

SECTION—II

Time—35 minutes

25 Questions

Directions: Each question in this section is based on the reasoning presented in a brief passage. In answering the questions, you should not make assumptions that are by commonsense standards implausible, superfluous, or incompatible with the passage. For some questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, choose the response that most accurately and completely answers the question and mark that response on your answer sheet.

1. Philosopher: I have been told that most university students today have no interest in philosophical issues, but I know from my own experience that this isn't true. I often go to university campuses to give talks, and the students at my talks have a deep interest in philosophical issues.

The reasoning in the philosopher's argument is flawed in that the argument

- (A) uses the term "interest" in two different ways when the argument requires that it be used consistently throughout
- (B) treats a group as representative of a larger group when there is reason to believe it is unrepresentative
- (C) appeals to the popularity of an academic field as evidence of the worth of that academic field
- (D) takes for granted that just because there is no evidence that interest in something is decreasing, it must be increasing
- (E) takes for granted that it is good that university students have an interest in a certain subject just because the person making the argument has that interest

2. Ancient humans in eastern North America hunted mammoths until the mammoth disappeared from the area around 13,000 years ago. Recently, a fossil bone with an engraving that depicts a mammoth was found in an ancient settlement in eastern North America. This shows that the settlement was occupied at a time when mammoths lived in this area.

The argument requires the assumption that

- (A) the engraving was made during the time when the settlement was occupied
- (B) the fossil on which the engraving was made was not a mammoth bone
- (C) when mammoths disappeared from eastern North America, there were no mammoths left anywhere in North America
- (D) the engraving technique employed on the fossil was unique to eastern North America
- (E) there is no scientific way of dating when the engraving of the mammoth was made

3. Durham: The mayor will agree to a tax increase because that is the only way the city council will agree to her road repair proposal, and that proposal is her top priority.

Espinoza: The mayor will not get her road repair proposal passed because it is more important to her that taxes not increase.

The dialogue provides the most support for the claim that Durham and Espinoza agree about which one of the following?

- (A) The mayor will agree to a tax increase.
- (B) The only way that the city council will agree to pass the mayor's road repair proposal is if she agrees to a tax increase.
- (C) The mayor's road repair proposal is her top priority.
- (D) The mayor will not get her road repair proposal passed.
- (E) It is more important to the mayor that taxes not increase than it is that her road repair proposal passes.

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4. When politicians describe their opponents' positions, they typically make those positions seem implausible and unattractive. In contrast, scholars try to make opposing positions seem as plausible and attractive as possible. Doing so makes their arguments against those positions more persuasive to their professional colleagues. Politicians should take note: they could persuade more voters with their arguments if they simply followed the scholars in charitably formulating their opponents' positions.

The reasoning in the argument is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it

- (A) fails to address the possibility that an approach that works with one kind of audience will not work with another
 - (B) fails to account for the difficulty of coming up with charitable formulations of positions to which one is opposed
 - (C) focuses on the differences between two styles of argumentation even though those styles might be suited to similar audiences
 - (D) takes for granted that both scholars and politicians have persuasion as their aim
 - (E) presumes, without giving justification, that politicians formulate the positions of their opponents uncharitably even when they share those positions
5. Lawyer: In a risky surgical procedure that is performed only with the patient's informed consent, doctors intentionally cause the patient's heart and brain functions to stop by drastically reducing the patient's body temperature. When the procedure is completed, body temperature is quickly restored. Because the doctors deliberately stop the patient's life functions, if these functions do not resume following the procedure, the medical team is technically guilty of manslaughter.

Which one of the following principles, if valid, most helps to justify the lawyer's analysis?

- (A) Any time a medical procedure could result in the patient's death, the medical team could be charged with manslaughter.
- (B) If a medical procedure is known to carry a very high risk of causing the patient's death, then only if the patient does die can the doctors be guilty of manslaughter.
- (C) One is guilty of manslaughter only when one intends to cause irreversible loss of a person's life functions.
- (D) Deliberately bringing about the cessation of a person's life functions is manslaughter if and only if the cessation is permanent.
- (E) Intentionally stopping a patient's life functions is manslaughter unless the patient agrees to the procedure and might die without treatment.

