

SECTION III

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. Terry: If You want to get a decent job, you should go to college.

Mark: That is not true. There are other reasons to go to college than wanting to get a good job.

Mark's response shows that he interpreted Terry's remarks to mean that

- (A) college is one of many places to get trained for a job
 - (B) decent jobs are obtained only by persons who have gone to college
 - (C) wanting to get a decent job is the only reason for going to college
 - (D) training for decent jobs is available only at colleges
 - (E) all people who want decent jobs go to college
2. Several studies have shown that hospitals are not all equally successful: patients are much more likely to die in some of them than in others. Since the hospitals in the studies had approximately equal per-patient funding, differences in the quality of care provided by hospital staff are probably responsible for the differences in mortality rates.
- Which one of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the conclusion drawn above?
- (A) The staff in some of the hospitals studied had earned more advanced degrees, on average, than the staff in the other hospitals.
 - (B) Patient populations vary substantially in average severity of illness from hospital to hospital.
 - (C) The average number of years that staff members stay on at a given job varies considerably from one hospital to another.
 - (D) Approximately the same surgical procedures were performed in each of the hospitals covered in the studies.
 - (E) Mortality rates for hospital patients do not vary considerably from one region of the country to another.

Questions 3-4

The United States government generally tries to protect valuable natural resources. But one resource has been ignored for too long. In the United States, each bushel of corn produced might result in the loss of as much as two bushels of topsoil. Moreover, in the last 100 years, the topsoil in many states, which once was about fourteen inches thick, has been eroded to only six or eight inches. Nonetheless, federal expenditures for nationwide soil conservation programs have remained at ridiculously low levels. Total federal expenditures for nationwide soil conservation programs have been less than the allocations of some individual states.

3. Which one of the following best expresses the main point of the argument?
- (A) Corn is not a cost-effective product and substitutes should be found where possible.
 - (B) A layer of topsoil only six to eight inches thick cannot support the continued cultivation of corn.
 - (C) Soil conservation is a responsibility of the federal government, not the states.
 - (D) The federal government's expenditures for soil conservation in the various states have been inequitable.
 - (E) The federal government should spend much more on soil conservation than it has been spending.
4. In stating the argument, the author does which one of the following?
- (A) makes a detailed statistical projection of future topsoil loss
 - (B) makes a generalization about total reduction in topsoil depth in all states
 - (C) assumes that the United States government does not place a high value on its natural resources
 - (D) refrains from using slanted language concerning the level of federal expenditures
 - (E) compares state expenditures with federal expenditures

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5. Animals with a certain behavioral disorder have unusually high levels of aluminum in their brain tissue. Since a silicon-based compound binds to aluminum and prevents it from affecting the brain tissue, animals can be cured of the disorder by being treated with the compound.

The argument is based on which one of the following assumptions?

- (A) Animals with the disorder have unusually high but invariable levels of aluminum in their brain tissue.
 - (B) Aluminum is the cause of the disorder rather than merely an effect of it.
 - (C) Introducing the compound into the brain tissue has no side effects.
 - (D) The amount of the compound needed to neutralize the aluminum in an animal's brain tissue varies depending upon the species.
 - (E) Aluminum is never present in normal brain tissue.
6. As air-breathing mammals, whales must once have lived on land and needed hind limbs capable of supporting the mammals' weight. Whales have the bare remnants of a pelvis. If animals have a pelvis, we expect them to have hind limbs. A newly discovered fossilized whale skeleton has very fragile hind limbs that could not have supported the animal's weight on land. This skeleton had a partial pelvis.

If the statements above are true, which one of the following, if also true, would most strongly support the conclusion that the fragile hind limbs are remnants of limbs that land-dwelling whales once had?

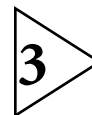
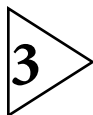
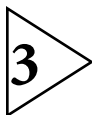
- (A) Whale bones older than the fossilized hind limbs confirm that ancient whales had full pelvises.
- (B) No skeletons of ancient whales with intact hind limbs capable of supporting the mammals' weight have ever been found.
- (C) Scientists are uncertain whether the apparently nonfunctioning limbs of other early mammals derived from once-functioning limbs of their ancestors.
- (D) Other large-bodied mammals like seals and sea lions maneuver on beaches and rocky coasts without fully functioning hind limbs.
- (E) Some smaller sea-dwelling mammals, such as modern dolphins, have no visible indications of hind limbs.

