wood-burning stoves.
- (D) Open fireplaces also produce a large amount of creosote residue.
- (E) Homeowners in warm climates rarely use fireplaces or wood-burning stoves.

S T O P

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.
DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.