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# CRITICAL REASONING

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Strengthening | Weakening | Inferences



PERCENTILE CLASSES

# CRITICAL REASONING

- A Critical Reasoning question is presented as a short paragraph, followed by one or two questions. The short paragraph is an argument.
- An argument consists of three parts:

i) the premise – the evidence

ii) the conclusion – the main point of the argument and

iii) an assumption – the unstated or missing premises without which the argument would be untenable.

- In certain cases the conclusion may not be given and the question may require that you supply the conclusion.
- The premises are pieces of evidence that the author uses to arrive at the conclusion. The conclusion is valid depending on the strength of the premises or evidences.

Example:...

Revenue from this magazine is at an all time low. Newsstand sales are dropping and there are no new subscribers. Therefore, sweeping editorial changes are necessary if the magazine is to survive.

Conclusion: Sweeping editorial changes are necessary for the magazine to survive.

Premises: Revenue down  
Newsstand sales low  
No new subscribers

Assumption: Only old editorial policy was responsible.

Structural clues that help you locate a conclusion in an argument.

Certain key words can help you isolate the conclusion and the evidence in a stimulus; clues that signal evidence includes - since, because, due to etc.

Clues that signal conclusion include – so, therefore, thus, consequently, hence, as a result etc.

The basic question types are:

- Find conclusion
- Supply conclusion
- Identify assumption
- Strengthen argument
- Weaken argument
- Find an inference
- Mimic argument

## Find the conclusion

In this question type the conclusion is already given. You have to choose from the choices the statement that is already given in the passage as the conclusion of the argument. Look out for key words like hence, so, thus, therefore etc.

At the same time conclusion may also begin without these key words.

## Illustration

When young students first look at modernist abstract painting, their eyes are assailed by a seemingly meaningless mass of squiggles. It is only after a study of the history of art and the forces which led up to abstraction that it is possible to appreciate the intellectual sophistication of modern art. Thus, a high-school study of modern art should always begin with a study of the history of art.

- Q. Which of the following is the main point of the passage above?
- A. To understand the history of art, it is necessary to study modern art.
  - B. Young students are unable to appreciate fully the complexities of modern art.
  - C. An understanding of the history of art is essential to an understanding of modern art.
  - D. To understand abstract art, students must first study the history of art.

Analysis:

Premise #1 : Students don't understand modern art.

Premise #2 : To understand modern art it is necessary to study art history

Conclusion: Students of modern art must first study art history.

Answers: A. Reverses P # 2 B. P # 1 C. P # 2 D. correct answer

## Supply the conclusion

In this question type the argument consists of merely a set of evidences. You have to supply the conclusion. This implies that the answer is not a sentence given in the passage but must include and rest on all the evidences.

## Illustration

Fewer elected officials are supporting environmental legislation this year than at any time in the last decade. In a study of thirty elected officials, only five were actively campaigning for new environmental legislation. This comes at a time when the public's concern for the environment is growing by leaps and bounds.

- Q. Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the passage above?
- A. More elected officials are needed to support environmental legislation.
  - B. Elected officials have lost touch with the concerns of the public.
  - C. The five elected officials who actively campaigned for new environmental legislation should be congratulated.
  - D. If the environment is to be saved, elected officials must support environmental legislation.

Analysis

Premise #1 : Fewer elected officials are supporting environmental legislation.

Premise #2 : Public concern for the environment is growing.

Answers:

- A Ignores premise #2
- B Ignores environment
- C Ignores public concern
- D Correct answer.

## Find the assumption

To answer this question, you have to identify the conclusion that is already given in the paragraph. An assumption is a statement that is not given as the premise but is required if the conclusion has to be valid. Without the assumption we cannot arrive at the conclusion. As the assumption is an unstated premise, the answer is not a statement given in the paragraph.

Choose the choice that would connect to the conclusion as choice, therefore conclusion.

i.e. Assumption = choice, therefore conclusion

Illustration

Many people believe that gold and platinum are the most valuable commodities. To the true entrepreneur, however gold and platinum are less valuable than opportunities that can enable him to further enrich himself. Therefore, in the world of high-finance, information is the most valuable commodity.

Q, The author of the passage above makes which of the following assumptions?

- A. Gold and Platinum are not the most valuable commodities.
- B. Entrepreneurs are not like most people.
- C. The value of information is incalculably high.
- D. Information about business opportunities is accurate and will lead to increased wealth.

Approach:

- i. There could be several assumptions.
- ii. You are required to find the assumption on which the conclusion depends.

Analysis

Conclusion: In the world of high finance information is the most valuable commodity.

Answers

- A. Irrelevant    B. Irrelevant    C. Same as conclusion    D. Correct answer.

In strengthen - weaken the argument, the type of premises given should be examined.

The premises could be presented in the form of statistical data – numbers, percentages, ratios etc.

causal data      - that is the data may be in the form of cause- effect relationship, or  
analogy          – arriving at a conclusion through likening it to a similar situation.

Strengthen argument

Here the conclusion is already given in the argument. One of the choices if true further supports or reinforces the conclusion. This means that the conclusion is further strengthened if a choice is true.

The questions is phrased in one of the following ways:

Which of the following, if true, strengthens the argument?

Which of the following, if true, least weakens the argument?

Which of the following, if true, adds credence to the argument?

Which of the following, if true, reinforces the argument?

Illustration

It has recently been proposed that we adopt an all volunteer army. This policy was tried on a limited basis several years ago, and was a miserable failure. The level of education of the volunteers was unacceptably low, while levels of drug use and crime soared among army personnel. Can we trust our national defense to a volunteer army? The answer is clearly,

“No”.

Q. Which of the following statements, if true, most strengthens the author’s claim that an all volunteer army should not be implemented?

- A. The general level of education has risen since the first time an all volunteer army was tried.
- B. The proposal was made by an organization called Citizens for Peace.
- C. The first attempt to create a volunteer army was carried out according to the same plan now under proposal and under the same conditions as those that exist today.
- D. A volunteer army would be less expensive than an army that relies on the draft.

Answers:

- A. Weakens                      B. Irrelevant                      C. Correct answer                      D. Irrelevant

Weaken the argument

In this question type the conclusion is already in the argument but with a questionable assumption. One of the choices if true, weakens the conclusion.

The question is phrased in one of the following ways.

Which of the following, if true, weakens the conclusion?

Which of the following, if true, least strengthen the argument?

Which of the following, if true, jeopardizes the argument?

Which of the following, if true, questions the validity of the argument?

Which of the following, if true, damages the argument?

Illustration

The recent turn around of the LEX corporation is a splendid example of how an astute chief executive officer can re-channel a company’s assets toward profitability. With the new CEO at the helm, LEX has gone, in only three business quarters, from a 10 million dollar operating loss to a 22 million dollar operating gain.

A major flaw in the reasoning of the passage above is that

- A. The passage assumes that the new CEO was the only factor that affected the corporation’s recent success.
- B. The recent success of the corporation may be only temporary.
- C. The chief executive officer may be drawing a salary and bonus that will set a damaging precedent for this and other corporations.
- D. the author does not define ‘profitability’.

Approach : Look out for the type of logic

1. Statistical                      2. Analogy                      3. Causal

Analysis

The logic is causal.

Cause : CEO, Effect : Turnaround

Answers

Correct answer

Irrelevant

Irrelevant

Irrelevant

## Exercise

Directions: Read each of the following passages carefully, and answer the questions that follow.

1. High levels of pesticides, needed to produce high yields of the same crop year after year, pollute water supplies. Therefore, farmers are urged to diversify their crops and to rotate their plantings yearly. To receive governmental benefits, farmers must have produced the same crop for the past several years.  
Which of the following can be logically concluded from the above statements?
  - A. The rules for governmental support of farm prices work against efforts to reduce water pollution.
  - B. The only solution to the problem of water pollution from pesticides is to take farmland out of production.
  - C. Farmers can continue to make profit by rotating diverse crops.
  - D. New farming techniques will be developed to make it possible for farmers to reduce the use of pesticides.
2. Low GDP growth does not cause high trade deficits. If it did, countries with the lowest GDP growth would also, have the highest trade deficits. When deficit figures are adjusted so that different countries are comparable, there is no such correlation.  
Which of the following can be properly inferred from the passage?
  - A. Nations with low GDP growth tend to restrict foreign trade.
  - B. Reliable comparisons between countries are impossible.
  - C. Increasing GDP growth will not necessarily result in lowering of any trade deficit that country may have.

D. Smallest countries generally have the least trade deficits.

3. Which of the following best completes the passage below?

The more worried investors are about losing their money, the more they will demand a high potential return on their investment; great risks must be offset by the chance of great rewards. This principle is the fundamental one in determining interest rates and is illustrated by the fact that\_\_\_\_\_

- A. successful investors are distinguished by an ability to make risky investments.
- B. lenders receive higher interest rates on unsecured loans than on loans backed by collateral.
- C. in times of high inflation, the interest paid to depository by banks can be below the rate of inflation.
- D. a bank will have a single rate of interest for all borrowers.

4. In tests for AIDS, a false positive result indicates that people have AIDS, when, in fact, they do not; a false negative result indicates that people do not have AIDS, when, in fact, they do., To detect AIDS most accurately, doctors should use the laboratory test that has the lowest proportion of false positive results.

Which of the following, if true, supports the suggestion above?

- A. The accepted treatment for AIDS does not have damaging side effects.
- B. In treating AIDS patients, it is essential to begin treatment as early as possible, since even a week of delay can be fatal.
- C. The proportion of inconclusive test results is equal for all laboratory tests used to detect AIDS.
- D. All laboratory tests to detect AIDS have the same proportion of false negative results.

5. The program to control the entry of illegal drugs into India was a failure in 1991. If the program had been successful, the wholesale prices of most illegal drugs would not have dropped substantially.

The observation in the passage depends on which of the following assumptions?

- A. The supply of illegal drugs dropped substantially in 1991.
- B. A drop in demand for most illegal drugs in 1991 was not the sole cause of the drop in their wholesale price.
- C. The wholesale price of a few illegal drugs increased substantially in 1991.
- D. The price paid for most illegal drugs by the average consumer did not drop much in 1991.

6. In 1987 sinusitis was the most common chronic medical condition in India, followed by arthritis and blood pressure increase with age, but the incidence rate for sinusitis is the same for people of all ages. The average age of Indian population will increase between 1987 and 2000.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- A. Sinusitis will be more common than either arthritis or blood pressure in 2000.
- B. Arthritis will be the most common chronic medical condition in 2000.
- C. The average age of people suffering from sinusitis will increase between 1987 and 2000.
- D. Fewer people will suffer from sinusitis in 2000 than in 1987.

7. When a high-pressure front meets a low-pressure front, some form of precipitation usually occurs. Meteorologists are able to predict precipitation by measuring the speed at which two fronts are traveling towards one another and determining when they will meet.

It can be inferred from the above passage that

- A. high pressure fronts are a sign of rain.
- B. the chief function of meteorologists is to predict precipitation.
- C. some predictions of precipitation are based on typical reactions of pressure fronts.
- D. low pressure fronts always travel in the direction of high pressure fronts.

8. Studies show that there is hardly any difference between human beings and apes in their psychological capacities. The studies are, no doubt, inadequate.

The argument above assumes that

- A. human beings and apes do not have highly developed psychological capacities.
- B. the studies on mammals are often misinterpreted.

- C. objectivity is nearly impossible in psychological studies.  
 D. there is clear difference between the psychological capacities of human beings and apes.
9. The mean per capita income for an individual was 3.5 percent higher in 1996 than in 1995. At the same time, average per capita income declined for individuals at the lower and middle income levels. Which of the following can be most logically inferred from the above?  
 A. There were more individuals in 1996 than in 1995.  
 B. There were fewer individuals at the upper income level in 1996 than in 1995.  
 C. Average per capita income for individuals at the upper level rise by more than 3.5 percent between 1995 and 1996.  
 D. Average per capita income for individuals was declining prior to 1995.
10. People who oppose the law that makes it mandatory for two wheeler riders to wear helmets argue that in a democracy, people have the right to take risks as long as they don't harm others as a result of taking risks. They say that it should be each person's decision whether or not to wear a helmet. Which of the following, if true, most weaken the argument above?  
 A. Many new bikes that are available now are skid-resistant.  
 B. Insurance rates are higher because of the need to pay for the injuries or death of people not wearing helmets.  
 C. The rate of accidents in states with mandatory helmet laws is lower than in states with no laws.  
 D. A great number of people die in road accidents even otherwise.
11. The cost of producing tillers in India is eight percent less than the cost of producing tillers in China. Even after tariff and transportation charges are added, it is still cheaper for China to import tillers from India than produce them. The above passage supports which of the following?  
 A. Labour costs in India are eight percent below those in China.  
 B. It takes eight percent less time to manufacture a tiller in India than it does in China.  
 C. The tariff on a tiller imported from India to China is less than eight percent of the cost of producing the tiller in China.  
 D. Importing tillers from India to China will eliminate eight percent of production jobs in China.
12. Increases in the level of a certain hormone in the body lower stress-related disorders. Increase in the level of these hormones in some individuals can be brought about by a strict regimen of aerobics. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage above?  
 A. People with fewer encounters of stress need not practice aerobics.  
 B. Only a regimen of aerobics decreases stress-related disorders.  
 C. Aerobics is the most promising method to reduce stress.  
 A regimen of aerobics lowers stress-related disorders in some individuals.
- Which of the following best completes the passage?
13. The elite buy status when they buy a designer product. They want to be seen in designer labels. In such cases mass marketing methods should not be used because \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. the elite is concerned with quality as well as price of a product.  
 B. continued sales depend mainly on retaining a halo of exclusivity.  
 C. elite buyers represent only a small segment of customers.  
 D. expansion of the market to include a broader range will help increase profits.
14. Households in Chennai have more purchasing power than do Bangalore households at the same income level, as some of the income Bangalore households use for food and accommodation can be used by Chennai households for other needs. Which of the following inference can be drawn from the passage above?  
 A. The mean income of Bangalore households is higher than that of Chennai.  
 B. Chennai households include more people than those in Bangalore.  
 C. Chennai households have lower food and accommodation costs than do Bangalore households.