6. John's literature professor believes that the ability to judge the greatness of literary works accurately can be acquired only after years of specialized training. Such training is, in fact, what is required to become a literature professor. She is also well aware that the vast majority of the reading public does not have access to this specialized training.

Which one of the following statements must be true if what John's literature professor believes is true?

- (A) John's literature professor can judge the greatness of works of literature accurately.
 - (B) Anyone who is not a literature professor cannot judge the greatness of works of literature accurately.
 - (C) Specialized training like that received by John's literature professor should be more broadly available to members of the reading public.
 - (D) Literature professors do not belong to the reading public.
 - (E) The vast majority of the reading public is unable to judge the greatness of works of literature accurately.
7. Geothermal power plants produce power using heat from underground reservoirs of hot water or steam heated by the surrounding rock. In the limited areas of the world where such underground hot water and steam can currently be reached by drilling, geothermal power plants produce power more economically than conventional, fossil fuel power plants. However, advocates contend that in the near future economical power from geothermal power plants will be available in most areas.

Which one of the following, if true, most helps to justify the advocates' contention?

- (A) Conventional power plants, unlike geothermal power plants, release large amounts of pollutants into the air.
- (B) A typical geothermal power plant produces at least as much energy as a typical conventional power plant.
- (C) The high start-up costs of geothermal power plants discourages their construction even in locations where they are more economical than conventional power plants in the long run.
- (D) Advanced drilling technology is being developed that will soon make it both feasible and economical to drill wells many times deeper than it is currently possible to drill.
- (E) Recent research has led to discoveries that could significantly lower production costs for nearly all types of power plants.

8. One should not confuse a desire for money with a desire for material possessions. Much of what money can buy—education, travel, even prestige—are not material goods at all. Material goods themselves, moreover, are seldom desired for their own sake but rather for the experiences or activities they make possible.

The claim that one should not confuse a desire for money with a desire for material possessions plays which one of the following roles in the argument?

- (A) It is a generalization from which the argument draws inferences regarding several particular cases.
 - (B) It is the overall conclusion of the argument.
 - (C) It is a subsidiary conclusion used by the argument to support its overall conclusion.
 - (D) It is a recommendation that the argument evaluates by considering specific counterexamples.
 - (E) It alludes to a problem for which the conclusion of the argument offers a solution.
9. Yu: The menu at Jason's Restaurant states that no food served there contains products grown with chemical pesticides, but this cannot be true. I recently visited Kelly's Grocery, where Jason goes personally to buy the restaurant's produce, and I noticed workers unloading produce from a truck belonging to MegaFarm, which I know uses chemical pesticides on all of its crops.

Which one of the following, if true, most undermines Yu's claim?

- (A) Jason does not know that Kelly's Grocery buys produce from MegaFarm.
- (B) Jason buys ingredients from several suppliers besides Kelly's Grocery, and those suppliers sell only products that are grown without chemical pesticides.
- (C) At Kelly's Grocery, most of the produce items that are grown without chemical pesticides carry a label to indicate that fact.
- (D) None of the farms that supply produce to Kelly's Grocery use any pesticide that has not been approved by the government as safe for use on food crops.
- (E) Most people who buy produce at Kelly's Grocery would never knowingly buy produce grown with any chemical pesticides.

10. Various studies have concluded that song overlapping, the phenomenon where one bird begins a song while another of its species is singing, is a signal of aggression. These studies are based solely on receiver-response tests, which seek to derive conclusions about the intent of a signal based on how others respond to it. However, any response—even no response—can be interpreted as a reaction to perceived aggression. Therefore, _____.

Which one of the following most logically completes the argument?

- (A) birds do not respond in a predictable manner to signals of aggression
 - (B) receiver-response tests can provide no insight into bird behavior
 - (C) song overlapping is likely not a signal of aggression
 - (D) song overlapping has no communicative function
 - (E) the conclusion of these studies is unconvincing
11. Psychologists have found that candidates for top political offices who blink excessively during televised debates are judged by viewers to have done less well than competing candidates who exhibit average blink rates. Any impact this phenomenon has on election results is surely deleterious: Many features—knowledgeableness, confidence, and so forth—contribute to a political official's ability to perform well in office, but having an average blink rate is certainly not such a feature.