7. The stated goal of the government's funding program for the arts is to encourage the creation of works of artistic excellence. Senator Beton claims, however, that a government-funded artwork can never reflect the independent artistic conscience of the artist because artists, like anyone else who accepts financial support, will inevitably try to please those who control the distribution of that support. Senator Beton concludes that government funding of the arts not only is a burden on taxpayers but also cannot lead to the creation of works of true artistic excellence.

Which one of the following is an assumption on which Senator Beton's argument is based?

- (A) Most taxpayers have little or no interest in the creation of works of true artistic excellence.
- (B) Government funding of the arts is more generous than other financial support most artists receive.
- (C) Distribution of government funds for the arts is based on a broad agreement as to what constitutes artistic excellence.
- (D) Once an artist has produced works of true artistic excellence, he or she will never accept government funding.
- (E) A contemporary work of art that does not reflect the independent artistic conscience of the artist cannot be a work of true artistic excellence.

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8. Older United States automobiles have been identified as contributing disproportionately to global air pollution. The requirement in many jurisdictions that automobiles pass emission-control inspections has had the effect of taking many such automobiles out of service in the United States, as they fail inspection and their owners opt to buy newer automobiles. Thus the burden of pollution such older United States automobiles contribute to the global atmosphere will be gradually reduced over the next decade.

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

- (A) It is impossible to separate the air of one country or jurisdiction from that of others, since air currents circle the globe.
- (B) When automobiles that are now new become older, they will, because of a design change, cause less air pollution than older automobiles do now.
- (C) There is a thriving market for used older United States automobiles that are exported to regions that have no emission-control regulations.
- (D) The number of jurisdictions in the United States requiring automobiles to pass emission-control inspections is no longer increasing.
- (E) Even if all the older automobiles in the United States were retired from service, air pollution from United States automobiles could still increase if the total number of automobiles in use should increase significantly.

9. The journalistic practice of fabricating remarks after an interview and printing them within quotation marks, as if they were the interviewee's own words, has been decried as a form of unfair misrepresentation. However, people's actual spoken remarks rarely convey their ideas as clearly as does a distillation of those ideas crafted, after an interview, by a skilled writer. Therefore, since this practice avoids the more serious misrepresentation that would occur if people's exact words were quoted but their ideas only partially expressed, it is entirely defensible.

Which one of the following is a questionable technique used in the argument?

- (A) answering an exaggerated charge by undermining the personal authority of those who made that charge
 - (B) claiming that the prestige of a profession provides ample grounds for dismissing criticisms of that profession
 - (C) offering as an adequate defense of a practice an observation that discredits only one of several possible alternatives to that practice
 - (D) concluding that a practice is right on the grounds that it is necessary
 - (E) using the opponent's admission that a practice is sometimes appropriate as conclusive proof that that practice is never inappropriate
10. The reforms to improve the quality of public education that have been initiated on the part of suppliers of public education have been insufficient. Therefore, reforms must be demanded by consumers. Parents should be given government vouchers with which to pay for their children's education and should be allowed to choose the schools at which the vouchers will be spent. To attract students, academically underachieving schools will be forced to improve their academic offerings.

The argument assumes that

- (A) in selecting schools parents would tend to prefer a reasonable level of academic quality to greater sports opportunities or more convenient location
- (B) improvement in the academic offerings of schools will be enforced by the discipline of the job market in which graduating students compete
- (C) there is a single best way to educate students
- (D) children are able to recognize which schools are better and would influence their parents' decisions
- (E) schools would each improve all of their academic offerings and would not tend to specialize in one particular field to the exclusion of others

11. Professor Smith published a paper arguing that a chemical found in minute quantities in most drinking water had an adverse effect on the human nervous system. Existing scientific theory held that no such effect was possible because there was no neural mechanism for bringing it about. Several papers by well-known scientists in the field followed, unanimously purporting to prove Professor Smith wrong. This clearly shows that the scientific establishment was threatened by Professor Smith's work and conspired to discredit it.

Which one of the following is the central flaw in the argument given by the author of the passage?

- (A) The author passes over the possibility that Professor Smith had much to gain should Professor Smith's discovery have found general acceptance.
 - (B) The author fails to mention whether or not Professor Smith knew that the existence of the alleged new effect was incompatible with established scientific theory.
 - (C) The author fails to show why the other scientists could not have been presenting evidence in order to establish the truth of the matter.
 - (D) The author neglects to clarify what his or her relationship to Professor Smith is.
 - (E) The author fails to indicate what, if any, effect the publication of Professor Smith's paper had on the public's confidence in the safety of most drinking water.
12. The number of North American children who are obese—that is, who have more body fat than do 85 percent of North American children their age—is steadily increasing, according to four major studies conducted over the past 15 years.

