

1. Alba: I don't intend to vote for Senator Frank in the next election. She is not a strong supporter of the war against crime.
Tam: But Senator Frank sponsored the latest anticrime law passed by the Senate.
Alba: If Senator Frank sponsored it, it can't be a very strong anticrime law.

Which of the following identifies the most serious logical flaw in Alba's reasoning?

- A. The facts she presents do not support her conclusion that Senator Frank is soft on crime.
 - B. She assumes without proof that crime is the most important issue in the upcoming election.
 - C. She argues in a circle, using an unsupported assertion to dismiss conflicting evidence.
 - D. She attacks Senator Frank on personal grounds rather than on his merit as a political leader.
 - E. In deciding not to vote for Senator Frank, she fails to consider issues other than crime.
2. The burden of maintaining the U.S. highway system falls disproportionately on the trucking industry. Trucks represent only about 10 percent of the vehicles on U.S. roads. Yet road use taxes assessed on trucks amount to almost half the taxes paid for highway upkeep and repair.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?

- A. The trucking industry has enjoyed record after-tax profits in three of the past four years.
 - B. Because of their weight, trucks cause over 50 percent of the damage sustained by highway surfaces each year.
 - C. Without an economically viable trucking industry, the cost of goods in the United States would rise significantly.
 - D. Road use taxes paid by trucking companies have decreased by 3 percent over the past five years.
 - E. Due to years of neglect, U.S. highways today are badly in need of major repairs and rebuilding.
3. Some commentators complain that a "litigation explosion" in the past decade has led to unreasonably high costs for U.S. businesses by encouraging more product liability suits against manufacturers. However, these complaints are based mainly on myth. Statistics show that the number of successful product liability suits has remained almost the same, and the average sum awarded in damages has grown no faster than the inflation rate.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?

- A. The number of unsuccessful suits has skyrocketed, imposing huge new legal expenses on businesses.
- B. Several of the largest awards ever made in product liability cases occurred within the last two years.
- C. The rise of the consumer movement has encouraged citizens to seek legal redress for product flaws.

- D. Lawyers often undertake product liability cases on a contingency basis, so their payment is based on the size of the damages awarded.
 - E. Juries often award damages in product liability suits out of emotional sympathy for an injured consumer.
4. Are you still reading the other newspaper in town? Did you know that the Daily Bugle is owned by an out-of-town business syndicate that couldn't care less about the people of Gotham City? Read the Daily Clarion, the only real voice of the people of Gotham City!

Which of the following most directly refutes the argument raised in the advertisement above?

- A. Over half of the advertising revenues of the Daily Clarion come from firms whose headquarters are located outside of Gotham City.
 - B. The Daily Clarion usually devotes more of its pages to out-of-town news than does the Daily Bugle.
 - C. Nearly 40 percent of the readers of the Daily Clarion reside outside the limits of Gotham City.
 - D. The editor-in-chief and all the other members of the editorial staff of the Daily Bugle have lived and worked in Gotham City for ten years or more.
 - E. The Daily Bugle has been published in Gotham City for a longer time than has the Daily Clarion.
5. Reva: Using extraneous incentives to get teenagers to change their attitude toward school and schoolwork won't work. Take the program in West Virginia, for instance, where they tried to reduce their dropout rate by revoking the driving licenses of kids who left school. The program failed miserably.
- Anne: It's true that the West Virginia program failed, but many schools have devised incentive programs that have been very successful in improving attendance and reducing discipline problems.

According to Anne, the weak point in Reva's claim is that it

- A. fails to consider the possibility that the majority of potential dropouts in West Virginia do not have driving licenses
 - B. doesn't provide any exact figures for the dropout rate in West Virginia before and during the program
 - C. ignores a substantial body of evidence showing that parents and employers have been using extrinsic incentives with positive results for years
 - D. assumes that a positive incentive—a prize or a reward—will be no more effective than a negative incentive, like the revoking of a driving license
 - E. is based on a single example, the incentive program in West Virginia, which may not be typical
6. No nation can long survive unless its people are united by a common tongue. For proof, we need only consider Canada, which is being torn asunder by conflicts between French-speaking Quebec and the other provinces, which are dominated by English speakers.

Which of the following, if true, most effectively challenges the author's conclusion?

- A. Conflicts over language have led to violent clashes between the Basque-speaking minority in Spain and the Spanish-speaking majority.
 - B. Proposals to declare English the official language of the United States have met with resistance from members of Hispanic and other minority groups.
 - C. Economic and political differences, along with linguistic ones, have contributed to the provincial conflicts in Canada.
 - D. The republic of India, in existence since 1948, has a population that speaks hundreds of different, though related, languages.
 - E. Switzerland has survived for nearly a thousand years as a home for speakers of three different languages.
7. At one time, European and Japanese companies tried to imitate their American rivals. Today, American appliance manufacturers import European scientists to lead their research staffs; American automakers design cars that mimic the styling of German, Italian, and French imports; and American electronics firms boast in their advertising of "Japanese-style" devotion to quality and reliability. In the world of high technology, America has lost the battle for international prestige.