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

- (A) Voters' judgments about candidates' debate performances rarely affect the results of national elections.
- (B) Blinking too infrequently during televised debates has the same effect on viewers' judgments of candidates as blinking excessively.
- (C) Excessive blinking has been shown to be a mostly reliable indicator of a lack of confidence.
- (D) Candidates for top political offices who are knowledgeable also tend to be confident.
- (E) Viewers' judgments about candidates' debate performances are generally not affected by how knowledgeable the candidates appear to be.

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12. Scientist: Some pundits claim that the public is afraid of scientists. This isn't true. I have been a scientist for several decades, and I have never met anyone who is afraid of scientists.

Which one of the following is an assumption required by the scientist's argument?

- (A) Alleged scientific claims may be used to manipulate people, and it is understandable that people would be on their guard against such manipulation.
 - (B) If a person understood what science is really about, then that person would not be afraid of scientists.
 - (C) People may be apprehensive about technological developments that result from science even if they are not afraid of scientists themselves.
 - (D) If the public were afraid of scientists, then over several decades a scientist would encounter at least one person who was afraid of scientists.
 - (E) Anyone who claims to be afraid of scientists is actually afraid of scientists.
13. Scientist: It seems likely that the earliest dinosaurs to fly did so by gliding out of trees rather than, as some scientists think, by lifting off the ground from a running start. Animals gliding from trees are able to fly with very simple wings. Such wings represent evolutionary middle stages toward developing the large wings that we associate with flying dinosaurs.

Each of the following, if true, strengthens the scientist's argument EXCEPT:

- (A) Early flying dinosaurs built their nests at the base of trees.
- (B) Early flying dinosaurs had sharp claws and long toes suitable for climbing.
- (C) Early flying dinosaurs had unusual feathers that provided lift while gliding, but little control when taking flight.
- (D) Early flying dinosaurs had feathers on their toes that would have interfered with their ability to run.
- (E) Early flying dinosaurs lived at a time when their most dangerous predators could not climb trees.

14. The arousal of anger is sometimes a legitimate artistic aim, and every legitimate artwork that has this aim calls intentionally for concrete intervention in the world. Even granting that most art is concerned with beauty in some way, it follows that those critics who maintain that a concern for beauty is a characteristic of all legitimate art are mistaken.

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

- (A) There are works that are concerned with beauty but that are not legitimate works of art.
 - (B) Only those works that are exclusively concerned with beauty are legitimate works of art.
 - (C) Works of art that call for intervention have a merely secondary concern with beauty.
 - (D) No works of art that call for intervention are concerned with beauty.
 - (E) Only works that call for intervention are legitimate works of art.
15. Children clearly have a reasonably sophisticated understanding of what is real and what is pretend. Once they have acquired a command of language, we can ask them which is which, and they generally get it right. Even a much younger child who runs away when she sees her father roaring and prowling like a lion does not act as though she thinks her father is actually a lion. If she believed that, she would be terrified. The pleasure children get from make-believe would be impossible to explain if they could not distinguish the real from the pretend.
- Which one of the following most accurately expresses the overall conclusion drawn in the argument?
- (A) Children apparently have a reasonably sophisticated understanding of what is real and what is pretend.
 - (B) Children who have acquired a command of language generally answer correctly when asked about whether a thing is real or pretend.
 - (C) Even a very young child can tell the difference between a lion and someone pretending to be a lion.
 - (D) Children would be terrified if they believed they were in the presence of a real lion.
 - (E) The pleasure children get from make-believe would be impossible to explain if they could not distinguish between what is real and what is pretend.

16. Environment minister: Many countries have signed an international agreement that is intended to reduce pollution in the world's oceans. While conformity to this agreement probably would significantly reduce pollution in the world's oceans, it would also probably reduce economic growth in our country and others. Therefore, our country should not sign the agreement.

Which one of the following principles, if valid, would most help to justify the environment minister's argument?

