

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

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UGRC 150: CRITICAL THINKING AND PRACTICAL REASONING 3 CREDITS

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS: 2012/2013

MAIN CAMPUS

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer all questions

Student ID number:--

Fill in the blanks

1. A linguistic expression that conveys information is called a-----while an interrogative is that linguistic expression that ----- . But a/an-----requires the hearer to perform an action. Sentence fragments are -----while-----captures the feelings of the speaker. ----- convey information by prescribing while factuais inform by-----Definitions convey information by----- . All information-giving speech acts are called-----or----- and are logically useful because they have a truth-value. The expressions "A sister is a female sibling" and "An even number is any number that is divisible by two equally without a remainder" are examples of types of statements called----- and----- respectively. The expressions "A bachelor is getting married today" and "Who is he getting married to?" are examples of speech acts called ----- and -----respectively. "My mother is the best cook in the world" is a type of declarative called a/an ----- value judgment while "It is wrong to talk back at your supervisor" is a type of declarative referred to as a moral----- . However, the expressions "Could you please pass me the cheque book" and "Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's are a/an -----and----- -- respectively. "Oh! What an exam" and "This year's election" are a/an-----and ----- respectively.

2. Using the concepts of “**denotation and connotation,**” complete the following.

A definition is narrow if -----

A definition is broad if -----

A definition is circular if-----

3. The type of definition one looks up in a dictionary is referred to as a-----definition. Words that describe actions or colours are often difficult to define using other words. They are best defined by pointing or demonstration. Such definitions are referred to as----- definitions.

4. A definition is described as eliminative if -----

5. Well-defined terms are to Mathematics and Pure Sciences as-----are to Psychology, History and Economics.

6. Write in the space provided for each question your “diagnosis of the definitions” below.

a) Love is a powerful emotional response. -----

b) An identity is the sharing of identical features by two or more things. -----

c) Philosophy is the study of the works of Plato. -----

d) Morality is the doing of what is morally right. -----

e) A dove is a flying creature.-----

7. Choose from the options below to answer question (7).

even number, justice,

a) An example of a well-defined term is-----

b) An example of an essentially contestable term is -----

8. A dispute is merely----- if it rests upon an inconsistency in the way the disputants are using the same words. In contrast, a----- dispute exists because each disputant subscribes to contrasting values. To resolve a----- dispute, the disputants could stipulate a definition of terms.

9. Comment on the “type of dispute” in each case.

a) -- Odartey is not really an Asante because he bears a Ga name.

-- No! Odartey is an Asante because his mother is an Asante and he inherits matrilineally.

Comment: This is a-----dispute, because -----

b) - The inscription on the -wall reads "Beware of Odyssey."

-- No! I am sitting closer and I can see that it rather reads "Beware of Oedipus"

Comment: This is a----- dispute, because-----

10. Select the appropriate option in the brackets that correctly completes the paragraph.

The generalization "Anytime prices of goods and services are increased, quantity demanded decreases" is a (statistical / law-like) (hypothesis / evidence). It is (confirmable / verifiable) because it is tested (directly / indirectly) since it has a /an (finite / infinite) reference class. It is a (prediction / certainty) that (can / cannot) fail because it is (empirical / normative). It only (prescribes / describes) how things (are / ought to be). As such, in case of a deviation or counterexample, such a/an (empirical / normative) law is revised or totally rejected. In contrast, the expression "if all A s are B s and every B is a C, then every A is a C" is a/an (empirical / normative) law which admits of no counterfactual. It is a (probability / proof) because a/an (induction / contradiction) will be created if its premises are accepted as true but its conclusion is rejected as false.

For questions 11 to 14 (i) give a valid conclusion to each of the premises given and the rule of validity that leads you to the valid conclusion in each case.

11. Mr. Mensah is a man and All men are mortal, then-----

Valid rule: -----

12. He is either the board chairman or he is the administrative secretary. But he is not the board chairman. So, -----

Valid rule: -----

13. If inflation goes down, then prices of goods and services will also go down. If prices of goods and services go down, then we can buy more with relatively less money.