- D. Bangalore households have more purchasing power than those of Chennai.
15. Almost one out of four ABC students enter the top management schools every year and over half are absorbed by the second rung schools. Enroll for ABC course today!  
An aspirant who acts in accordance with the above advertisement, draws which of the following inferences?
- A. The students mentioned were helped to join top schools by ABC.
  - B. ABC provides the most detailed and comprehensive training.
  - C. Top management students cannot join a business school without ABC's intervention.
  - D. The advertisement is placed where those who will be likely to read are management aspirants.
16. Research in sciences and social sciences often complement each other. At the same time, both retain significant differences because of the basic questions each deals with. Sciences explain the causes of systems whereas social sciences explain the implications of actions.  
Which of the following is implied in the passage?
- A. The implications of actions do not explain why cause effects occur.
  - B. The differences between life sciences and social sciences are decreasing.
  - C. Implications of actions are not subject to scientific causes.
  - D. Research in social sciences is not concerned with causes of systems.
17. We know that Anu is not well much of the time because whenever she calls us, she tells that she is home from office with a headache or cold.  
The above passage assumes that
- A. Anu's work cannot be done at home.
  - B. Anu is not sick when she is at the office.
  - C. Anu makes frequent calls.
  - D. Anu talks for long on the phone.
18. The invention of modern weapons involved creativity much more than that involved in the development of early crude weapons.  
Which of the following supports the statement above?
- A. Early weapons were discovered accidentally, rather than by application of creative knowledge.
  - B. Necessity is the motivation for creativity.
  - C. The needs of contemporary world are complex.
- Modern weapons are sophisticated but less durable.
19. A film, to be successful at the box office, must satisfy the audience, by reflecting its values. Hit films of the 1960s, are indices to the typical tastes and values of their time.  
The author of the passage assumes that
- A. Movies of the '60s do not appeal to modern audience.
  - B. Films are a superior form of creative art.
  - C. 60's audiences represented the whole population of their time.
  - D. Film viewers are people with distinct tastes.
20. People who take drug x for obesity to reduce weight could end up defeating their purpose, since research shows that high levels of x may induce a craving for starch-based foods.  
Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- A. Drug x can be more dangerous than starch-based foods.
  - B. People who do not take x are not likely to crave for starch foods.
  - C. People tend to prefer foods high in starch.
- Weight gaining due to the intake of starch-based foods is significant.

21. In the 1980s it was believed that those who study engineering have successful careers. Now, it is claimed that learning software is a sure way of career success. Currently the career market is flooded with engineers than it can absorb.

It can be inferred from the analogy above that

- A. There will soon be more jobs for engineers than there are now.
  - B. Software professionals will need services of engineers.
  - C. There will soon be more software professionals than there are jobs for them.
  - D. Software professionals and engineers will be competing for the same jobs.
22. Poor resistance to common ailments in children who were breast-fed only for a few months is a common phenomenon. A positive correlation between duration of breast-feeding and children's resistance to diseases discovered through an experimental study substantiates this observation. Which of the following least damages the author's assertion?
- A. There is no relationship between the duration of breast-feeding and children's health status.
  - B. Symptoms of ailments do not appear until the child is six months old.
  - C. The estimates of duration of breast-feeding and resistance to illness are gathered from a hospital.
  - D. Infants who are breast-fed for shorter duration are generally weak and anemic.

23. The destruction of crops caused by the cyclone in Orissa is poised to result in a famine crisis. The minister for food and civil supplies claims that food production in unaffected districts slightly exceeds the amount of food required to provide a minimally adequate quota for its affected population. And adds that any crisis will result not from production but from distribution problems.

The minister's statement is based on the assumption that

- A. The state's food production will continue to be sufficient to meet or exceed needs.
  - B. The state's food requirements are greater now than they will be in the future.
  - C. The distribution of food supplies in the state would improve in the future.
  - D. A crisis in food availability can be controlled by better distribution.
24. Economists argue that India should slow down on its import of food grain and invest in irrigating vast stretches of desert lands to make them arable. Current estimates show that crop produced in these dry lands can feed the population for decades even if population and therefore consumption, grow at an accelerating rate.
- Which of the following, if true, most weakens the above argument?
- A. Importing food grains from outside will eliminate ten percent of farm labour.
  - B. The cost of irrigating dry lands is ten percent more than the cost of importing food grains.
  - C. The cost of irrigating dry lands is less than the cost of importing food grains from other countries.
  - D. Labour costs in India are higher than in other countries for farm labour.

25. Siddarth: I have tried Eve Lynwood techniques of speed-reading suggested by ABC: three techniques - underlining hand motion, vertical hand motion and Z-hand motion. When I tried these three methods, my concentration was lower than in the silent reading method. Therefore, these speed techniques do not work.

Which of the following statements, if true, would most weaken Siddarth's conclusion?

- A. Comprehension is better in silent reading than in loud reading.
- B. People practising speed techniques that ultimately work, often lose concentration while trying out.
- C. People who try different techniques of speed-reading cannot decide which one works and which one does not.
- D. People who try different speed techniques find that only one of them work.

### Answer Key

1-A 2-C 3-B 4-D 5-B 6-C 7-C 8-D 9-C 10-B  
11-C 12-D 13-B 14-C 15-A 16-A 17-C 18-A 19-C 20-D  
21-C 22-D 23-A 24-B 25-B

### Explanatory Answers - Critical Reasoning

1. (A) It is evident from the passage that diversifying crops would not result in governmental support.
2. (C) If low GDP growth doesn't cause high trade deficits, the converse is also true.
3. (B) Expecting high returns on investment that is risk-ridden is illustrated in (B).
4. (D) The properties of false negative results is equal to that of the false positive tests.
5. (B) It is evident that factors other than a drop in demand for the illegal drugs may be responsible for the drop in wholesale price.
6. (C) If the average age of Indian population increases, the average age of people suffering from sinusitis will also increase.
7. (C) If precipitation can be predicted by measuring the speed at which the fronts are traveling it implies that typical reactions are used for prediction.
8. (D) If the studies are considered adequate, it is believed that there is a clear difference in psychological capacities of the two, which refutes the finding.
9. (C) When average per capita income declined for low and middle groups, per capital income for upper level has to rise if 3.5 percent increase was observed in 1996.
10. (B) The key statement is 'not harming others'. Any condition that possibly affects others works against the conclusion of the argument.
11. (C) If it is cheaper for China to import tillers from India, the expenses should be less than the cost of producing them.
12. (D) The generalisation is restricted to some individuals, therefore D. Other choices are outside the scope of the passage.
13. (B) When designer products are considered status symbols, exclusivity is the attraction, Mass marketing methods can hinder exclusivity.
14. (C) The argument that some of the income Bangalore households use for food and accommodation points to the fact that Chennai households spend less on these.
15. (A) Only A can be plausibly drawn from the argument.
16. (A) The significant differences between the two disciplines is given in only (A).
17. (C) The passage permits us to logically assume only (C).
18. (A) If a choice has to support the argument it should support the 'creativity' involved in the invention of modern weapons.
19. (C) If 60's films are indices to the values of that time, the audience might have represented the entire population.
20. (D) The key idea is 'defeating the purpose'. This implies that craving for starch-based foods is detrimental to the purpose - weight reduction.
21. (C) 22. (D) 23. (A) 24. (B) 25. (B)

*Class Practice 02*

1. Below is an excerpt from a letter that was sent by the chairman of a corporation to the stockholders. A number of charges have been raised against me, some serious, some trivial. Individuals seeking to control the corporation for their own purposes have demanded my resignation. Remember that no court of law in any state has found me guilty of any criminal offense whatsoever. In the American tradition, as you know, an individual is considered innocent until proven guilty. Furthermore, as the corporation's unbroken six-year record of growth will show, my conduct of my official duties as chairman has only helped enhance the success of the corporation, and so benefited every stockholder.
- Which of the following can be properly inferred from the excerpt?
- (A) The chairman believes that all those who have demanded his resignation are motivated by desire to control the corporation for their own purposes.
  - (B) Any misdeeds that the chairman may have committed were motivated by his desire to enhance the success of the corporation.
  - (C) The chairman is innocent of any criminal offense.
  - (D) The corporation has expanded steadily over the past six years.
  - (E) Any legal proceedings against the chairman have resulted in his acquittal.
2. In the years since the city of London imposed strict air-pollution regulations on local industry, the number of bird species seen in and around London has increased dramatically. Similar air-pollution rules should be imposed in other major cities.
- Each of the following is an assumption made in the argument above EXCEPT:
- (A) In most major cities, air-pollution problems are caused almost entirely by local industry.
  - (B) Air-pollution regulations on industry have a significant impact on the quality of the air.
  - (C) The air-pollution problems of other major cities are basically similar to those once suffered by London.
  - (D) An increase in the number of bird species in and around a city is desirable.
  - (E) The increased sightings of bird species in and around London reflect an actual increase in the number of species in the area.
3. Which of the following best completes the passage below?
- In opposing government regulation of business, conservatives often appeal to the Jeffersonian ideal of limited government, expressing the wish that government would "get off the backs of the American people." Yet, paradoxically, many of these same conservatives address questions of private morality, such as those dealing with sexual behavior, by calling for \_\_\_\_\_
- (A) a return to the restrictive sexual morality of the Victorian era
  - (B) a strengthening of the role of the family in setting moral norms for society
  - (C) a limitation on the amount of sexually provocative material appearing in books, movies, and television shows
  - (D) greater freedom for individuals to choose their own way of handling sexual issues
  - (E) an increased governmental role in the regulation and control of private sexual behavior

Questions 4-5 are based on the following:

In an experiment, two different types of recorded music were played for neonates in adjacent nurseries in a hospital. In nursery A, classical music was played; in nursery B, rock music was played. After two weeks, it was found that the babies in nursery A cried less, suffered fewer minor ailments, and gained more weight than did the babies in nursery B.

4. In evaluating the validity of the conclusion suggested by the experiment above, it would be most important to know which of the following?
- (A) The musical preferences of the parents of the two groups of newborns
  - (B) Whether the newborns in both nurseries were equally healthy and happy at the start of the

experiment

- (C) Whether loud rock music can damage the hearing of newborns
  - (D) What the average weight of the neonates was before and after the experiment
  - (E) Whether the music was played in the nurseries at all times or only at certain times
5. Which of the following additional experimental data would support the hypothesis that classical music is beneficial to the development of newborn?
- (A) The neonates in a nursery where no music was played fared better than those in nursery B.
  - (B) Nursery A contained 15 percent more premature babies than nursery B.
  - (C) The newborns in nursery A cried less, suffered fewer minor ailments, and gained more weight than did newborns in a nursery with no music.
  - (D) The music played in nursery A was louder than that played in nursery B.
  - (E) The ratio of nurses to newborns in nursery B was 1 to 4; in nursery A, it was 1 to 6.
6. The ancient city of Cephessa 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. Cephessa 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 Cephessa was not buried by the eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 310?
- (A) The city of Cephessa 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 Cephessa, 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 Cephessa.
  - (D) Artworks from the city of Cephessa 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.
7. June is taller than Kristin.  
Letty is taller than Maria.  
Maria is shorter than Nancy.  
Kristin and Nancy are exactly the same height.  
If the information above is true, which of the following must also be true?
- (A) Letty is taller than Nancy.
  - (B) Letty is taller than June.
  - (C) Kristin is shorter than Letty.
  - (D) June is taller than Maria.
  - (E) Kristin is shorter than Maria.
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 billion 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. 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
10. In many surveys, American consumers have expressed a willingness to spend up to 10 percent more for products that are ecologically sound. Encouraged by such surveys, Bleach-O Corporation promoted a new laundry detergent, Bleach-O Green, as safer for the environment. Bleach-O Green cost 5 percent more than typical detergents. After one year, Bleach-O Green had failed to capture a significant share of the detergent market and was withdrawn from sale.
- Which of the following questions is LEAST likely to be relevant in determining the reasons for the failure of Bleach-O Green?
- (A) How effective as a detergent was Bleach-O Green?
  - (B) How many other detergents on the market were promoted as safe for the environment?
  - (C) How much more did Bleach-O Green cost to manufacture than ordinary detergents?
  - (D) To what extent did consumers accept the validity of Bleach-O Green advertised and promoted to consumers?
  - (E) How effectively was Bleach-O Green advertised and promoted to consumers?
11. 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.
12. The upcoming presidential election in the West African republic of Ganelon is of grave concern to the U.S. State Department. Ganelon presently has strong political and military ties to the United States. However, the Socialist party is widely expected to win the election, leading to fears that Ganelon will soon break away from the pro-American bloc and adopt a nonaligned or openly anti-American stance.
- Which of the following is an assumption made in the passage above?
- (A) A Socialist party government in Ganelon is more likely to oppose the United States than is a non-Socialist party government.
  - (B) The people of the United States recognize their nation's interest in the political stability of West Africa.
  - (C) A weakening of U.S. political ties with Ganelon could have serious consequences for U.S. relations

with other African nations.