If the finding reported above is correct, it can be properly concluded that

- (A) when four major studies all produce similar results, those studies must be accurate
- (B) North American children have been progressively less physically active over the past 15 years
- (C) the number of North American children who are not obese increased over the past 15 years
- (D) over the past 15 years, the number of North American children who are underweight has declined
- (E) the incidence of obesity in North American children tends to increase as the children grow older

13. Economist: Money, no matter what its form and in almost every culture in which it has been used, derives its value from its scarcity, whether real or perceived.

Anthropologist: But cowrie shells formed the major currency in the Solomon Island economy of the Kwara'ae, and unlimited numbers of these shells washed up daily on the beaches to which the Kwara'ae had access.

Which one of the following, if true about the Kwara'ae, best serves to resolve the apparently conflicting positions cited above?

- (A) During festivals they exchanged strings of cowrie-shell money with each other as part of a traditional ritual that honored their elders.
- (B) They considered porpoise teeth valuable, and these were generally threaded on strings to be worn as jewelry.
- (C) The shells used as money by men were not always from the same species of cowrie as those used as money by women.
- (D) They accepted as money only cowrie shells that were polished and carved by a neighboring people, and such shell preparation required both time and skilled labor.
- (E) After Western traders brought money in the form of precious-metal coins to the Solomon Islands, cowrie-shell money continued to be used as one of the major media of exchange for both goods and services.

14. School superintendent: It is a sad fact that, until now, entry into the academically best high school in our district has been restricted to the children of people who were wealthy enough to pay the high tuition. Parents who were previously denied the option of sending their children to this school now have this option, since I am replacing the tuition requirement with a requirement that allows only those who live in the neighborhood of the school to attend.

The superintendent's claim about the effect of replacing the tuition requirement relies on the assumption that

- (A) the residents of the school's neighborhood tend to be wealthy
- (B) people other than those wealthy enough to have paid the old tuition are able to live in the neighborhood of the school
- (C) people less wealthy than those who were able to pay the old tuition are in the majority in the district
- (D) there are no high schools in the district other than the one referred to by the superintendent
- (E) there are many people not wealthy enough to have paid the old tuition who wish to have their children attend the school



15. The Scorpio Miser with its special high-efficiency engine costs more to buy than the standard Scorpio sports car. At current fuel prices, a buyer choosing the Miser would have to drive it 60,000 miles to make up the difference in purchase price through savings on fuel. It follows that, if fuel prices fell, it would take fewer miles to reach the break-even point.

Which one of the following arguments contains an error of reasoning similar to that in the argument above?

- (A) The true annual rate of earnings on an interest-bearing account is the annual rate of interest less the annual rate of inflation. Consequently, if the rate of inflation drops, the rate of interest can be reduced by an equal amount without there being a change in the true rate of earnings.
- (B) For retail food stores, the Polar freezer, unlike the Arctic freezer, provides a consistent temperature that allows the store to carry premium frozen foods. Though the Polar freezer uses more electricity, there is a bigger profit on premium foods. Thus, if electricity rates fell, a lower volume of premium-food sales could justify choosing the Polar freezer.
- (C) With the Roadmaker, a crew can repave a mile of decayed road in less time than with the competing model, which is, however, much less expensive. Reduced staffing levels made possible by the Roadmaker eventually compensate for its higher price. Therefore, the Roadmaker is especially advantageous where average wages are low.
- (D) The improved strain of the Northland apple tree bears fruit younger and lives longer than the standard strain. The standard strain does grow larger at maturity, but to allow for this, standard trees must be spaced farther apart. Therefore, new plantings should all be of the improved strain.
- (E) Stocks pay dividends, which vary from year to year depending on profits made. Bonds pay interest, which remains constant from year to year. Therefore, since the interest earned on bonds does not decrease when economic conditions decline, investors interested in a reliable income should choose bonds.

16. Approximately 7.6 million women who earn incomes have preschool-age children, and approximately 6.4 million women are the sole income earners for their families. These figures indicate that there are comparatively few income-earning women who have preschool-age children but are not the sole income earners for their families.