- (A) A country should not sign an agreement that is unlikely to achieve its stated goal.
- (B) It is more important to maintain economic growth in one's own country than it is to reduce pollution in the world's oceans.
- (C) A country should not sign an agreement designed to achieve a particular goal if it is likely that a better means of achieving that goal is possible.
- (D) When deciding whether to sign an agreement, a country should consider the agreement's effects on other countries' economies as well as on its own economy.
- (E) If a policy is likely to protect the environment and is unlikely to reduce economic growth, then governments should implement that policy.

17. Advocate: A study of people who had recently recovered from colds found that people who took cold medicine for their colds reported more severe symptoms than those people who did not take cold medicine. Therefore, taking cold medicine is clearly counterproductive.

The reasoning in the advocate's argument is flawed because the argument

- (A) treats something as true simply because most people believe it to be true
- (B) treats some people as experts in an area in which there is no reason to take them to be reliable sources of information
- (C) takes something to be true in one case just because it is true in most cases
- (D) rests on a confusion between what is required for a particular outcome and what is sufficient to cause that outcome
- (E) confuses what is likely the cause of something for an effect of that thing

18. Some people prefer to avoid facing unpleasant truths and resent those whose unwanted honesty forces them into such a confrontation. Others dislike having any information, however painful, knowingly withheld from them. It is obvious then that if those in the former group are guided by the directive to treat others as they themselves want to be treated, _____.

Which one of the following most reasonably completes the argument above?

- (A) they will sometimes withhold comment in situations in which they would otherwise be willing to speak
- (B) they will sometimes treat those in the latter group in a manner the members of this latter group do not like
- (C) those in the latter group must be guided by an entirely different principle of behavior
- (D) those in the latter group will respond by concealing unpleasant truths
- (E) the result will meet with the approval of both groups

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19. If you study history, then you will appreciate the vast differences among past civilizations, and you will appreciate these differences provided that you reflect on your own civilization. Hence, if you study history you will reflect on your own civilization.

Which one of the following is most closely parallel in its flawed reasoning to the flawed reasoning in the argument above?

- (A) By studying ancient art you begin to appreciate how much was accomplished with limited materials. Appreciation of ancient art leads to a deeper understanding of modern art. Therefore, studying ancient art can engender a profound new appreciation for modern art.
- (B) If you learn Latin, you can improve your vocabulary, and you can improve your vocabulary if you study great works of literature. So you will study great works of literature if you learn Latin.
- (C) Traveling to other countries deepens one's appreciation for their cultures, and this appreciation often encourages one to study the history of those lands. So the study of history increases one's desire to travel.
- (D) Studying hard while in school helps you to internalize good habits that will serve you well in the working world, and you will retain those good habits if you maintain a positive mental attitude toward study. So diligent study in school improves the chance of success in the workplace.
- (E) One can become informed about the world provided that one reads the newspaper daily. If one is informed about the world, then one has an appreciation of other cultures. So if one reads the newspaper daily, then one can come to appreciate other cultures.

20. A philosophical paradox is a particularly baffling sort of argument. Your intuitions tell you that the conclusion of a philosophical paradox is false, but they also tell you that its conclusion follows logically from true premises. Solving a philosophical paradox requires accepting any one of three things: that its conclusion is true, that at least one of its premises is not true, or that its conclusion does not really follow logically from its premises.

If the statements above are true, which one of the following must also be true?

- (A) Solving a philosophical paradox requires accepting something that intuitively seems to be incorrect.
 - (B) The conclusion of a philosophical paradox cannot be false if all the paradox's premises are true.
 - (C) Philosophical paradoxes with one or two premises are more baffling than those with several premises.
 - (D) Any two people who attempt to solve a philosophical paradox will probably use two different approaches.
 - (E) If it is not possible to accept that the conclusion of a particular philosophical paradox is true, then it is not possible to solve that paradox.
21. A chimp who displays feelings of affection toward the other members of its social group is more likely to be defended by these group members from raiders outside of the group—even at the risk of harm to these defenders—than are those chimps who rarely or never display feelings of affection toward their associates. This shows that, from a sociological perspective, affection plays the same role in chimp communities as in human communities, since humans are more willing to face risks to protect those toward whom they have feelings of affection.