Therefore, -----

Valid rule: -----

14. If you had voted for me as the manager of this company, then the policies would have been revised. These policies have not been revised. So, -----

Valid rule: -----

Questions 15- 20 are deductive / valid arguments. Fill in the blanks to complete each correctly.

15. Every metal expands when heated. Tin ----- So, tin is not a metal.

Valid rule: -----

16. If you study hard then you will pass this course. You -----

So, -----

Valid rule: Modus Tollens

17. ----- You do not attend KNUST. So, you attend UG

Valid rule: -----

18. If black power works in football then the black team should win the cup. -----

Therefore, black power does not work in football.

Valid rule: Modus Tollens

19. Footballers in Ghana believe in black power. Those who believe in black power prepare less for their matches. Thus, -----

Valid rule: -----

20. All lawyers like talking. All who like talking are often intelligent.

Thus, -----

Valid rule: -----

For questions 21- 25, comment on

- (i) the type of argument below, (deductive or inductive)
- (ii) the type of deductive or inductive argument

Write down your comment for each argument.

21. All politicians are corrupt

Tsatsu is not corrupt

So, Tsatsu is not a politician.

Comment: -----

Type -----

22. Research has shown that 7 out of every 10 pregnant women attend antenatal sessions.

That lecturer is pregnant

So, she must be attending antenatal sessions.

Comment:-----

Type -----

23. All the patients we saw in the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital were well cared for. The buildings were renovated in the 1990s; the government has been subsidizing the hospital; they have collected money from World Health Organization. The Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital has also received government money to refurbish its buildings and the World Health Organisation also provided money for its upkeep. Hence we can conclude that all the patients in the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital are well cared for.

Comment: -----

Type -----

24. This semester, all the highest scores in Philosophy are achieved by Females. Paul got the top score in this year's Philosophy. So Paul is a female.

Comment: -----

Type -----

25. From my experience, whenever I got sick, I never had any lice in my hair. The only time I had lice in my hair was when I got sick with fever. So to this day, to keep away illness, I always make sure I have lice on my head every night before I go to bed.

Comment: -----

Type: -----

26. Write down any three connotations of the word cause in the space provided below.

a) ---

b) ----

c) ----

27. Consider the following expressions and use them to answer the following questions. Choose your answer by writing down the letter corresponding to your choice for each question.

A) It will rain today or it will not rain today.

B) Few Ghanaians are allergic to pineapples.

C) This stone is not a real diamond.

D) Joshua and Kofi are reading in the library.

E) All metals expand when heated

a) The expression with the highest predictive power is -----

- b) The expression with no empirical content is-----
- c) The verifiable statement among them is-----
- d) The expression that is not testable is-----
- e) The expression that is most valuable scientifically is-----
- f) The expression that is certainly true is-----

28. Answer the following questions with the options true or false.

- a) Statistical hypothesis have less predictive power than law-like hypothesis-----
- b) A scientific statement must be falsifiable-----
- c) A statistical hypothesis is more likely to be true than a law-like hypothesis-----
- d) A law-like hypothesis, if true, has less predictive power than a statistical hypothesis
- e) The expression "80% of all retailed stones are not real diamonds" is easier to falsify than the expression "this retailed stone is not a real diamond."-----
- f) In an inductive argument, the infinite reference class of a hypothesis is called a sample
- g) If a sample is sufficient in size, representative, relevant and complete, then it will prove with certainty the truth of a hypothesis -----
- h) Deductive arguments are proofs while inductive arguments are confirmations -----

29. Complete the following.

- a) A conditional has two component parts namely-----and
- b) An argument has two component parts namely-----and

- c) A definition has two component parts namely----- and
- d) There are two main types of arguments namely-----and
- e) The condition without which the effect will not occur is called a ----- cause.
- f) J.S. Mill's methods of causal reasoning are the methods of ----- and-----, and----- and -----

30. State **and explain** any four (4) types of Informal fallacies in the spaces below.

- a
- b.
- c.
- d.

Coordinator/Examiner: Nancy Myles B. Gyamfi