- (D) The Socialist party leaders in Ganelon believe that their nation's interests would best be served by an alliance with anti-American forces.
- (E) The Socialist party will win the upcoming election in Ganelon.

13. 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 public 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.

14. As an experienced labor organizer and the former head of one of the nation's most powerful labor unions, Grayson is an excellent choice to chair the new council on business-labor relations.

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

- (A) The new council must have the support of the nation's labor leaders if it is to succeed.
- (B) During his years as a labor leader, Grayson established a record of good relations with business leaders.
- (C) The chair of the new council must be a person who can communicate directly with the leaders of the nation's largest labor unions.
- (D) Most of the other members of the new council will be representatives of business management interests.
- (E) An understanding of the needs and problems of labor is the only qualification necessary for the job of chairing the new council.

15. In the effort to fire a Civil Service employee, his or her manager may have to spend up to \$100,000 of tax money. Since Civil Service employees know how hard it is to fire them, they tend to loaf. This explains in large part why the government is so inefficient.

It can be properly inferred on the basis of the statements above that the author believes which of the following?

- I. Too much job security can have a negative influence on workers.
- II. More government workers should be fired.
- III. Most government workers are Civil Service employees.

- (A) I only
- (B) I and III only
- (C) II only
- (D) I, II, and III
- (E) III only

16. 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.

17. Ronald: According to my analysis of the national economy, housing prices should not increase during the next six months unless interest rates drop significantly.

Mark: I disagree. One year ago, when interest rates last fell significantly, housing prices did not increase at all.

It can be inferred from the conversation above that Mark has interpreted Ronald's statement to mean that

- (A) housing prices will rise only if interest rates fall
  - (B) if interest rates fall, housing prices must rise
  - (C) interest rates and housing prices tend to rise and fall together
  - (D) interest rates are the only significant economic factor affecting housing prices
  - (E) interest rates are likely to fall significantly in the next six months
18. It's time we stopped searching for new statistics to suggest that we are not spending enough on education. In fact, education spending increased 30 percent overall during the last decade. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?
- (A) Despite increased spending on education, enrollment in our elementary and secondary schools declined about 4 percent during the last ten years.
  - (B) Our spending on gasoline increased more than 100 percent during the last decade.
  - (C) When adjusted for inflation, our per-pupil expenditure on education this year is less than it was ten years ago.
  - (D) Eleven other economically developed nations spend more on education than we do.
  - (E) The achievement levels of our students have been declining steadily since 1960, and the last decade produced no reversal in this trend.
19. The U.S. census is not perfect: thousands of Americans probably go uncounted. However, the basic statistical portrait of the nation painted by the census is accurate. Certainly some of the poor go uncounted, particularly the homeless; but some of the rich go uncounted as well, because they are often abroad or traveling between one residence and another. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above depends?
- (A) Both the rich and the poor have personal and economic reasons to avoid being counted by the census.
  - (B) All Americans may reasonably be classified as either poor or rich.
  - (C) The percentage of poor Americans uncounted by the census is close to the percentage of rich Americans uncounted.
  - (D) The number of homeless Americans is approximately equal to the number of rich Americans.
  - (E) The primary purpose of the census is to analyze the economic status of the American population.
20. Which of the following best completes the passage below?
- In today's pluralistic society, textbook publishers find themselves in an increasingly uncomfortable position. Since the schools are regarded as a repository of society's moral and cultural values, each group within society wishes to prevent any material that offends its own values from appearing in textbooks. As a result, stance on an issue is certain to run afoul of one group or another. And since textbook publishers must rely on community goodwill to sell their books, it is inevitable that\_\_\_\_\_
- (A) fewer and fewer publishers will be willing to enter the financially uncertain textbook industry



- (B) the ethical and moral content of textbooks will become increasingly neutral and bland
- (C) more and more pressure groups will arise that seek to influence the content of textbooks
- (D) the government will be forced to intervene in the increasingly rancorous debate over the content of textbooks
- (E) school boards, teachers, and principals will find it nearly impossible to choose among the variety of textbooks being offered

Class Practice 02

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D  | 2. A  | 3. E  | 4. B  | 5. C  |
| 6. B  | 7. D  | 8. D  | 9. E  | 10. C |
| 11. B | 12. A | 13. E | 14. E | 15. A |
| 16. A | 17. B | 18. C | 19. C | 20. B |

### *Class Practice 03*

Questions 1-2 are based on the following.

We have heard a good deal in recent years about the declining importance of the two major political parties. It is the mass media, we are told, that decide the outcome of elections, not the power of the parties. But it is worth noting that no independent or third-party candidate has won any important election in recent years, and in the last nationwide campaign, the two major parties raised and spent more money than ever before in support of their candidates and platforms. It seems clear that reports of the imminent demise of the two-party system are premature at best.

1. Which of the following is an assumption made in the argument above?
  - (A) The amount of money raised and spent by a political party is one valid criterion for judging the influence of the party.
  - (B) A significant increase in the number of third-party candidates would be evidence of a decline in the importance of the two major parties.
  - (C) The two-party system has contributed significantly to the stability of the American political structure.
  - (D) The mass media tend to favor an independent or third-party candidate over a candidate from one of the two major parties.
  - (E) The mass media are relatively unimportant in deciding the outcome of most elections.
2. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument above?
  - (A) The percentage of voters registered as independents is higher today than ever before.
  - (B) In a recent presidential campaign, for the first time ever, an independent candidate was invited to appear in a televised debate with the major-party candidates.
  - (C) Every current member of the U.S. Senate was elected as the candidate of one of the two major parties.
  - (D) In a recent opinion poll, most voters stated that a candidate's party affiliation was an insignificant factor in judging his or her fitness for office.
  - (E) In the last four years, the outcome of several statewide elections has been determined by the strength of the third-party vote.
3. Psychologists conducted a series of experiments to test the effect upon schoolchildren of violence in films. In the first experiment, grammar school children were shown a film that included scenes of a male teenager engaging in violent acts against others, such as punching, pushing, and kicking. During a free-play session following the film viewing, 42 percent of the children were observed to engage in one or more violent acts similar to those in the film. In a second experiment, a different group of children was shown a similar film featuring a female teenager. Only 14 percent of the children were observed behaving violently afterward. The psychologists concluded that children are more likely to imitate violent behavior on film when a male model is shown than when a female model is shown.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the psychologists' conclusion?

  - (A) In both experiments, the victims of the filmed violence included both males and females.
  - (B) In the second experiment, 28 percent of the children appeared upset during the viewing the violent film scenes.
  - (C) The first group included 19 male students and 20 female students; the second group included 20 male students and 21 female students.
  - (D) In the first group, 58 percent of the children appeared bored during the showing of the film, and 12 percent fell asleep.
  - (E) The percentage of children known to have discipline problems prior to the experiment was greater in the first group than in the second group.
4. Mainline Airways was bought by its employees six years ago. Three years ago, Mainline hired QualiCo Advertising Agency to handle its promotions and advertising division. Today Mainline's profits are over 20 percent higher than they were five years ago and 10 percent higher than they were three years ago. Employee ownership and a good advertising agency have combined to make Mainline more profitable.

Which of the following best describes the weak point in the argument above?

- (A) It fails to establish a causal connection between the change in ownership at Mainline Airways and the hiring of QualiCo, on the one hand, and the rise in Mainline's profits, on the other.
- (B) It presents no evidence showing that employee-owned airlines are any more profitable than other airlines.
- (C) It assumes that the profits of Mainline Airways will continue to rise.
- (D) It gives no exact figures for the current profits of Mainline Airways.
- (E) It fails to explain how the profits of Mainline Airways are calculated.

5. At many colleges today, regulations have been imposed that forbid the use in speech or print of language that "offends" or "insults" the members of any group, especially women and racial, ethnic, and religious minorities. Although these regulations are defended in the name of "democracy," they restrict freedom of speech and the press in a way that opposes the true spirit of democracy.

The argument above attempts to prove its case primarily by

- (A) impugning the credentials of an opponent
  - (B) providing examples that support a theoretical principle
  - (C) taking advantage of inconsistencies in the definition of "democracy"
  - (D) revealing a contradiction in an opposing point of view
  - (E) appealing to the patriotic feelings of its audience
6. In 1980, a Danish ten-øre coin minted in 1747 was sold at auction for \$8,000. Eleanor Bixby owns another Danish ten-øre coin minted in 1747. When she puts it on the market next week, it will fetch a price over \$18,000.

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

- (A) Since 1980, the average price for rare coins has increased by over 150 percent.
  - (B) There are only four coins like the one in question in the entire world.
  - (C) Since 1980, the consumer price index has risen by over 150 percent.
  - (D) In 1986, a previously unknown cache of one hundred coins just like the one in question was found.
  - (E) Thirty prominent, wealthy coin collectors are expected to bid for Bixby's coin.
7. Merco has been in business longer than Nolen. Inc, Olean Industries was founded years before the Potter Company, and the Potter Company was started years after the Quarles Corporation. Nolen, Inc., and the Quarles Corporation were founded in the same year.

If the information above is true, which of the following must also be true?

- (A) Olean Industries has been in business for more years than Merco.
  - (B) Olean Industries has been in business for more years than the Quarles Corporation.
  - (C) Nolen, Inc., has not been in business for as many years as Olean Industries.
  - (D) Merco has been in business for more years than the Potter Company.
  - (E) Nolen, Inc., has not been in business for as many years as the Potter Company.
8. Which of the following best completes the passage below?

A primary factor in perpetuating the low salaries of women workers has been their segregation in the so-called pink-collar occupations, such as nursing, teaching, library science, and secretarial work. Partly because these jobs have traditionally been held by women, their salary levels have been depressed, and, despite increased attempts to unionize these workers in recent years, their pay continues to lag.

Moreover, although a large percentage of women than ever before are now entering and remaining in the job market, most continue to gravitate toward the pink-collar fields, despite the lower salaries. It seems clear, therefore, that if the average salaries of women workers are to approach those of men,

- (A) labor unions must redouble their efforts to improve the lot of working women
- (B) society's perception of pink-collar jobs as less important and less demanding than other jobs must be changed
- (C) more men must be encouraged to enter fields traditionally occupied by women

- (D) the number of jobs in the pink-collar fields relative to the size of the work force as a whole must be markedly increased
- (E) more women must enter occupations other than those traditionally reserved for them
9. Determining the authenticity of purported pre-Columbian artifacts is never easy. Carbon-14 dating of these artifacts is often impossible due to contamination by radioactive palladium (which occurs naturally in the soils of Central and South America). However, historians and anthropologists have evolved two reliable criteria, which, utilized in combination, have proven effective for dating these artifacts. First, because authentic pre-Columbian artifacts characteristically occur in a coarse, granular matrix that is shifted by major earthquakes, they often exhibit the unique scratch patterns known as *gridding*. In addition, true pre-Columbian artifacts show a darkening in surface color that is caused by centuries of exposure to the minute amounts of magnesium in the soil of the Americas.
- The criteria above would be LEAST useful in judging the authenticity of which of the following?
- (A) An ax head of black obsidian, unearthed from a kitchen midden
- (B) A pottery bowl with a red ocher design, found in the ruins of a temple
- (C) A set of gold ear weights, ornamented with jasper pendants
- (D) A black feather cape from a king's burial vault
- (E) A multicolored woven sash found near the gravesite of a slave

Questions 10-11 are based on the following.

From time to time, the press indulges in outbursts of indignation over the use of false or misleading information by the U.S. government in support of its policies and programs. No one endorses needless deception. But consider this historical analogy. It is known that Christopher Columbus, on his first voyage to the New World, deliberately falsified the log to show a shorter sailing distance for each day out than the ships had actually traveled. In this way, Columbus was able to convince his skeptical sailors that they had not sailed past the point at which they expected to find the shores of India. Without this deception, Columbus's sailors might well have mutinied, and the New World might never have been discovered.

