

Introduction to Logic

Assignment 1 (Part A)

King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang

Task 1

Determine which of the following passages are arguments. For those that are, identify the conclusion and the premises.

1.1 ¹The Covid-19 outbreak greatly disrupts both domestic demand and external demand. ²Governments can only manipulate domestic demand and have no management power over external demand. Therefore, ³a fiscal stimulus package will not be so effective for Thailand. (Bangkok Post, 13 Aug 2020)

↳ 1 & 2 are premises, 3 is the conclusion

1.2 ¹A dog was kept in the stalls and yet, though ²someone had been in and fetched out a horse, ³the dog had not barked. Obviously, ⁴the visitor was someone whom the dog knew well. ("The Adventure of Silver Blaze" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

↳ 3 is a premise, 4 is the conclusion

1.3 ¹About 100 motorcyclists working for Grab food delivery service went on strike and rallied on Wednesday, accusing the company of cutting their returns to an unviable level. ²The motorcyclists gathered behind Big C store in South Pattaya, Chon Buri province. ³Grab food rider Narongsak Suksa-nguan, 30, said Grab changed its system of payment last November in a way that cut each rider's earnings from more than 1,000 baht a day previously to only 300-400 baht a day on average. ⁴That just was not enough, considering they also had to pay for fuel and motorcycle maintenance, he said. (Bangkok Post, 5 Aug 2020)

↳ not argument

1.4 ¹Animals born without traits that led to reproduction died out, whereas ²the ones that reproduced the most succeeded in conveying their genes to posterity. Crudely speaking, ³sex feels good because ⁴over evolutionary time the animals that liked having sex created more offspring than the animals that didn't. (R. Thornhill and C. T. Palmer, "Why Men Rape," The Sciences, February 2000)

↳ 1, 2 & 4 are premises. 3 is the conclusion

Task 2

Each passage below contains an extended argument. Draw a diagram showing the inferential relationship among the statements in the passage. If a statement is redundant or plays no role in the argument, do not include them in the diagram.

2.1 ¹During the outbreak period, there is no better policy than a cash handout or a “basic income policy”. ²Soft loan programmes to SMEs will fail as ³there is low demand for products. ⁴When product demand is low, demand for loans (from good SMEs) will also be low. (Bangkok Post, 13 Aug 2020)

2.2 ¹The post-Covid period will be painful for Thailand because ²external demand will never be fully restored. ³After the pandemic, world savings (currently about 25.1% of GDP) will be mostly exhausted by government borrowing and by consumers during the outbreak period. ⁴The whole world has to re-save. ⁵More saving means (much) less spending on unnecessary products like travel and automobiles. ⁶Unfortunately, Thailand’s export income significantly depends on such products. (Bangkok Post, 13 Aug 2020)

2.3 ¹All cars should have a spear mounted on the steering wheel, aimed directly at the driver’s chest. After all, ²we should do everything we can to encourage cautious driving. Since ³people behave much more cautiously when they know that their life is on the line, ⁴steering wheel-mounted spears would make people drive much more cautiously. (Steven E. Landsburg, The Armchair Economist)

2.4 ¹Solar-powered cars can never be anything but experimental devices. ²Solar power is too weak to power even a mini-car for daily use. ³The solar power entering the atmosphere is about 1 kilowatt per square yard. Because of ⁴the scattering in the atmosphere, and because ⁵the sun shines half a day on the average at any place on earth, ⁶average solar power received is 1/6 kilowatt, or 4 kilowatt hours a day. ⁷Tests on full-size cars indicate that 300,000 watt hours are required in a battery for an electric car to perform marginally satisfactorily. So, ⁸40 square yards of cells would be needed to charge the car batteries, certainly too large to fit on the roof of a typical car. (Victor Wouk, “You Can’t Drive Solar Cars to Work,” The New York Times, 15 July 1991)