Each of the following statements, if true, would help to support the claim above EXCEPT:

- A. An American camera company claims in its promotional literature to produce cameras "as fine as the best Swiss imports."
 - B. An American maker of stereo components designs its products to resemble those of a popular Japanese firm.
 - C. An American manufacturer of video games uses a brand name chosen because it sounds like a Japanese word.
 - D. An American maker of televisions studies German-made televisions in order to adopt German manufacturing techniques.
 - E. An American maker of frozen foods advertises its dinners as "Real European-style entrees prepared by fine French and Italian chefs."
8. Current farm policy is institutionalized penalization of consumers. It increases food prices for middle- and low-income families and costs the taxpayer billions of dollars a year.

Which of the following statements, if true, would provide support for the author's claims above?

- I. Farm subsidies amount to roughly \$20 billion a year in federal payouts and \$12 on more in higher food prices.
 - II. According to a study by the Department of Agriculture, each \$1 of benefits provided to farmers for ethanol production costs consumers and taxpayers \$4.
 - III. The average full-time farmers have an average net worth of over \$300,000.
- A. I only
 - B. II only
 - C. III only
 - D. I and II only
 - E. I, II, and III

9. The ancient city of Cephesa was not buried by an eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 310, as some believe. The eruption in the year 310 damaged the city, but it did not destroy it. Cephesa survived for another century before it finally met its destruction in another eruption around A.D. 415.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim that the city of Cephesa was not buried by the eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 310?

- A. The city of Cephesa is mentioned in a historical work known to have been written in A.D. 400.
 - B. Coins bearing the image of an emperor who lived around A.D. 410 have been discovered in the ruins of Cephesa, which were preserved by the cinders and ashes that buried the city.
 - C. Geological evidence shows that the eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 415 deposited a 10-foot-thick layer of lava on the city of Cephesa.
 - D. Artworks from the city of Cephesa have been found in the ruins of another city known to have been destroyed in A.D. 420.
 - E. A historical work written in A.D. 430 refers to the eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 415.
10. A recent study suggests that Alzheimer's disease, which attacks the human brain, may be caused by a virus. In the study, blood from 11 volunteers, each of whom had the disease, was injected into rats. The rats eventually exhibited symptoms of another degenerative neurological disorder, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which is caused by a virus. This led the scientist who conducted the study to conclude that Alzheimer's disease might be caused by a virus.

Which one of the following statements, if true, would most strengthen the scientist's hypothesis that Alzheimer's disease is caused by a virus?

- A. Alzheimer's disease in rats is not caused by a virus.
 - B. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease affects only motor nerves in rats' limbs, not their brains.
 - C. The virus that causes Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in rats has no effect on humans.
 - D. The symptoms known, respectively, as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and Alzheimer's disease are different manifestations of the same disease.
 - E. Blood from rats without Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease produced no symptoms of the disease when injected into other experimental rats.
11. Bruce Lee, a notorious Skittles enthusiast, entered Chan's studio for a span of roughly 15 minutes. Prior to Lee's arrival, Chan had opened a packet of skittles and laid it on a studio bench. Shortly after Lee's departure, it was noticed that the packet of skittles was empty. Chan opined that it was Lee who had consumed the skittles and went after him with his nunchaku.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen Chan's suspicion?

- A. Lee has always professed his love for skittles by consuming them in large numbers.
- B. CCTV footage of Chan's studio showed Lee taking a selfie with the packet of skittles.
- C. When Chan caught up with Lee, Chan found twenty five and a half skittles on Lee's person.
- D. The only other suspect was Chan's sister who, however, was asleep during the time of Lee's stay.

12. One approach to the question of which objects discussed by a science are real is to designate as real all and only those entities posited by the most explanatorily powerful theory of the science. But since most scientific theories contain entities posited solely on theoretical grounds, this approach is flawed.

Which one of the following principles, if valid, most helps to justify the reasoning above?

- A. A scientific theory should sometimes posit entities on grounds Any object that is posited by a scientific theory and that enhances the explanatory power of that theory should be designated as real.
- B. Objects posited for theoretical reasons only should never be designated as real.
- C. A scientific theory should not posit any entity that does no enhance the explanatory power of the theory.
- D. other than theoretical ones.
- E. Only objects posited by explanatorily powerful theories should be designated as real

13. Since Finagle Theatrics has moved to a theater in the busy downtown district of Badlapur, Finagle can expect revenue from ticket sales to increase. It should start producing the plays that have been most successful when they were performed in the nation's largest cities.