10. The author of the passage above assumes each of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) Government deception of the press is often motivated by worthy objectives.
- (B) Without government deception, popular support for worthwhile government policies and programs might well fade.
- (C) Attacks on the government by the press are often politically motivated.
- (D) Deception for deception's sake should not be condoned.
- (E) A greater good may sometimes require acceptance of a lesser evil.
11. Which of the following is the main weakness of the historical analogy drawn in the passage above?
- (A) The sailors in Columbus's crew never knew that they had been deceived, while government deception is generally uncovered by the press.
- (B) A ship's log is a record intended mainly for use by the captain, while press reports are generally disseminated for use by the public at large.
- (C) The members of a ship's crew are selected by the captain of the ship, while those who work in the press are self-selected.
- (D) The crew of a ship is responsible for the success of a voyage, while the press is not responsible for the use others make of the factual information it publishes.
- (E) In a democracy, the people are expected to participate in the nation's political decision making, while the members of a ship's crew are expected simply to obey the orders of the captain.
12. Which of the following best completes the passage below?
- Monarch butterflies, whose average life span is nine months, migrate from the midwestern United States to selected forests outside Mexico City. It takes at least three generations of monarchs to make the journey, so the great-great-grandchildren who finally arrive in the Mexican forests have never been there before. Yet they return to the same trees their forebears left. Scientists theorize that monarchs, like homing pigeons, map their routes according to the earth's electromagnetic fields. As a first step in testing this theory, lepidopterists plan to install a low-voltage transmitter inside one grove of "butterfly

trees” in the Mexican forests. If the butterflies are either especially attracted to the grove with the transmitter or especially repelled by it, lepidopterists will have evidence that \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) monarch butterflies have brains, however minuscule
- (B) monarch butterflies are sensitive to electricity
- (C) low-voltage electricity can affect butterflies, whether positively or adversely
- (D) monarchs map their routes according to the earth’s electromagnetic fields
- (E) monarchs communicate in intergenerationally via electromagnetic fields

13. 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.

14. Dr. A: The new influenza vaccine is useless at best and possibly dangerous. I would never use it on a patient.

Dr. B: But three studies published in the *Journal of Medical Associates* have rated that vaccine as unusually effective.

Dr. A: The studies must have been faulty because the vaccine is worthless.

In which of the following is the reasoning most similar to that of Dr. A?

- (A) Three of my patients have been harmed by that vaccine during the past three weeks, so the vaccine is unsafe.
- (B) Jerrold Jersey recommends this milk, and I don’t trust Jerrold Jersey, so I won’t buy this milk.
- (C) Wingzz tennis balls perform best because they are far more effective than any other tennis balls.
- (D) I’m buying Vim Vitamins. Doctors recommend them more often than they recommend any other vitamins, so Vim Vitamins must be good.
- (E) Since University of Muldoon graduates score about 20 percent higher than average on the GMAT, Sheila Lee, a University of Muldoon graduate, will score about 20 percent higher than average when she takes the GMAT.

15. Bill: Smoke-detecting fire alarms can save lives. I believe that every apartment in this city should be required by law to be equipped with a smoke detector.

Joe: I disagree with your proposal. Smoke detectors are just as important for safety in private houses as they are in apartment.

From this exchange, it can be inferred that Joe has interpreted Bill’s statement to mean that

- (A) the city should be responsible for providing smoke detectors for apartments
- (B) residences outside the city should not be equipped with smoke detectors
- (C) only apartments should be equipped with smoke detectors
- (D) the risk of fire is not as great in private houses as it is in apartments
- (E) the rate of death by fire is unusually high in the city in question

16. In 1986, the city of Los Diablos had 20 days on which air pollution reached unhealthful amounts and a

smog alert was put into effect. In early 1987, new air pollution control measures were enacted, but the city had smog alerts on 31 days that year and on 39 days the following year. In 1989, however, the number of smog alerts in Los Diablos dropped to sixteen. The main air pollutants in Los Diablos are ozone and carbon monoxide, and since 1986 the levels of both have been monitored by gas spectrography.

Which of the following statements, assuming that each is true, would be LEAST helpful in explaining the air pollution levels in Los Diablos between 1986 and 1989?

- (A) The 1987 air pollution control measures enacted in Los Diablos were put into effect in November of 1988.
  - (B) In December of 1988 a new and far more accurate gas spectrometer was invented.
  - (C) In February of 1989, the Pollution Control Board of Los Diablos revised the scale used to determine the amount of air pollution considered unhealthy.
  - (D) In 1988 the mayor of Los Diablos was found to have accepted large campaign donations from local industries and to have exempted those same industries from air pollution control measures.
  - (E) Excess ozone and carbon monoxide require a minimum of two years to break down naturally in the atmosphere above a given area.
17. 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.
18. Don's, a chain of supermarkets, has entered into an agreement in which Rose Computers will sell Don's an unlimited number of its least expensive PC's at one-fourth the regular wholesale price. In return, Don's has agreed to purchase all of its scanners and other electronic information-processing equipment from Rose or from Omicron, Rose Computers' parent company, for the next ten years. Don's will offer a Rose PC free to any school that turns in Don's register receipts totaling \$100,000 within the next six months. The vice-president in charge of advertising for Don's expects that the computer giveaway will obviate the need for a massive new advertising campaign for the next six months and that Don's can make up the expenditures for the PC's by writing them off its income taxes as charitable donations. The plans formulated by Don's assume each of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) The prices that Rose or Omicron charges Don's for information-processing equipment over the next ten years will be lower than those charged by other companies.
  - (B) The tax laws will not be changed to exclude or lessen the value of charitable donations as tax write-offs.
  - (C) Schools will be sufficiently attracted by Don's computer giveaway offer that teachers will urge students to shop at Don's.
  - (D) Rose will be able to supply Don's with a sufficient number of PC's to meet the demand generated by schools that collect Don's receipts totaling \$100,000.
  - (E) The effect of the computer giveaway offer on Don's business will be comparable to that of a major advertising campaign.
19. Manufacturers of household appliances are still urging the public to purchase food processors. The various manufacturers' advertisements all point out that the prices of these appliances are now lower than ever and that each food processor comes with a lifetime service warranty. In addition, many

manufacturers offer sizable rebates to customers who purchase food processors within a given time period. With these incentives, the advertisements contend, people can hardly afford not to purchase food processors.

Which answer choice is a logically prior issue that the manufacturers' advertisements fail to address?

- (A) Whether the cost of repairs to the food processors over the years will cancel out the savings currently being offered
- (B) Whether potential customers have enough uses for food processors to justify purchasing them
- (C) Whether the heads of the companies manufacturing food processors own food processors themselves
- (D) Whether the food processors currently being advertised will be outdated within the next five years
- (E) Whether accessories and replacement parts will be readily available at retail outlets

20. Since the invention of digital readout, machine designers have rushed to replace conventional dials and gauges with digital units. Yet the digital gauge has drawbacks in some situations. Since it presents an exact numeric value, it must be decoded and analyzed by a human operator; its meaning cannot be read in an instantaneous scanning. An analog dial or gauge can be marked with red to alert the operator when a value is entering a danger zone; a digital gauge cannot. And it is difficult to tell whether a digital readout is increasing or decreasing over time, while the up or down movement of a pointer on an analog gauge can be quickly and easily observed.

The author of the passage above would probably recommend the use of digital gauge in cases when

- I. warning of a sudden rise or fall in value is needed
- II. an operator must read and interpret several gauges within a few seconds
- III. a precise numeric value is essential

- (A) I only
- (B) III only
- (C) I and III only
- (D) II and III only
- (E) I, II, and III

### ***Class Practice 03***

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A  | 2. C  | 3. E  | 4. A  | 5. D  |
| 6. D  | 7. D  | 8. E  | 9. D  | 10. C |
| 11. E | 12. B | 13. A | 14. C | 15. C |
| 16. B | 17. B | 18. A | 19. B | 20. B |

## TEST I

1. A mail order company recently had a big jump in clothing sales after hiring a copywriter and a graphic artist to give its clothing catalog a magazinelike format designed to appeal to a more upscale clientele. The company is now planning to launch a housewares catalog using the same concept.  
The company's plan assumes that
  - (A) other housewares catalogs with magazinelike formats do not already exist
  - (B) an upscale clientele would be interested in a housewares catalog
  - (C) the same copywriter and graphic artist could be employed for both the clothing and housewares catalogs
  - (D) a magazinelike format requires a copywriter and a graphic artist
  - (E) customers to whom the old clothing catalog appealed would continue to make purchases from catalogs with the new format
2. Civic Leader: The high cancer rate among our citizens is the result of hazardous material produced at your plant.  
Board of Directors: Our statistics show that rates of cancer are high throughout the valley in which the plant is situated because local wells that supply drinking water are polluted, not because of the plant. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the board's claims?
  - (A) The statistics do not differentiate between types of cancer.
  - (B) Nearby communities have not changed the sources of their drinking water.
  - (C) Cancer-causing chemicals used at the plant are discharged into a nearby river and find their way into local wells.
  - (D) The plant both uses and produces chemicals that have been shown to cause cancer.
  - (E) Some of the pollutants cited by the board as contaminating the local wells have been present in the wells for decades.
3. Economies in which a high percentage of resources are invested in research and development show greater growth in the long run than do those in which resources are channeled into consumption. Japanese workers spend a higher percentage of their income investing in research and development than do American workers.  
To grow as fast as Japan has in the past three decades, the United States must change the tax code in order to encourage savings and investment and discourage debt.  
Which of the following, if true, tends to weaken the argument?
  - (A) Japanese research is more focused on consumers than is research by American firms.
  - (B) Class mobility, highly valued in American culture, is encouraged by a growing rather than a stagnant economy.
  - (C) Studies have shown that countries with high consumption rates prosper in the short run.
  - (D) Proposed changes to the tax code could involve strict limits on the deductability of interest, and increased allowance for research.
  - (E) Because a decreasing percentage of the United States is under 40, an age when savings are traditionally low, the savings rate will increase without changes to the tax code.
4. Television programming experts maintain that with each 1% increase in the prime-time ratings of a television station there is a 3.5% increase in the number of people who watch its evening news program. However, in the last ten years at Channel NTR, there was only one year of extremely high prime-time ratings and during that year, fewer people than ever watched Channel NTR's evening news program. Which of the following conclusions can properly be drawn from the statements above?
  - (A) When a news program has good ratings, the channel as a whole will have good ratings.
  - (B) The programming experts neglected to consider daytime news programs.
  - (C) The year of high ratings at NTR was a result of two hit shows which were subsequently canceled



because of contractual problems.

(D) The ten-year period in question is not representative of normal viewing patterns.

(E) Prime-time ratings are not the only factor affecting how many people watch an evening news program.

5. The people who are least likely to be audited by the Internal Revenue Service this year are those who have been audited since 1985 and who were found to have made no mistakes in filing their returns during that audit.

Of the following people, who is MOST likely to be audited by the IRS?

(A) A person who was audited in 1986 but was not found to have made any mistakes in filing his return.

(B) A person who was audited in 1986 and whose lawyer corrected several mistakes in the tax return prior to the filing deadline.

(C) A person whose spouse was convicted of tax fraud in 1987, who was then audited and found to have made no mistakes.

(D) A person who was last audited in 1984, and had no mistakes uncovered by the IRS during that audit.

(E) A person who was audited in each of the past five years, but was found to have made no mistakes in any of the filings.

6. James's grade point average puts him in the top third of the graduating class of college A. Nestor is in the top tenth of the same class. Elizabeth had the same grade point average as Nestor. Nancy has a lower grade point average than Elizabeth.

If the information above is true, which of the following must also be true?

(A) James has a higher grade point average than Elizabeth.

(B) James has a higher grade point average than Nancy.

(C) Nestor has a higher grade point average than Nancy.

(D) Elizabeth and Nancy both have a higher grade point average than James.

(E) Nestor and James both have a higher grade point average than Nancy.

7. Whenever a major airplane accident occurs, there is a dramatic increase in the number of airplane mishaps reported, a phenomenon that may last for as long as a few months after the accident. Airline officials assert that the publicity given the gruesomeness of major airplane accidents focuses media attention on the airline industry and the increase in the number of reported accidents is caused by an increase in the number of news sources covering airline accident, not by an increase in the number of accidents.

Which of the following, if true, would seriously weaken the assertions of the airline officials?

(A) The publicity surrounding airline accidents is largely limited to the country in which the crash occurred.

(B) Airline accidents tend to occur far more often during certain peak travel months.

(C) News organizations do not have any guidelines to help them decide how severe or how close an accident must be for it to receive coverage.

(D) Airplane accidents receive coverage by news sources only when the news sources find it advantageous to do so.

(E) Studies by government regulations show that the number of airplane flight miles remains relatively constant from month to month.

Questions 8-9 are based on the following.

Investing in real estate would be a profitable venture at this time. A survey in House magazine revealed that 85% of the magazine's readers are planning to buy a second home over the next few years. A study of the real estate industry, however, revealed that the current supply of homes could only provide for 65% of that demand each year.