A major flaw in the reasoning is that it

- (A) relies on figures that are too imprecise to support the conclusion drawn
 - (B) overlooks the possibility that there is little or no overlap between the two populations of women cited
 - (C) fails to indicate whether the difference between the two figures cited will tend to remain stable over time
 - (D) ignores the possibility that families with preschool-age children might also have older children
 - (E) provides no information on families in which men are the sole income earners
17. Being articulate has been equated with having a large vocabulary. Actually, however, people with large vocabularies have no incentive for, and tend not to engage in, the kind of creative linguistic self-expression that is required when no available words seem adequate. Thus a large vocabulary is a hindrance to using language in a truly articulate way.
- Which one of the following is an assumption made in the argument?
- (A) When people are truly articulate, they have the capacity to express themselves in situations in which their vocabularies seem inadequate.
 - (B) People who are able to express themselves creatively in new situations have little incentive to acquire large vocabularies.
 - (C) The most articulate people are people who have large vocabularies but also are able to express themselves creatively when the situation demands it.
 - (D) In educating people to be more articulate, it would be futile to try to increase the size of their vocabularies.
 - (E) In unfamiliar situations, even people with large vocabularies often do not have specifically suitable words available.

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Questions 18–19

Dr. Schilling: Those who advocate replacing my country's private health insurance system with nationalized health insurance because of the rising costs of medical care fail to consider the high human costs that consumers pay in countries with nationalized insurance: access to high-technology medicine is restricted. Kidney transplants and open-heart surgery-familiar life-saving procedures are rationed. People are denied their right to treatments they want and need.

Dr. Laforte: Your country's reliance on private health insurance denies access even to basic, conventional medicine to the many people who cannot afford adequate health coverage. With nationalized insurance, rich and poor have equal access to life-saving medical procedures, and people's right to decent medical treatment regardless of income is not violated.

18. Dr. Schilling's and Dr. Laforte's statements provide the most support for holding that they would disagree about the truth of which one of the following?
- (A) People's rights are violated less when they are denied an available medical treatment they need because they lack the means to pay for it than when they are denied such treatment on noneconomic grounds.
 - (B) Where health insurance is provided by private insurance companies, people who are wealthy generally receive better health care than do people who are unable to afford health insurance.
 - (C) In countries that rely primarily on private health insurance to pay for medical costs, most people who would benefit from a kidney transplant receive one.
 - (D) In countries with nationalized health insurance, no one who needs a familiar medical treatment in order to stay alive is denied that treatment.
 - (E) Anyone who wants a particular medical treatment has a right to receive that treatment.

19. In responding to Dr. Schilling, Dr. Laforte employs which one of the following argumentative strategies?
- (A) showing that the objections raised by Dr. Schilling have no bearing on the question of which of the two systems under consideration is the superior system
 - (B) calling into question Dr. Schilling's status as an authority on the issue of whether consumers' access to medical treatments is restricted in countries with nationalized health insurance
 - (C) producing counterexamples to Dr. Schilling's claims that nationalized health insurance schemes extract high human costs from consumers
 - (D) demonstrating that Dr. Schilling's reasoning is persuasive only because of his ambiguous use of the key word "consumer"
 - (E) showing that the force of Dr. Schilling's criticism depends on construing the key notion of access in a particular limited way

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20. A certain viral infection is widespread among children, and about 30 percent of children infected with the virus develop middle ear infections. Antibiotics, although effective in treating bacterial infections, have no effect on the virus. Yet when middle ear infections in children infected with the virus are treated with antibiotics, the ear infections often clear up.

Which one of the following most helps to explain the success of the treatments with antibiotics?

- (A) Although some types of antibiotics fail to clear up certain infections, other types of antibiotics might provide effective treatment for those infections.
 - (B) Children infected with the virus are particularly susceptible to bacteria that infect the middle ear.
 - (C) Many children who develop middle ear infections are not infected with the virus.
 - (D) Most viral infections are more difficult to treat than are most bacterial infections.
 - (E) Among children not infected with the virus, fewer than 30 percent develop middle ear infections.
21. Naturalist: For decades we have known that the tuatara, a New Zealand reptile, have been approaching extinction on the South Island. But since South Island tuatara were thought to be of the same species as North Island tuatara there was no need to protect them. But new research indicates that the South Island tuatara are a distinct species, found only in that location. Because it is now known that if the South Island tuatara are lost an entire species will thereby be lost, human beings are now obliged to prevent their extinction, even if it means killing many of their unendangered natural predators.

Which one of the following principles most helps to justify the naturalists' argumentation?