Which of the following, if true, would most justify the conclusion?

- A. Finagle's poor run in the last quarter was mostly due to the paucity of theater patrons in the vicinity.
- B. Finagle's poor run in the last quarter was mostly due to poor choice of plays to produce.
- C. Theater patrons in Badlapur eagerly flock plays that have had a good run in the larger cities.
- D. The last time Finagle Theatrics had shifted, it had failed to register any increase in ticket sales.

14. Toxicologist: A survey of oil-refinery workers who work with MBTE, an ingredient currently used in some smog-reducing gasoline, found an alarming incidence of complaints about headaches, fatigue, and shortness of breath. Since gasoline containing MBTE will soon be widely used, we can expect an increased incidence of headaches, fatigue, and shortness of breath.

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

- A. Most oil-refinery workers who do not work with MBTE do not have serious health problems involving headaches, fatigue, and shortness of breath.
 - B. Headaches, fatigue, and shortness of breath are among the symptoms of several medical conditions that are potentially serious threats to public health.
 - C. Since the time when gasoline containing MBTE was first introduced in a few metropolitan areas, those areas reported an increase in the number of complaints about headaches, fatigue, and shortness of breath.
 - D. Regions in which only gasoline containing MBTE is used have a much greater incidence of headaches, fatigue, and shortness of breath than do similar regions in which only MBTE-free gasoline is used.
 - E. The oil-refinery workers surveyed were carefully selected to be representative of the broader population in their medical histories prior to exposure to MBTE, as well as in other relevant respects.
15. In recent years the worldwide demand for fish has grown. It is now heartening to see that improvements in fishing technology have made larger catches possible worldwide. This is evident from last year's tuna catch, which was 9 percent greater than the previous year's.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument?

- A. The previous year's catch was the lowest in the decade due to revised fishing regulations that have since been abrogated.
 - B. Larger catches have not been limited to tuna alone and the improvements in fishing technology have found wide application.
 - C. The previous year's tuna catch was itself an improvement on the catch the year before which was by no means insignificant.
 - D. Larger catches and the growing popularity of fish have led to a 30% increase in the per-capita consumption of fish.
16. In general, a professional athlete is offered a million-dollar contract only if he or she has just completed an unusually successful season. However, a study shows that an athlete signing such a contract usually suffers a decline in performance the following season. This study supports the theory that a million-dollar contract tends to weaken an athlete's desire to excel by diminishing his or her economic incentive.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn above?

- A. On the average, athletes whose contracts call for relatively small salaries with possible bonuses for outstanding achievement perform better than other athletes.
- B. Athletes are generally offered million-dollar contracts mainly because of the increased ticket sales and other revenues they generate.
- C. Many professional athletes have careers marked by year-to-year fluctuations in their overall levels of performance.
- D. On the average, higher-salaried athletes tend to have longer and more successful professional careers than do lower-salaried athletes.
- E. Six of the ten leading batters in the National League this season signed million-dollar contracts during the off-season

17. Sales of organic food products in this country have tripled over the past five years. If Apriori Foods is to profit from this continuing trend, we must diversify and start selling products such as organic orange juice and organic eggs in addition to our regular product line.

Which of the following, if true, would most justify the conclusion?

- A. Organic juice and organic eggs top the list of organic bestsellers in the country.
 - B. Sales of organic food products will continue to grow robustly in the next five years.
 - C. Manufacturing and stocking organic foods will not necessitate costly changes to infrastructure.
 - D. The high costs of manufacturing and stocking organic foods are generally offset by healthy profit margins.
18. In a marketing study, consumers were given two unlabeled cartons of laundry detergent. One carton was bright green and yellow; the other was drab brown and gray. After using the detergent in the two cartons for one month, 83 percent of the consumers in the study reported that the detergent in the bright green and yellow carton cleaned better. This study shows that packaging has a significant impact on consumers' judgment of the effectiveness of a laundry detergent.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn in the marketing study?

- A. The detergent in the bright carton contained bleach crystals; the detergent in the drab carton did not.
 - B. The detergents in the two cartons were the same.
 - C. The detergents in the two cartons were different, but they had both been laboratory tested.
 - D. The detergent in the drab carton was a popular name brand; the detergent in the bright carton was generic.
 - E. The detergent in the drab carton was generic; the detergent in the bright carton was a popular name brand.
19. According to a survey of 5,000 urban residents, the prevalence of stress headaches increases with educational level, so that stress headaches occur most often among people with graduate-school degrees. It is well established that, nationally, higher educational levels usually correspond with higher levels of income. Therefore, in marketing our new pain remedy, Anodyne, we should send free samples primarily to graduate students and to people with graduate degrees.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument?