8. Which of the following, if true, reveals a weakness in the evidence cited above?

(A) Real estate is a highly labor-intensive business.

(B) Home builders are not evenly distributed across the country.

- (C) The number of people who want second homes has been increasing each year for the past ten years.
- (D) Readers of House magazine are more likely than most people to want second homes.
- (E) House magazine includes articles about owning a second home as well as articles about building a second home.

9. Which of the following, if true, would undermine the validity of the investment advice in the paragraph above?

- (A) Some home owners are satisfied with only one home.
- (B) About half of the people who buy homes are investing in their first home.
- (C) About half of the people who buy homes have to take out a mortgage to do so.
- (D) Only a quarter of the homes that are built are sold within the first two weeks.
- (E) Only a quarter of those who claim that they want a second home actually end up purchasing one.

10. Traffic safety experts predict that the installation of newly designed air bags in all cars in the United States would reduce the average number of fatalities per traffic accident by 30 percent. In order to save lives, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is considering requiring automobile manufacturers to install air bags of this design in all cars produced after 1998.

Which of the following, if true, represents the strongest challenge to the DOT's proposal?

- (A) Air bags of the new design are more given to being inadvertently triggered, an occurrence that can sometimes result in fatal traffic accidents.
- (B) The DOT is planning to require automobile manufacturers to produce these air bags according to very strict specifications.
- (C) After installing air bags in new cars, automobile manufacturers will experience an increase in sales.
- (D) The proposed air bag installation program will adversely affect the resale of cars manufactured prior to 1998.
- (E) As production costs increase, the profits of many domestic automobile dealers show a marked decrease.

11. A private bus company gained greater profits and provided bus service to the area at lower fares by running buses more frequently and stimulating greater ridership. Hoping to continue these financial trends, the company plans to replace all older buses with new, larger buses, including some double-decker buses,.

The plan of the bus company as described above assumes all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) the demand for bus service in the company's area of service will increase in the future
- (B) increased efficiency and revenues will compensate for any new expenses the company incurs
- (C) the new buses will be sufficiently reliable to ensure the company a net financial gain once they are in place
- (D) driving the new buses will be no more difficult than driving the buses they are to replace
- (E) the larger, double-decker buses will not face obstacles such as height and weight restrictions in the bus company's area of service

12. A newly discovered disease is thought to be caused by a certain bacterium. However, recently released data notes that the bacterium thrives in the presence of a certain virus, implying that it is actually the virus that causes the new disease.

Which of the following pieces of evidence would most support the data's implication?

- (A) In the absence of the virus, the disease has been observed to follow infection by the bacterium.
- (B) The virus has been shown to aid the growth of bacterium, a process which often leads to the onset of the disease.
- (C) The virus alone has been observed in many cases of the disease.
- (D) In cases where the disease does not develop, infection by the bacterium is usually preceded by infection by the virus.
- (E) Onset of the disease usually follows infection by both the virus and the bacterium.

13. A sociologist recently studied two sets of teenagers. The members of one set spent 10 or more hours per

week watching violent television programs, and the members of the other set spent 2 hours or less per week watching violent television programs. A significantly greater proportion of the teenagers in the former group exhibited aggressive behavior during the period of the study. The sociologists reasoned that the prolonged exposure to television violence caused the aggressive behavior.

Which of the following, if true, of the teenagers in the study, provides the strongest challenge to the sociologist's conclusion?

- (A) Some teenagers who watched more than 10 hours of violent television programming per week behaved less aggressively than others in the same group of teenagers.
  - (B) Some teenagers who watched 2 hours of violent television programming per week did not behave aggressively.
  - (C) Some teenagers voluntarily stopped watching violent television programs after being victims of violence.
  - (D) Some teenagers watched violent television programs alone, while others did so in groups.
  - (E) Many of the teenagers in the first group exhibited aggressive behavior before the study began.
14. Because of a recent drought in Florida during the orange-growing season, the price of oranges this season will be three times the usual price. This will drive up the cost of producing orange juice and thus push up the price of orange juice for the consumer.
- Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?
- (A) The recent drought was not as severe as scientists predicted.
  - (B) States other than Florida also supply oranges to orange juice manufacturers.
  - (C) Other ingredients are used in the production of orange juice.
  - (D) Last year the price of oranges was actually lower than the average price over the past ten years.
  - (E) The price of oranges will eventually be \$0.48 per crate.

Questions 15-16 are based on the following.

Local phone companies have monopolies on phone service within their areas. Cable television can be transmitted via the wires that are already in place and owned by the phone companies. Cable television companies argue that if the telephone companies were to offer cable service, these telephone companies would have an unfair advantage, because their cable transmissions could be subsidized by the profits of their monopolies on phone service.

15. Which of the following, if true, would ease the cable companies' fear of unfair competition?
- (A) In order to use existing telephone wire, telephone companies would need to modernize their operations, a process so expensive it would virtually wipe out all profit from their monopoly for the foreseeable future.
  - (B) If a phone company were to offer cable service within a particular area, it would have a monopoly within that area.
  - (C) The cost of television service, whether provided by cable or telephone companies, scales; that is, the total cost of transmission rises only marginally as more homes are added to the network.
  - (D) Cable programming that offers more channels is already available through satellite dish, but the initial cost of the dish is extremely high.
  - (E) Cable television will never be able to compete with the burgeoning video rental industry, especially as more homes now have video cassette recorders than ever did before.
16. On the basis of the information provided in the passage above, which of the following questions can be answered?
- (A) Are phone companies as efficient as cable companies in providing reliable and inexpensive service?
  - (B) If phone companies were allowed to provide cable service, would they want to do so?
  - (C) Do the cable companies believe that the local phone companies make a profit on phone service?
  - (D) Are local phone companies forbidden to offer cable service?
  - (E) Is it expected that phone companies will have a monopoly on cable service?
17. In the past year, there has been a large drop in the number of new cars sold, due to harsh economic

conditions in the marketplace and high taxes. At the same time, the average price paid for a new car has risen dramatically.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the increase in the average price of a new car?

- (A) The price of used cars has climbed steadily over the past ten years.
- (B) There will be a tax reduction later in the year which is expected to aid moderate and low income families.
- (C) The market for expensive car has been unaffected by the current economic conditions.
- (D) Economic conditions are expected to get significantly worse before the end of the year.
- (E) Low demand for trucks and vans has led to lower production in the factories.

18. Critics of sales seminars run by outside consultants point out that since 1987, revenues of vacuum cleaner companies whose employees attended consultant-led seminars were lower than revenues of vacuum cleaner companies whose employees did not attend such seminars. The critics charge that for vacuum cleaner companies, the sales seminars are ill conceived and a waste of money.

Which of the following, if true, is the most effective challenge to the critics of sales seminars?

- (A) Those vacuum cleaner companies whose sales were highest prior to 1987 are the only companies that did not send employees to the seminars.
- (B) Vacuum cleaner companies that have sent employees to sales seminars since 1987 experienced a greater drop in sales than they had prior to 1987.
- (C) The cost of vacuum cleaner sales seminars run by outside consultants has risen dramatically since 1987.
- (D) The poor design of vacuum cleaner sales seminars is not the only reason for their ineffectiveness.
- (E) Since 1987, sales of vacuum cleaners have risen twenty percent.

19. Informed people generally assimilate information from several divergent sources before coming to an opinion. However, most popular news organizations view foreign affairs solely through the eyes of our State Department. In reporting the political crisis in foreign country B, news organizations must endeavor to find alternative sources of information.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the argument above?

- (A) To the degree that a news source gives an account of another country that mirrors that of our State Department, that reporting is suspect.
- (B) To protect their integrity, news media should avoid the influence of State Department releases in their coverage of foreign affairs.
- (C) Reporting that is not influenced by the State Department is usually more accurate than are other accounts.
- (D) The alternative sources of information mentioned in the passage would probably not share the same views as the State Department.
- (E) A report cannot be seen as influenced by the State Department if it accurately depicts the events in a foreign country.

20. A light bulb company produces 2,000 light bulbs per week. The manager wants to ensure that standards of quality remain constant from week to week. The manager, therefore, claims that out of 2,000 light bulbs produced per week, 500 light bulbs are rejected.

Of the following, the best criticism of the manager's plan is that the plan assumes that

- (A) light bulb manufacturers cannot accept all light bulbs that produced
- (B) the overall quality of the light bulbs would not be improved if the total number of light bulbs produced were reduced
- (C) each light bulb that is reviewed is worthy of being reviewed
- (D) it is difficult to judge the quality of a light bulb
- (E) the 1,500 light bulbs that are accepted will be of the same quality from week to week

## TEST II

1. For over fifty years, the ocean-freight industry worked to make ocean freighters faster and to lower their fuel consumption. Despite considerable success, the economics of the industry grew worse, until the industry was almost dead. What was wrong was an incongruity between assumptions and realities. The real costs came, not from time spent at sea, but from time spent in port during loading and unloading. Which of the following actions would be most likely to lead to a solution of the problem faced by the ocean-freight industry, as it is analyzed in the passage?
  - (A) Developing a ship's engine that runs on a cheaper type of fuel than that traditionally used by ocean freighters
  - (B) Developing a ship with accessible cargo compartments that can be mechanically loaded and unloaded very rapidly
  - (C) Developing a ship whose freight capacity relative to the ship's total volume is much larger than that of any existing ship
  - (D) Implementing a system to ensure that ocean freighters are loaded to capacity whenever they leave a port
  - (E) Implementing a marketing plan that focuses on routes that are known to be least threatened by unfavorable weather, thus permitting rapid trips and reliable arrival times
2. The increased concentration of salt in the bay, which is the result of recent drought and high temperatures, will cause many fish to die. Shrimp, however, can tolerate high salt levels; the shrimp industry will not, therefore, be hurt by the increased concentration of salt. Which of the following statements, if true, would weaken the argument above?
  - (A) Some fish will migrate to areas that have lower concentrations of salt.
  - (B) Lack of rainfall for extended periods of time lowers the water level of bays.
  - (C) The organisms on which young shrimp feed cannot survive in such salty waters.
  - (D) Increased water temperature often causes shrimp to multiply more quickly.
  - (E) Shrimp are more abundant in areas of the bay that are sparsely populated by fish.
3. Currently people in the United States eat, on the average, 1,431 pounds of food per year, 35 pounds more than in 1980. This increase is, at least in part, because people between the ages of 15 and 64 have accounted for an increasing share of the population. Which of the following can be properly inferred from the passage above?
  - (A) More than half of the current population of the United States is between the ages of 15 and 64.
  - (B) The population has risen since 1980.
  - (C) Children below the age of 15 require, on the average, more food than do people over the age of 64.
  - (D) Before 1980 children below the age of 15 outnumbered people between the ages of 15 and 64.
  - (E) Individuals between the ages of 15 and 64 consume, on the average, more food than do those younger or older.
4. Each increase of 1 percent in real disposable personal income per capita will increase the share of the electorate for an incumbent by about 2.2 percentage points, other things being equal. Since 1952 there has been a decline in real disposable income during only one presidential election year. The incumbent lost that election. Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn from the statements above?
  - (A) When an incumbent runs for office, he or she is likely to win.
  - (B) Political parties should take care to put forth a candidate who seems prosperous.
  - (C) Presidential candidates should put their greatest efforts into improving their public image.
  - (D) Because a presidential campaign requires the expenditure of large amounts of money, it frequently impoverishes a candidate and his or her supporters.
  - (E) The outcome of a presidential election is substantially affected by factors other than the ideological

positions of the candidates.

5. According to an independent computer-industry analyst, the new Regent microcomputer is of high quality, is fast, and costs less than any currently existing competing model. It is reasonable to conclude, therefore, as the manufacturer's prospectus does, that the Regent will quickly establish itself as a fast-selling, low-priced alternative to currently available microcomputers.
- Which of the following, if true, would LEAST weaken the argument above?
- (A) Many retailers already carry one or more low-priced microcomputer models and are disinclined to carry another.
  - (B) Several faster and lower-priced models of microcomputers will soon be introduced by other computer manufacturers.
  - (C) The Regent Corporation's microcomputer can be used in conjunction with higher-priced microcomputers manufactured by other companies.
  - (D) Most of those individuals and companies that could be expected to make up the potential market for the Regent microcomputer have already filled their microcomputer needs.
  - (E) The independent computer-industry analyst whose assessment was incorporated in the prospectus has used measures of quality that are not universally accepted by the computer-buying public.
6. Which of the following is the most logical completion of the passage below?
- Many companies have been pushing for a three-week extension of daylight saving time, which would mean that the sun would continue to set an hour later during the fall months. The owners of a chain of convenience stores, for example, expect to gain \$15 million a year in additional sales, mostly from people who tend to \_\_\_\_\_
- (A) stay away from these stores after dark
  - (B) stay outdoors during the fall months
  - (C) spend more money in the fall
  - (D) spend less money in the fall
  - (E) shop at these stores when they are pressed for time
7. Recent evidence appears to contradict earlier findings that suggested that those who are physically fit cope better with stressful real-life events. Of a group of healthy women, those randomly assigned to a ten-week program of aerobic exercises performed no better in laboratory tests simulating stressful situations than did the subgroup assigned to a program without exercise.
- Which of the following, if true, provides evidence for determining whether physical fitness makes one react better to stress?
- (A) Superior reaction to laboratory stress situations was found to be more prevalent among women than among men.
  - (B) Healthy men, after training six months in weight lifting, encountered fewer potentially stressful situations in the subsequent six months.
  - (C) Subjects following a regimen during which they perfected their skills in a variety of relaxation techniques found that their lives seemed calmer after they began the regimen.
  - (D) College students with previous high levels of stressful life events showed a markedly reduced reaction to such events after training in aerobics for six months.
  - (E) Subjects with a high level of self-esteem more often engaged in physical-fitness regimens than did a control group of subjects with average levels of self-esteem.