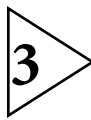
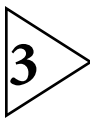
- (A) In order to maximize the number of living things on Earth, steps should be taken to preserve all local populations of animals.
- (B) When an animal is in danger of dying, there is an obligation to help save its life, if doing so would not interfere with the health or well-being of other animals or people.
- (C) The threat of local extinction imposes no obligation to try to prevent that extinction, whereas the threat of global extinction does impose such an obligation.
- (D) Human activities that either intentionally or unintentionally threaten the survival of an animal species ought to be curtailed.
- (E) Species that are found in only one circumscribed geographical region ought to be given more care and attention than are other species because they are more vulnerable to extinction.

22. Nursing schools cannot attract a greater number of able applicants than they currently do unless the problems of low wages and high-stress working conditions in the nursing profession are solved. If the pool of able applicants to nursing school does not increase beyond the current level, either the profession will have to lower its entrance standards, or there will soon be an acute shortage of nurses. It is not certain, however, that lowering entrance standards will avert a shortage. It is clear that with either a shortage of nurses or lowered entrance standards for the profession, the current high quality of health care cannot be maintained.

Which one of the following can be properly inferred from the passage?

- (A) If the nursing profession solves the problems of low wages and high-stress working conditions, it will attract able applicants in greater numbers than it currently does.
- (B) The nursing profession will have to lower its entrance standards if the pool of able applicants to nursing school does not increase beyond the current level.
- (C) If the nursing profession solves the problems of low wages and high-stress working conditions, high quality health care will be maintained.
- (D) If the nursing profession fails to solve the problems of low wages and high-stress working conditions, there will soon be an acute shortage of nurses.
- (E) The current high quality of health care will not be maintained if the problems of low wages and high-stress working conditions in the nursing profession are not solved.

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Questions 23–24

There are about 75 brands of microwave popcorn on the market; altogether, they account for a little over half of the money from sales of microwave food products. It takes three minutes to pop corn in the microwave, compared to seven minutes to pop corn conventionally. Yet by weight, microwave popcorn typically costs over five times as much as conventional popcorn. Judging by the popularity of microwave popcorn, many people are willing to pay a high price for just a little additional convenience.

23. If the statements in the passage are true, which one of the following must also be true?
- (A) No single brand of microwave popcorn accounts for a large share of microwave food product sales.
 - (B) There are more brands of microwave popcorn on the market than there are of any other microwave food product.
 - (C) By volume, more microwave popcorn is sold than is conventional popcorn.
 - (D) More money is spent on microwave food products that take three minutes or less to cook than on microwave food products that take longer to cook.
 - (E) Of the total number of microwave food products on the market, most are microwave popcorn products.
24. Which one of the following statements, if true, would call into question the conclusion in the passage?
- (A) More than 50 percent of popcorn purchasers buy conventional popcorn rather than microwave popcorn.
 - (B) Most people who prefer microwave popcorn do so because it is less fattening than popcorn that is popped conventionally in oil.
 - (C) The price of microwave popcorn reflects its packaging more than it reflects the quality of the popcorn contained in the package.
 - (D) The ratio of unpopped kernels to popped kernels is generally the same whether popcorn is popped in a microwave or conventionally in oil.
 - (E) Because microwave popcorn contains additives not contained in conventional popcorn, microwave popcorn weighs more than an equal volume of conventional popcorn.

25. Situation: In the island nation of Bezun, the government taxes gasoline heavily in order to induce people not to drive. It uses the revenue from the gasoline tax to subsidize electricity in order to reduce prices charged for electricity.

Analysis: The greater the success achieved in meeting the first of these objectives, the less will be the success achieved in meeting the second.

The analysis provided for the situation above would be most appropriate in which one of the following situations?

- (A) A library charges a late fee in order to induce borrowers to return books promptly. The library uses revenue from the late fee to send reminders to tardy borrowers in order to reduce the incidence of overdue books.
- (B) A mail-order store imposes a stiff surcharge for overnight delivery in order to limit use of this option. The store uses revenue from the surcharge to pay the extra expenses it incurs for providing the overnight delivery service.
- (C) The park management charges an admission fee so that a park's users will contribute to the park's upkeep. In order to keep admission fees low, the management does not finance any new projects from them.
- (D) A restaurant adds a service charge in order to spare customers the trouble of individual tips. The service charge is then shared among the restaurant's workers in order to augment their low hourly wages.
- (E) The highway administration charges a toll for crossing a bridge in order to get motorists to use other routes. It uses the revenue from that toll to generate a reserve fund in order to be able one day to build a new bridge.

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.