

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

B.A. FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS: 2013/2014

UGRC 150: CRITICAL THINKING & PRACTICAL REASONING 3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer ALL questions. Answer questions 1-7

TIME ALLOWED: Two hours

Choose the option that best answers each of the questions below:

1. A fragment is a sentence, although it is incomplete.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.
2. Which of the following is true about a fragment!
 - a. It is sometimes declarative.
 - b. It could be meaningful.
 - c. Its predicate or subject should not be missing.
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.
3. Choose the alternative that best expresses a moral value judgement?
 - a. This drug should not be taken while learning because it induces sleep.
 - b. Stealing is the most offensive action in the eyes of God that any human being can commit.
 - c. Driving without a license is very bad.
 - d. This is the best and most expensive car ever made by a German company.
 - e. None of the above.
4. If a statement has less empirica¹ content, it is easy to falsify it.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.
5. Which of the following is not a natural law-like statement?
 - a. All salts must dissolve in water.
 - b. All metals must expand when heated.
 - c. All mammals must have oxygen in order to live.
 - d. All human beings must obey God.
 - e. All of the above.
6. Praise Allah! looks more like ...
 - a. A fragment.
 - b. Declarative.
 - c. Emotive.

- d. Interrogative.
 - e. None of the above.
7. A sentence can be both a value judgement and an imperative.
- a. True.
 - b. False.

Indicate which type of declarative each of the following sentences (8-18) is, or appears to contain.

- 8. She has gone to Ethiopia.
 - 9. There are seven days in a week.
 - 10. All Volta hall girls are snobs.
 - 11. The meaning of good is, for example, charity.
 - 12. Monday is the day on which all Akans named Adwoa are born.
 - 13. Tins goat is Satan.
 - 14. No mobile phone can ring.
 - 15. To be Ghanaian is to hold a Ghanaian passport.
 - 16. The Messiah of South Africans, Nelson Mandela, died last year.
 - 17. Water is colourless.
 - 18. A year is a period of 365 or 366 days.
 - 19. God is good-all the time.
20. Turn the sentences in questions 8, 10 and 14 to imperatives.
21. Turn the sentences in question 16, 17 and 19 to emotive expressions.
22. Give two examples of a theoretical definition.
23. Which definition does the following italicized statement show:
A footballer is anyone who plays under the influence of no drugs.
24. What is the difference between substantial and verbal disputes?
25. Indicate which type of discourse each of the following passages is:

a. For the maximum benefits of the drug to be achieved, it has to be taken the right way. Indeed, anytime one takes it, one has to ensure that no alcohol or pineapple juice is taken in the next thirty minutes. But if alcohol or pineapple juice is mistakenly taken within thirty minutes then one has to report to the doctor.

b. If the President of an African country is made to sign an International Agreement on behalf of his or her country without parliamentary approval, that agreement must be rejected because it would be illegal. Over the years, Liberia has been fortunate not to have had any of its Presidents sign an International Agreement without parliamentary backing. That is why all International

Agreements signed by Liberia's Presidents must be accepted.

26. Does the sentence below contain a fallacy?

Time flies like an arrow but fruit flies like an apple.

- a. Yes. b. No.

27. If your answer is 'yes', then mention the name of the fallacy committed. If it is 'no', then explain why chose that answer.

28. Fill in the blank spaces marked i-xvii with one word each, with the exception of xiv where more than one word should be written:

An argument contains ---i---and ---ii---If an argument is described as general, it means that its---iii---is---iv---The following are conclusion indicators---v---vi---; vii---;viii---Inductive arguments are also called---ix---while deductive arguments are sometimes Called---x---It is---xi(true/false)---that inductive arguments sometimes move from particular to particular; and is---xii(true/false)---that deductive arguments sometimes move from particular to particular. A general statement could either be an affirmation or---xiii---In any conditional statement, the part that---xiv---is called the consequent. The conclusion of an inductive argument is called---xv--- while the premises are called---xvi---or---xvii

29. Use 'disjunctive syllogism', 'modus ponens', 'hypothetical syllogism', 'modus tollens' and 'none of the above' to describe the following statements. Choose only one of the alternatives just mentioned for each statement:

- All men are brilliant; Kofi is a man; So, Kofi is not brilliant.
- All Ks are Ns; All Ns are Js; Therefore, all Ks are Ns.
- Either T is true or K is true; T is not true; So, K is true.
- Anytime I write a logic paper, I get headache; This is not a logic paper; So, I am likely to have headache.
- AH Level 100 students are generous. All generous students will be rewarded with kenkey and fish. So, all Level 100 students will be rewarded with kenkey and fish.
- If the Vice-Chancellor fails to win the award, he is likely to close down the University which was built before he was born. It is rumoured that the Vice-Chancellor will not win. Therefore, the University which was built before he was born will be closed down.

30. Indicate the general and particular statements among the following, and explain your answer in not more than two lines.

- Some teachers are wise.
- All drivers on the University of Ghana pay-roll have valid licenses.
- No Ghanaians are right-handed.

- d. This book was written by two scholars.
 - e. Ama, Amina, Yaa, Kojo, Alhassan, Ackah, Daavi and Agya Koo are all parents from the Afram plains of Ghana.
 - f. Spebby is a class captain.
 - g. A few philosophy books are worth buying.
31. If any of the statements in question 30 are general, indicate whether they are statistical or law-like.
32. Write two statements or arguments that illustrate the fallacy of manipulation of data.
33. Are there fallacies in the passages below? If there are, then state which fallacies they commit.
- a. Nigeria has played in the football World Cup organized by FIFA (Federation of International Football Associations) more than Ghana has. But, Nigeria has never got to the Quarter Finals - the stage where Ghana reached in the previous tournament. Nigeria's coach offered last week to give Ghanaians a few tips on how to defeat Germany in the upcoming 2014 competition which will take place in Brazil. Many Ghanaian sports analysts, however, have suggested that it is inappropriate for Ghanaians to take his advice because his team was not only eliminated in the first round of the previous competition, but it has never performed as well as Ghana has in the World Cup.
 - b. Truth telling is not encouraged all over the world because not telling the truth is not discouraged in all parts of the world.
 - c. Microsoft is the world's preferable software manufacturer, so you need to purchase Microsoft products all the time.
34. Without using the word 'chair', write an example of the fallacy of equivocation.

THE END.

Dr. M. Majeed

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