Questions 8-9 are based on the following.

Now is an excellent time to invest in the catering business. A survey conducted by Weddings magazine found that 70 percent of the magazine's readers want a catered wedding reception. An analysis of the catering industry, however, shows that the current number of caterers can serve only 55 percent of the weddings likely to occur each year.

8. Which of the following, if true, reveals a weakness in the evidence cited above?
- (A) Catering is a highly labor-intensive business.

- (B) Caterers are not evenly distributed across the country.
- (C) The number of weddings with catered receptions has been growing each year for the past five years.
- (D) Readers of Weddings magazine are more likely than most people to want a catered reception.
- (E) Weddings magazine includes both articles about catered receptions and articles about preparing food oneself for one's wedding reception.
9. Which of the following, if true, would undermine the validity of the investment advice in the paragraph above?
- (A) The average wedding reception involves between 50 and 100 guests.
- (B) Approximately a quarter of all weddings take place without a reception.
- (C) Approximately a quarter of all weddings and their associated receptions are paid for by the couples themselves.
- (D) Only half of all catered wedding receptions include sit-down meals.
- (E) Only half of those who say they want a catered wedding reception actually have one.
10. The Commerce Department recently put limits on machine-tool imports from two countries whose exports of machine tools into the United States have been substantial. As a result of these restrictions, analysts predict that domestic sales of machine tools manufactured in the United States are bound to rise considerably, starting in the very near future.
- Which of the following, if true, would be most likely to cause the analysts' prediction to be inaccurate?
- (A) A new tax bill that, if passed, would discourage investment in capital equipment such as machine tools is being studied and debated seriously in the United States Congress.
- (B) United States companies' orders for metal-cutting machines, which account for 75 percent of sales by the machine-tool industry, rose faster than orders for other types of machine tools during the past year.
- (C) Worldwide orders for machine tools made in the United States dropped by more than 10 percent during the past year.
- (D) Substantial inventories of foreign-made machine tools were stockpiled in the United States during the past year.
- (E) Companies in the industrial sectors of many countries showed a significantly expanded demand for machine tools during the past year.
11. The cities with the densest population have the highest ratio of police officers to citizens. Such cities also have the lowest rates of property crime without contact between perpetrator and victim. Thus maintaining a high ratio of police officers to citizens can serve as an effective deterrent to at least certain kinds of property crime.
- Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?
- (A) The quality of training that police receive varies from city to city.
- (B) High population density itself makes it difficult to commit a property crime that involves no contact between perpetrator and victim.
- (C) Many nonviolent crimes in large cities are drug-related.
- (D) A majority of the perpetrators of property crimes in densely populated cities are not apprehended by the police.
- (E) Property crimes without contact between perpetrator and victim represent only a small proportion of overall crime.
12. Approximately two hundred brands of personal computers are being manufactured, but we currently limit our inventory to only the eight most popular brands. We plan to increase greatly the number of computers we sell by expanding our inventory to include the ten best-selling brands.
- Which of the following, if true, points out a major weakness of the plan above?
- (A) The capabilities of three most popular personal computers add to be approximately equivalent, with no brand having consistent superiority in all respects.
- (B) The seven most popular brands of personal computers account for almost all computers sold.

- (C) As the users of personal computers become more sophisticated, they are more willing to buy less well-known brands of computers.
- (D) Less popular brands of computers often provide less profit to the retailer because prices must be discounted to attract customers.
- (E) The leading brand of personal computer has been losing sales to less popular brands that offer similar capabilities for less money.
13. Of those person who became teachers in 1968 and who later left the profession, 30 percent today earn salaries above \$35,000 a year: of those who became teachers in 1968 and have remained in the profession, only 15 percent today earn salaries above \$35,000 a year. These figures indicate how underpaid teachers are today.
- The argument above depends on which of the following assumptions about the persons for whom statistics are cited?
- (A) At least one-third of the group of persons who have remained in teaching would today be earning more than \$35,000 a year if they had left teaching.
- (B) The group of persons who left teaching and the group who did not are comparable in terms of factors that determine how much people outside the teaching profession are paid.
- (C) Most of those persons who left teaching did so entirely because of the low salaries teachers earn.
- (D) As a group, those persons who have remained in teaching are abler and more dedicated than the group of persons who left teaching.
- (E) The group of persons who left teaching and who today earn more than \$35,000 a year were more capable teachers than the group who remained in the profession.
14. Some analysts maintain that an embargo by country Litora on the export of a strategic metal to country Zenda, if imposed, would drive up the price of the metal in Zenda at least tenfold. They note that few other countries export the metal and that, with an embargo, Zenda might have to depend on as-yet-unexploited domestic sources of the metal.
- Which of the following, if true, constitutes the most serious objection to the analysis above?
- (A) Litora's economy depends heavily on foreign currency earned by the export of the strategic metal to other countries.
- (B) There are foreign-policy steps that Zenda could take to appease Litora and avoid being subjected to an embargo on the metal.
- (C) Geologists believe that additional deposits of the metal could possibly be found within the territory of Litora.
- (D) Only a small proportion of Zenda's import expenditures is devoted to the import of the metal from Litora.
- (E) In case of an embargo, Zenda could buy the metal indirectly from Litora on the world market at a less than one-third increase in cost.
15. The government should stop permitting tobacco companies to subtract advertising expenses from their revenues in calculating taxable income. Tobacco companies would then have to pay more taxes. As a consequence, they would raise the prices of their products and this price increase would raise the prices of their products and this price increase would discourage tobacco use.
- Which of the following is an additional premise required by the argument above?
- (A) Tobacco companies would not offset the payment of extra taxes by reducing costs in other areas.
- (B) Tobacco companies would not continue to advertise if they were forced to pay higher taxes.
- (C) People would not continue to buy tobacco products if these products were no longer advertised.
- (D) The money the government would gain as a result of the increase in tobacco companies' taxable income would be used to educate the public about the dangers of tobacco use.
- (E) The increase in taxes paid by tobacco companies would be equal to the additional income generated by raising prices.
16. Instead of blaming an airline accident on pilot error, investigators should find out why the error was made by analyzing airplane design, airline management, and pilot-training programs. For only then can



changes be made to ensure that the same type of error does not recur and cause another accident.

Which of the following is a presupposition of the argument above?

- (A) Pilot error is not a contributing factor in most airline accidents.
- (B) Airline companies themselves should be the agents who investigate airline accidents.
- (C) Stricter government regulation of airline companies will make air travel significantly safer.
- (D) Investigators of airline accidents should contribute to the prevention of future accidents.
- (E) Most pilots who make errors in flying will repeat their errors unless they are retrained.

Questions 17-18 are based on the following.

Professor A: We must make a strong moral statement against Country X's policies. Only total divestment—the sale of all stock in companies that have factories or business offices in X—can do this. Therefore, the university should divest totally.

Professor B: Our aim should be to encourage X to change its policies. Partial divestment is the best way to achieve this aim. Therefore, the university should sell its stock only in companies that either sell goods to X's government, or do the majority of their business in X, or treat their workers in X unfairly.

17. Professor A's and Professor B's arguments differ in which of the following ways?
- (A) They state the same goal but propose different ways of achieving it.
  - (B) They state different goals but propose the same way of achieving them.
  - (C) They state different goals and propose different ways of achieving them.
  - (D) They disagree about whether the university should sell any stock at all.
  - (E) They disagree about whether X's policies are objectionable.
18. Which of the following, if true, would be evidence that the university would not be harmed economically if it followed Professor A's recommendation.
- (A) Very few of the companies in which the university owns stocks sell goods to X's government.
  - (B) Most companies that have factories or business offices in X and in which the university owns stock actually do little of their business in X.
  - (C) Some companies that have factories or business offices in X and in which the university owns stock have instituted fair treatment policies for their workers in X at very little additional cost to the companies.
  - (D) The expected financial return to the university from stocks that the university could own under a policy of total divestment is approximately the same as the expected financial return from the same as the expected financial.
  - (E) If the university sold large blocks of stock under a policy of total divestment, the prices of the stocks of the companies whose stocks were sold would probably decrease somewhat.
19. In an effort to go beyond resumes as tools in its search for executives, one leading company has resorted to interviewing the top candidates for a position all together in a single group. This technique is supposed to afford a direct comparison of the candidates with respect to some personal qualities that cannot be gleaned from a resume.
- Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the value of the simultaneous interview technique?
- (A) Resumes do sometimes allow reliable inferences to be made about a candidate's personal qualities.
  - (B) The simultaneous interview could become cumbersome if there were a great many candidates for a position.
  - (C) The more perceptive the interviewer, the more revealing the simultaneous interview is apt to be.
  - (D) There are certain personal qualities that only an extended simultaneous interview can bring out.
  - (E) The simultaneous interview distorts each candidate's response style by inducing stresses unlike any an executive position induces.
20. The Asian American History Association receives approximately 1,000 proposals each year from individuals who wish to present papers at its annual meeting. The association's officers would like to

ensure constant standards of quality in the presentations from year to year. The officers have therefore decided to accept for presentation each year only the best 300 papers selected on the basis of the quality of the proposals submitted.

Of the following, the best criticism of the officers' plan is that the plan assumes that

- (A) Professional associations cannot accept all papers submitted for presentation at their annual meetings.
- (B) The total number of proposals submitted to the association will remain at approximately 1,000 in future years.
- (C) Each proposal submitted to the association deserves to be considered a serious candidate for presentation.
- (D) It is difficult to judge the quality of a paper on the basis of the proposal alone.
- (E) The best 300 papers submitted to the association for presentation will be of the same quality from year to year.

### TEST III

1. Two groups of laboratory mice were injected with cancerous cells. One group's cages were rotated in a disorienting manner. Two-thirds of these mice developed cancers. One-tenth of the mice in stationary cages developed cancers. The researchers concluded that stress enhances the development of cancer in laboratory mice.

The researchers' conclusion logically depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Rotating the cages in disorienting manner produced stress in the mice in those cages.
- (B) The injections given to the two groups of mice were not of equal strength.
- (C) Injecting the mice with cancerous cells caused stress in the mice.
- (D) Even without the injections the mice in the rotated cages would have developed cancers.
- (E) Even the rotation of cages in a manner that is not disorienting is likely to produce stress in mice in those cages.

2. In 1846 about 80 percent of the towns in New York State banned the sale of alcoholic beverages. A recent article about the bans concludes that mid-nineteenth-century supporters of the temperance movement were not residents of remote rural areas, as has often been asserted; rather, they were concentrated in centers of economic opportunity.

Which of the following, if true, best supports the conclusion reached in the article?

- (A) After 1846 the temperance movement grew rapidly and it flourished until the turn of the century.
- (B) Support for the ban on alcohol was strongest in New York towns where the economy was based on new, growing industries.
- (C) Many young New York State farmers supported the ban on alcohol.
- (D) The most adamant opponents of the ban included several affluent factory and mill owners.
- (E) In New York City, which was a commercial center in 1846, the sale of alcoholic beverages was not banned.

3. In 1984 Exco, which sells its products only through mail-order catalogs, began distributing its catalog to people who had never purchased Exco's products, while it continued to distribute the catalog to previous customers. Total dollar sales increased in 1984, but Exco's profits that year were smaller than in 1983.

Which of the following, if true, contributes most to an explanation of Exco's smaller profits in 1984, as compared to 1983?

- (A) There was a two percent increase in 1984 in the sales tax that consumers had to pay on all purchases from the catalog.
- (B) A greater number of catalogs were sent to previous customers than to people who never purchased products from Exco.
- (C) In 1984 Exco's product-manufacturing costs increased by a smaller amount than the products' selling prices increased.
- (D) Customers who never previously purchased products from Exco purchased, on the average, fewer products in 1984 than did previous customers.
- (E) The increase between 1983 and 1984 in the cost of mailing the catalogs was greater than the increase in sales from 1983 to 1984.

4. People living in the undeveloped wilderness area want jobs, and commercial development of the area will create jobs. But if the new commercial development plan is carried out, the wilderness will suffer. Thus the board considering the area's future must choose between the preservation of the wilderness and the wishes of the local people.