Which one of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) Chimps express their emotions behaviorally whenever they feel them.
- (B) Feelings of affection in chimp communities are at least sometimes reciprocated.
- (C) Feelings of affection are the only reason humans protect each other.
- (D) Expression of affection in chimps is limited to members of the social group to which they belong.
- (E) Feelings of affection, in both human and chimp communities, are usually displayed through altruistic behavior.

22. The writers of the television show *Ambitions* could make their characters more realistic than they currently are, but they know their viewership would shrink if they did. The writers will choose to maximize their audience, so the characters will not be developed in a more realistic manner.

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

- (A) If a company's failure is due to a broader economic collapse, then it is not fair to blame the company's executives for the failure. There was a broader economic collapse when ViqCo went bankrupt. So it is probably not fair to blame ViqCo's executives for the failure.
- (B) If a company's failure is due to a broader economic collapse, then it is not fair to blame the company's executives for the failure. But there was no broader economic collapse when ViqCo went bankrupt. So ViqCo's executives deserve the blame.
- (C) If ViqCo's executives were responsible for the company's failure, then it must be possible to say what they should have done differently. Therefore, if you cannot say what ViqCo's executives should have done differently, then you should not blame them for the failure.
- (D) If ViqCo's executives were responsible for the company's losses, then ViqCo's losses would have been greater than those of its competitors. But ViqCo's losses were less than those of its competitors. So ViqCo's executives were not responsible for the company's losses.
- (E) Since ViqCo's failure was due to a broader economic collapse, it is not fair to blame the company's executives for the failure. But that means that when ViqCo was succeeding because the broader economy was growing, the executives did not deserve the credit.

23. It has been argued that the immense size of *Tyrannosaurus rex* would have made it so slow that it could only have been a scavenger, not a hunter, since it would not have been able to chase down its prey. This, however, is an overly hasty inference. *T. rex*'s prey, if it was even larger than *T. rex*, would probably have been slower than *T. rex*.

The claim that *T. rex* could only have been a scavenger, not a hunter, plays which one of the following roles in the argument?

- (A) It is a hypothesis that is claimed in the argument to be logically inconsistent with the conclusion advanced by the argument.
- (B) It is a hypothesis that the argument contends is probably false.
- (C) It is a hypothesis that the argument attempts to undermine by calling into question the sufficiency of the evidence.
- (D) It is offered as evidence in support of a hypothesis that the argument concludes to be false.
- (E) It is offered as evidence that is necessary for drawing the conclusion advanced by the argument.

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24. Legal theorist: Only two types of theories of criminal sentencing can be acceptable—retributivist theories, which hold that the purpose of sentences is simply to punish, and rehabilitationist theories, which hold that a sentence is a means to reform the offender. A retributivist theory is not acceptable unless it conforms to the principle that the harshness of a punishment should be proportional to the seriousness of the offense. Retributivist theories that hold that criminals should receive longer sentences for repeat offenses than for an initial offense violate this principle, since repeat offenses may be no more serious than the initial offense.

Which one of the following can be properly inferred from the legal theorist's statements?

- (A) No rehabilitationist theory holds that punishing an offender is an acceptable means to reform that offender.
- (B) Reforming a repeat offender sometimes requires giving that offender longer sentences for the repeat offenses than for the initial offense.
- (C) Any rehabilitationist theory that holds that criminals should receive longer sentences for repeat offenses than for an initial offense is an acceptable theory.
- (D) All theories of criminal sentencing that conform to the principle that the harshness of a punishment should be proportional to the seriousness of the offense are acceptable.
- (E) A theory of criminal sentencing that holds that criminals should receive longer sentences for repeat offenses than for an initial offense is acceptable only if it is a rehabilitationist theory.

25. Sociologists study folktales because they provide a means of understanding the distinctive values of a culture. However, the folktales in almost all cultures are adaptations of the same ancient narratives to the local milieu.

Which one of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the apparent discrepancy in the information above?

- (A) Because no single person is the author of a folktale, folktales must reflect the values of a culture rather than those of an individual.
- (B) Folktales are often oral traditions that persist from times when few people left written materials.
- (C) The manner in which a culture adapts its narratives reveals information about the values of that culture.
- (D) The ancient narratives persist largely because they speak to basic themes and features of the human condition.
- (E) Folktales are often morality tales, used to teach children the values important to a culture.

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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.