- A. The sample of 5000 urban residents had an overweening majority of people with graduate school degrees.
- B. The sample of 5000 urban residents did not over-represent people who suffered from stress headaches.
- C. Higher education levels lead to financially rewarding careers and such careers are usually stressful.
- D. Some graduate students and people with graduate degrees who receive the samples of Anodyne will try them.

20. Since the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit was mandated on our highways, both money and human lives have been saved.

All of the following, if true, would strengthen the claim above EXCEPT:

- A. Most highway users find that travel times are not appreciably lengthened by the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit.
 - B. Highway driving at 55 miles per hour or less is more fuel-efficient than high-speed driving.
 - C. Nearly all highway safety experts agree that more accidents occur at speeds over 55 miles per hour than at lower speeds.
 - D. The percentage of fatalities occurring in highway accidents at speeds greater than 55 miles per hour is higher than that for low-speed accidents.
 - E. Automobiles last longer and require fewer repairs when driven at consistently lower speeds.
21. From salmonella and parasitic E.coli to worms, flukes, and the virus hepatitis E, Dr. Tauxe says the creepy crawlies that may inhabit raw meat tend to be more harmful to humans than the microorganisms you would find in raw fish.

The statement above would provide most support to which of the following observations:

- A. If your butcher nicks open an animal's intestines, any harmful microorganisms released could contaminate all the meat the butcher is preparing.
 - B. Sushi restaurants take raw fish and change it to culinary art while raw beef, pork and other land animals are typically not on the menu.
 - C. The parasites and bacteria that set up shop in raw animal meat are different and more dangerous than the ones you would find in raw fish.
 - D. The way animals are slaughtered and packaged also has a lot to do with their health risks, says Dr. Eugene Muller, a microbiologist.
22. Psychological research indicates that college hockey and football players are more quickly moved to hostility and aggression than are college athletes in noncontact sports such as swimming. But the researchers' conclusion—that contact sports encourage and teach participants to be hostile and aggressive—is untenable. The football and hockey players were probably more hostile and aggressive to start with than the swimmers.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn by the psychological researchers?

- A. The football and hockey players became more hostile and aggressive during the season and remained so during the off-season, whereas there was no increase in aggressiveness among the swimmers.
- B. The football and hockey players, but not the swimmers, were aware at the start of the experiment that they were being tested for aggressiveness.
- C. The same psychological research indicated that the football and hockey players had a great respect for cooperation and team play, whereas the swimmers were most concerned with excelling as individual competitors.
- D. The research studies were designed to include no college athletes who participated in both contact and noncontact sports.

E. Throughout the United States, more incidents of fan violence occur at baseball games than occur at hockey or football games.

23. Don't hold in a sneeze. "If you feel one coming on and you want to stop it, rubbing your nose can help," says Benninger. For patients who may feel pain when sneezing—those who've recently undergone surgery or broken a bone—Benninger advises opening your mouth wide to minimize a sneeze's strength.

Which of the following best supports Benninger's advice to open your mouth wide to minimize a sneeze's strength?

- A. Pulled muscles and perforated eardrums are a couple of the calamities that could befall a sneeze suppressor.
- B. If the air can escape through your nose and mouth, that creates less pressure than forcing it through a smaller opening.
- C. If you redirect that force inward, your suppressed sneeze can send waves of force rippling through your head and body.
- D. A fractured larynx, acute cervical pain and facial nerve injuries are just a few of the documented mishaps caused by a stifled achoo.

24. There are far fewer children available for adoption than there are people who want to adopt. Two million couples are currently waiting to adopt, but in 1982, the last year for which figures exist, there were only some 50,000 adoptions.

Which of the following statements, if true, most strengthens the author's claim that there are far fewer children available for adoption than there are people who want to adopt?

- A. The number of couples waiting to adopt has increased significantly in the last decade.
- B. The number of adoptions in the current year is greater than the number of adoptions in any preceding year.
- C. The number of adoptions in a year is approximately equal to the number of children available for adoption in that period.
- D. People who seek to adopt children often go through a long process of interviews and investigation by adoption agencies.
- E. People who seek to adopt children generally make very good parents.

25. It depends on your hair type, but a daily lather probably won't cause much harm—though it might prevent plenty. While many consider scalp and hair oils naturally moisturizing, these oils nourish fungus that contribute to the scaly, patchy scalp condition known as seborrhea. A daily lather will keep seborrhea at bay..

All of the following, if true, weaken the claim that a daily lather would not cause much harm except:

- A. The fungus is also responsible for maintaining the right PH balance in scalp oils. A poor PH balance means hair fall.
- B. The fungus has no beneficial properties that cannot be realized by other means, artificial or natural.
- C. Too frequent shampooing can strip away the fatty essential elements and coatings that keeps your hair strong and whole.

- D. For women or men with long hair, shampooing too often can dry out hair and lead to breakage or split ends.