The answer to which of the following questions would be LEAST relevant to evaluating whether the board indeed faces the choice the author says it faces?

- (A) Could commercial development be carried out under an alternative plan without damaging the wilderness?
- (B) Would commercial development of the wilderness area significantly benefit people living elsewhere?

- (C) Would the jobs created by the new development plan be filled by the local people?
- (D) Do local people support or oppose commercial development of the wilderness area?
- (E) Can job be provided without commercial development of the wilderness area?

Questions 5-6 are based on the following.

The lobbyists argued that because there is no statistical evidence that breathing other people's tobacco smoke increases the incidence of heart disease or lung cancer in healthy nonsmokers, legislation banning smoking in workplaces cannot be justified on health grounds.

5. The argument reported above would be most seriously weakened if it were true that
  - (A) Breathing smoke-filled air increase the incidence of headaches and coughs in healthy nonsmokers.
  - (B) Most nonsmokers dislike the odor of smoke-filled air.
  - (C) Smoke-filled air is a major source of the dirt that damages computers and other sensitive equipment.
  - (D) Most workers would prefer to have smoking banned in workplaces.
  - (E) Legislation banning smoking in workplaces decreases friction between smoking and nonsmoking workers and is easy to enforce.
6. Of the following, which is the best criticism of the argument reported above?
  - (A) It ignores causes of lung cancer other than smoking.
  - (B) It neglects the damaging effects of smoke-filled air on nonsmokers who are not healthy.
  - (C) It fails to mention the roles played by diet, exercise, and heredity in the development of heart disease.
  - (D) It does not consider the possibility that nonsmokers who breathe smoke-filled air at work may become more concerned about their health.
  - (E) It does not acknowledge that nonsmokers, even those who breathe smoke-filled air at work, are in general healthier than smokers.
7. Which of the following best completes the passage below?

When a project is failing and should be terminated, plan to bring in a new manager. New managers are more likely to terminate the project than are the original managers because \_\_\_\_\_

  - (A) the project may have failed for reasons that the original manager could not have foreseen
  - (B) organizations tend to reward managers who can overcome problems
  - (C) managerial decisions to terminate a project should depend on the likelihood of the project's eventual success
  - (D) the original managers were not necessarily able to overcome problems caused by external events over which they had no control
  - (E) the new managers have no need to justify the earlier decision to maintain the project
8. State X's income-averaging law allows a portion of one's income to be taxed at lower rate than the rate based on one's total taxable income. To use income averaging, the taxpayer must have earned taxable income for a particular year that exceeds 140 percent of his or her average taxable income for the previous three years. People using income averaging owe less tax for that year than they would without income averaging.

Which of the following individuals would be most seriously affected if income averaging were not permitted in computing the taxes owed for current year?

  - (A) Individuals whose income has steadily decreased for the past three years
  - (B) Individuals whose income increased by 50 percent four years ago and has remained the same since then
  - (C) Individuals whose income has doubled this year after remaining about the same for five years
  - (D) Individuals who had no income this year, but did in each of the previous three years
  - (E) Individuals who are retired and whose income has remained about the same for the past ten years
9. According to a recent study, fifteen corporations in the United States that follow a credo of social responsibility are also very profitable. Because of their credos, these fifteen corporations give

generously to charity, follow stringent environmental-protection policies, and have vigorous affirmative-action programs.

Which of the following can be correctly inferred from the statements above?

- (A) Following a credo of social responsibility helps to make a corporation very profitable.
- (B) It is possible for a corporation that follows a credo of social responsibility to be very profitable.
- (C) A corporation that gives generously to charity must be doing so because of its credo of social responsibility.
- (D) Corporations that are very profitable tend to give generously to charity.
- (E) Corporations that have vigorous affirmative-action programs also tend to follow stringent environmental-protection policies.

10. A year after the start an experiment to decrease crime in two high-crime subway stations by the installation of closed-circuit televisions, the experiment is being discontinued, city officials say the program has led to an increase in crime, citing the fact that following the installation, both stations showed increases in the number of crimes reported.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the claim of the city officials that the program has led to an increase in crime?

- (A) The two subway stations had been chosen on the basis subway stations was higher than that of other high-crime subway stations not equipped with closed-circuit-television.
- (B) The rate of increase in crimes reported for two subway stations was higher than that of other high-crime subway stations not equipped with closed-circuit television.
- (C) The percentage of all crimes committed at the two subway stations that were reported rose as a result of increased instances of observations of crime on the closed-circuit televisions.
- (D) The year in which the experiment was conducted was a year in which the total number of crimes reported in the city fell.
- (E) Closed-circuit televisions installed in shops and stores throughout the city have proved to be useful in the prevention of shoplifting and burglaries.

11. A government agency that reimburses its clients for bills they have paid for medical care has had this year's budget cut. To save money without cutting reimbursements or otherwise harming clients financially, it plans to delay reimbursements to clients for forty days, thereby earning \$180 million per year in interest on the reimbursement money.

Which of the following, if true, is the best criticism of the agency's plan?

- (A) Hospitals and physicians typically hold patients responsible for the ultimate payment of their bills.
- (B) The agency cannot save money by cutting staff because it is already understaffed.
- (C) Some clients borrow money to pay their medical bills; they will pay forty extra days of interest on these loans.
- (D) Some clients pay their medical bills immediately, but they often take more than forty days to file with the agency for reimbursement.
- (E) The agency's budget was cut by more than \$180 million last year.

Questions 12-13 are based on the following.

Record companies defend their substitution of laser-read compact discs (CD's) for the much less expensive traditional long-playing vinyl records in their catalogs by claiming that the audio market is ruled by consumer demand for ever-improved sound reproduction rather than by record manufacturers' profit-motivated marketing decisions. But this claim cannot be true, because if it were true, then digital audiotape, which produces even better sound than CD's, would be commercially available from these same record companies, but it is not.

12. Which of the following, if true, best explains how the record companies' claim about the nature of the audio reproduction market could be true and digital audiotape nevertheless be unavailable for the commercial market?

- (A) Most consumers prefer audiotape to long-playing records or CD's because of the tape's durability and compactness.

- (B) Prototypes of digital audiotape have been used to make master tapes of some performances in recording studios.
- (C) The manufacturing technology that underlies the commercial production of CD's requires equipment very similar to that needed for commercial production of digital audiotape.
- (D) Record companies have not yet solved several quality-control problems that have beset attempts to produce digital audiotape in commercial quantities.
- (E) CD's are more expensive than long-playing vinyl records by about the same ratio as digital audiotape cassettes would be more expensive than conventional cassettes.
13. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument against the record companies' claim?
- (A) When CD's were first introduced in the audio-reproduction market, prices were high and selection was poor.
- (B) Record companies are reluctant to attempt commercial production of digital audiotape until profits from the sales of CD's have enabled them to recover their investments in compact-disc manufacturing technology.
- (C) Some CD's have been so much in demand that consumers have experienced long delays in obtaining copies.
- (D) Because CD's work according to principles very different from those that govern conventional recordings, commercial production of CD's requires new kinds of manufacturing technology.
- (E) Any valid comparison of CD audio reproductions to digital audiotape reproductions must be based on identical performances played back on the highest quality disc or tape player.
14. The president of a consulting firm analyzed the decisions made about marketing by her clients and concluded that the decisions were correct only about half of the time.  
The conclusion above depends on the presupposition that
- (A) companies can be successful even when about half of the decisions they make about marketing prove to be wrong
- (B) companies hiring her consulting firm make no more incorrect marketing decisions than do companies in general
- (C) executives consistently making correct marketing decisions rarely enlist the aid of a consulting firm
- (D) marketing decision are just as likely to be correct as they are to be incorrect
- (E) it is possible to classify a marketing decision properly as being either right or wrong
15. It is true that unionized women earn, on average, more than a third more than nonunionized women do. But the unionized women work in industries where wages happen to be high, their nonunionized counterparts in these industries earn about as much as they do. Therefore unionization does not raise women's wages.  
Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?
- (A) Besides wage increases, unions bargain for benefits such as medical insurance and workplace safety.
- (B) The most highly paid women are in executive positions, which are not unionized.
- (C) Wages in many industries vary from one part of the country to another, regardless of whether workers are unionized or not.
- (D) Nonunionized women in an industry often receive income increases as a result of increases won by unions representing women who work for other employers in the same industry.
- (E) The unionization of women who work for one employer in a given industry frequently prompts the unionization of women who work for other employers in the same industry.
16. A violin constructed to have improved sound would sound different from the best-sounding existing violins.  
To professional violinists, a violin that sounds different from the best-sounding existing violins sounds less like a violin and therefore worse than the best-sounding existing violins.  
Professional violinists are the only accepted judges of the sound quality of violins.

Would be the best supported by those statements?

- (A) Only amateur violinists should be asked to judge the sound quality of newly constructed violins.
- (B) Professional violinists supervise the construction of violins.
- (C) The best-sounding existing violins have been in existence for several centuries.
- (D) It is currently impossible to construct a violin that the only accepted judges will evaluate as having improved sound.
- (E) It is possible to construct a violin that sounds better than the best-sounding existing violins to everyone but professional violinists.

17. The fact that several of the largest senior citizens' organizations are constituted almost exclusively of middle-class elderly people has led critics to question the seriousness of those organizations' commitment to speaking out on behalf of the needs of economically disadvantaged elderly people. Which of the following generalizations, if true, would help to substantiate the criticism implicit in the statement above?

- (A) The ideology of an organization tends to reflect the traditional political climate of its locale.
- (B) The needs of disadvantaged elderly people differ in some ways from those of other disadvantaged groups within contemporary society.
- (C) Organized groups are better able to publicize their problems and seek redress than individuals acting alone.
- (D) Middle-class elderly people are more likely to join organizations than are economically disadvantaged elderly people.
- (E) People usually join organizations whose purpose is to further the economic, political, or social interests of their members.

18. Corporate Officer: Last year was an unusually poor one for our chemical division, which has traditionally contributed about 60 percent of the corporation's profits. It is therefore encouraging that there is the following evidence that the pharmaceutical division is growing stronger: it contributed 45 percent of the corporation's profits, up from 20 percent the previous year.

On the basis of the facts stated, which of the following is the best critique of the evidence presented above?

- (A) The increase in the pharmaceutical division's contribution to corporation profits could have resulted largely from the introduction of single, important new product.
- (B) In multidivisional corporations that have pharmaceutical divisions, over half of the corporation's profits usually come from the pharmaceuticals.
- (C) The percentage of the corporation's profits attributable to the pharmaceutical division could have increased even if that division's performance had not improved.
- (D) The information cited does not make it possible to determine whether the 20 percent share of profits cited was itself an improvement over the year before.
- (E) The information cited does not make it possible to compare the performance of the chemical and pharmaceutical divisions in terms of the percent of total profits attributable to each.

19. Identical twins tend to have similar personalities; if environment outweighs heredity in personality development, twins raised together should presumably have more similar personalities than those raised apart. A recent study of identical twins in both situations measured 11 key traits through a questionnaire, and concluded that 7 of the 11 are primarily products of heredity.

Which of the following, if established, would cast the most doubt on the study's results?

- (A) Fewer than half of the pairs of twins studied were raised separately.
- (B) The ages of all of the twins studied fell within a 10-year range.
- (C) Some of the traits that the study attributed to heredity developed in the separately raised twins because those pairs all grew up in similar families.
- (D) Although over half the traits measured were determined to be linked to heredity, the nature of those traits varied widely.
- (E) The 11 traits that were measured constitute a representative sample of larger, generally accepted

pool of key personality traits.

20. When people predict that certain result will not take place unless a certain action is taken, they believe that they have learned that the prediction is correct when the action is taken and the result occurs. On reflection, however, it often becomes clear that the result admits of more than one interpretation. Which of the following, if true, best supports the claims above?
- (A) Judging the success of an action requires specifying the goal of the action.
  - (B) Judging which action to take after a prediction is made requires knowing about other actions that have been successful in similar past situations.
  - (C) Learning whether a certain predictive strategy is good requires knowing the result using that strategy through several trials.
  - (D) Distinguishing a correct prediction and effective action from an incorrect prediction and ineffective action is often impossible.
  - (E) Making a successful prediction requires knowing the facts about the context of that prediction.

#### TEST IV

1. Nearly one in three subscribers to *Financial Forecaster* is a millionaire, and over half are in top management. Shouldn't you subscribe to *Financial Forecaster* now?
- A reader who is neither a millionaire nor in top management would be most likely to act in accordance with the advertisement's suggestion if he or she drew which of the following questionable conclusions invited by the advertisement?
- (A) Among finance-related periodicals, *Financial Forecaster* provides the most detailed financial information.
  - (B) Top managers cannot do their jobs properly without reading *Financial Forecaster*.
  - (C) The advertisement is placed where those who will be likely to read it are millionaires.
  - (D) The subscribers mentioned were helped to become millionaires or join top management by reading *Financial Forecaster*.



- (E) Only those who will in fact become millionaires, or at least top managers, will read the advertisement.

Questions 2-3 are based on the following.

Contrary to the charges made by some of its opponents, the provisions of the new deficit-reduction law for indiscriminate cuts in the federal budget are justified. Opponents should remember that the New Deal pulled this country out of great economic troubles even though some of its programs were later found to be unconstitutional.

2. The author's method of attacking the charges of certain opponents of the new deficit-reduction law is to
- (A) attack the character of the opponents rather than their claim
  - (B) imply an analogy between the law and some New Deal programs
  - (C) point out that the opponents' claims imply a dilemma
  - (D) show that the opponents' reasoning leads to an absurd conclusion
  - (E) show that the New Deal also called for indiscriminate cuts in the federal budget
3. The opponents could effectively defend their position against the author's strategy by pointing out that
- (A) the expertise of those opposing the law is outstanding
  - (B) the lack of justification for the new law does not imply that those who drew it up were either inept or immoral
  - (C) the practical application of the new law will not entail indiscriminate budget cuts
  - (D) economic troubles present at the time of the New Deal were equal in severity to those that have led to the present law
  - (E) the fact that certain flawed programs or laws have improved the economy does not prove that every such program can do so
4. In Millington, a city of 50,000 people, Mercedes Pedrosa, a realtor, calculated that a family with Millington's median family income, \$28,000 a year, could afford to buy Millington's median-priced \$77,000 house. This calculation was based on an 11.2 percent mortgage interest rate and on the realtor's assumption that a family could only afford to pay up to 25 percent of its income for housing. Which of the following corrections of a figure appearing in the passage above, if it were the only correction that needed to be made, would yield a new calculation showing that even incomes below the median family income would enable families in Millington to afford Millington's median-priced house?
- (A) Millington's total population was 45,000 people.
  - (B) Millington's median annual family income was \$27,000.
  - (C) Millington's median-priced house cost \$80,000.
  - (D) The rate at which people in Millington had to pay mortgage interest was only 10 percent.
  - (E) Families in Millington could only afford to pay up to 22 percent of their annual income for housing.
5. 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.
6. Ross: The profitability of Company X, restored to private ownership five years ago, is clear evidence that businesses will always fare better under private than under public ownership.  
Julia: Wrong. A close look at the records shows that X has been profitable since the appointment of a first-class manager, which happened while X was still in the public sector.  
Which of the following best describes the weak point in Ross's claim on which Julia's response focuses?
- (A) The evidence Ross cites comes from only a single observed case, that of Company X.  
(B) The profitability of Company X might be only temporary.  
(C) Ross's statement leaves open the possibility that the cause he cites came after the effect he attributes to it.  
(D) No mention is made of companies that are partly government owned and partly privately owned.  
(E) No exact figures are given for the current profits of Company X.
7. Stronger patent laws are needed to protect inventions from being pirated. With that protection, manufacturers would be encouraged to invest in the development of new products and technologies. Such investment frequently results in an increase in a manufacturer's productivity.  
Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?
- (A) Stronger patent laws tend to benefit financial institutions as well as manufacturers.  
(B) Increased productivity in manufacturing is likely to be accompanied by the creation of more manufacturing jobs.  
(C) Manufacturers will decrease investment in the development of new products and technologies unless there are stronger patent laws.  
(D) The weakness of current patent laws has been a cause of economic recession.  
(E) Stronger patent laws would stimulate improvements in productivity for many manufacturers.
8. Which of the following best completes the passage below?  
At large amusement parks, live shows are used very deliberately to influence crowd movements. Lunchtime performances relieve the pressure on a park's restaurants. Evening performances have a rather different purpose: to encourage visitors to stay for supper. Behind this surface divergence in immediate purpose there is the unified underlying goal of \_\_\_\_\_
- (A) keeping the lines at the various rides short by drawing off part of the crowd  
(B) enhancing revenue by attracting people who come only for the live shows and then leave the park  
(C) avoiding as far as possible traffic jams caused by visitors entering or leaving the park  
(D) encouraging as many people as possible to come to the park in order to eat at the restaurants  
(E) utilizing the restaurants at optimal levels for as much of the day as possible
9. James weighs more than Kelly.  
Luis weighs more than Mark.  
Mark weighs less than Ned.  
Kelly and Ned are exactly the same weight.  
If the information above is true, which of the following must also be true?
- (A) Luis weighs more than Ned.  
(B) Luis weighs more than James.  
(C) Kelly weighs less than Luis.  
(D) James weighs more than Mark.  
(E) Kelly weighs less than Mark.

Questions 10-11 are based on the following.

Partly because of bad weather, but also partly because some major pepper growers have switched to high-priced cocoa, world production of pepper has been running well below worldwide sales for three years. Pepper is consequently in relatively short supply. The price of pepper has soared in response: it now equals that of cocoa.

10. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- (A) Pepper is a profitable crop only if it is grown on a large scale.
  - (B) World consumption of pepper has been unusually high for three years.
  - (C) World production of pepper will return to previous levels once normal weather returns.
  - (D) Surplus stocks of pepper have been reduced in the past three years.
  - (E) The profits that the growers of pepper have made in the past three years have been unprecedented.
11. Some observers have concluded that the rise in the price of pepper means that the switch by some growers from pepper to cocoa left those growers no better off than if none of them had switched; this conclusion, however, is unwarranted because it can be inferred to be likely that
- (A) those growers could not have foreseen how high the price of pepper would go
  - (B) the initial cost involved in switching from pepper to cocoa is substantial
  - (C) supplies of pepper would not be as low as they are if those growers had not switched crops
  - (D) cocoa crops are as susceptible to being reduced by bad weather as are pepper crops
  - (E) as more growers turn to growing cocoa, cocoa supplies will increase and the price of cocoa will fall precipitously
12. Using computer techniques, researchers analyze layers of paint that lie buried beneath the surface layers of old paintings. They claim, for example, that additional mountainous scenery once appeared in Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, which was later painted over. Skeptics reply to these claims, however, that X-ray examinations of the *Mona Lisa* do not show hidden mountains.
- Which of the following, if true, would tend most to weaken the force of the skeptics' objections?
- (A) There is no written or anecdotal record that Leonardo da Vinci ever painted over major areas of his *Mona Lisa*.
  - (B) Painters of da Vinci's time commonly created images of mountainous scenery in the backgrounds of portraits like the *Mona Lisa*.
  - (C) No one knows for certain what parts of the *Mona Lisa* may have been painted by da Vinci's assistants rather than by da Vinci himself.
  - (D) Infrared photography of the *Mona Lisa* has revealed no trace of hidden mountainous scenery.
  - (E) Analysis relying on X-rays only has the capacity to detect lead-based white pigments in layers of paint beneath a painting's surface layers.
13. While Governor Verdant has been in office, the state's budget has increased by an average of 6 percent each year. While the previous governor was in office, the state's budget increased by an average of 11.5 percent each year. Obviously, the austere budgets during Governor Verdant's term have caused the slowdown in the growth in state spending.
- Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion drawn above?
- (A) The rate of inflation in the state averaged 10 percent each year during the previous governor's term in office and 3 percent each year during Verdant's term.
  - (B) Both federal and state income tax rates have been lowered considerably during Verdant's term in office.
  - (C) In each year of Verdant's term in office, the state's budget has shown some increase in spending over the previous year.
  - (D) During Verdant's term in office, the state has either discontinued or begun to charge private citizens for numerous services that the state offered free to citizens during the previous governor's term.
  - (E) During the previous governor's term in office, the state introduced several so-called "austerity" budgets intended to reduce the growth in state spending.
14. Federal agricultural programs aimed at benefiting one group whose livelihood depends on farming often

end up harming another such group.

Which of the following statements provides support for the claim above?

- I. An effort to help feed-grain producers resulted in higher prices for their crops, but the higher prices decreased the profits of livestock producers.
- II. In order to reduce crop surpluses and increase prices, growers of certain crops were paid to leave a portion of their land idle, but the reduction was not achieved because improvements in efficiency resulted in higher production on the land in use.
- III. Many farm workers were put out of work when a program meant to raise the price of grain provided grain growers with an incentive to reduce production by giving them surplus grain from government reserves.

- (A) I, but not II and not III
- (B) II, but not I and not III
- (C) I and III, but not II
- (D) II and III, but not I
- (E) I, II and III

15. Technological education is worsening. People between eighteen and twenty-four, who are just emerging from their formal education, are more likely to be technologically illiterate than somewhat older adults. And yet, issues for public referenda will increasingly involve aspects of technology.

Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn from the statements above?

- (A) If all young people are to make informed decisions on public referenda, many of them must learn more about technology.
- (B) Thorough studies of technological issues and innovations should be made a required part of the public and private school curriculum.
- (C) It should be suggested that prospective voters attend applied science courses in order to acquire a minimal competency in technical matters.
- (D) If young people are not to be overly influenced by famous technocrats, they must increase their knowledge of pure science.
- (E) On public referenda issues, young people tend to confuse real or probable technologies with impossible ideals.

16. In a political system with only two major parties, the entrance of a third-party candidate into an election race damages the chances of only one of the two major candidates. The third-party candidate always attracts some of the voters who might otherwise have voted for one of the two major candidates, but not voters who support the other candidate. Since a third-party candidacy affects the two major candidates unequally, for reasons neither of them has any control over, the practice is unfair and should not be allowed.

If the factual information in the passage above is true, which of the following can be most reliably inferred from it?

- (A) If the political platform of the third party is a compromise position between that of the two major parties, the third party will draw its voters equally from the two major parties.
- (B) If, before the emergence of a third party, voters were divided equally between the two major parties, neither of the major parties is likely to capture much more than one-half of the vote.
- (C) A third-party candidate will not capture the votes of new voters who have never voted for candidates of either of the two major parties.
- (D) The political stance of a third party will be more radical than that of either of the two major parties.
- (E) The founders of a third party are likely to be a coalition consisting of former leaders of the two major parties.

17. Companies considering new cost-cutting manufacturing processes often compare the projected results of making the investment against the alternative of not making the investment with costs, selling prices, and share of market remaining constant.

Which of the following, assuming that each is a realistic possibility, constitutes the most serious

disadvantage for companies of using the method above for evaluating the financial benefit of new manufacturing processes?

- (A) The costs of materials required by the new process might not be known with certainty.
  - (B) In several years interest rates might go down, reducing the interest costs of borrowing money to pay for the investment.
  - (C) Some cost-cutting processes might require such expensive investments that there would be no net gain for many years, until the investment was paid for by savings in the manufacturing process.
  - (D) Competitors that do invest in a new process might reduce their selling prices and thus take market share away from companies that do not.
  - (E) The period of year chosen for averaging out the cost of the investment might be somewhat longer or shorter, thus affecting the result.
18. 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.

Questions 19-20 are based on the following.

Archaeologists seeking the location of a legendary siege and destruction of a city are excavating in several possible places, including a middle and a lower layer of a large mound. The bottom of the middle layer contains some pieces of pottery of type 3, known to be from a later period than the time of the destruction of the city, but the lower layer does not.

19. Which of the following hypotheses is best supported by the evidence above?
- (A) The lower layer contains the remains of the city where the siege took place.
  - (B) The legend confuses stories from two different historical periods.
  - (C) The middle layer does not represent the period of the siege.
  - (D) The siege lasted for a long time before the city was destroyed.
  - (E) The pottery of type 3 was imported to the city by traders.
20. The force of the evidence cited above is most seriously weakened if which of the following is true?
- (A) Gerbils, small animals long native to the area, dig large burrows into which objects can fall when the burrows collapse.
  - (B) Pottery of types 1 and 2, found in the lower level, was used in the cities from which, according to the legend, the besieging forces came.
  - (C) Several pieces of stone from a lower-layer wall have been found incorporated into the remains of a building in the middle layer.
  - (D) Both the middle and the lower layer show evidence of large-scale destruction of habitations by fire.
  - (E) Bronze ax heads of a type used at the time of the siege were found in the lower level of excavation.

TEST I

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B  | 2. C  | 3. E  | 4. E  | 5. D  |
| 6. C  | 7. B  | 8. D  | 9. E  | 10. A |
| 11. D | 12. C | 13. E | 14. B | 15. A |
| 16. C | 17. C | 18. A | 19. D | 20. E |

TEST II

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B  | 2. C  | 3. E  | 4. E  | 5. C  |
| 6. A  | 7. D  | 8. D  | 9. E  | 10. D |
| 11. B | 12. B | 13. B | 14. E | 15. A |
| 16. D | 17. C | 18. D | 19. E | 20. E |

TEST III

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A  | 2. B  | 3. E  | 4. B  | 5. A  |
| 6. B  | 7. E  | 8. C  | 9. B  | 10. C |
| 11. C | 12. D | 13. B | 14. E | 15. D |
| 16. D | 17. E | 18. C | 19. C | 20. D |

TEST IV

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D  | 2. B  | 3. E  | 4. D  | 5. A  |
| 6. C  | 7. E  | 8. E  | 9. D  | 10. D |
| 11. C | 12. E | 13. A | 14. C | 15. A |
| 16. B | 17. D | 18. C | 19. C | 20. A |