



CR workshop 31 Aug

Special class



Critical Reasoning
Questions

Q1. Two paleontologists, Dr Tyson and Dr. Rees, disagree over the interpretation of certain footprints that were left among other footprints in hardened volcanic ash at site G. Dr. Tyson claims they are clearly early hominid footprints since they show human characteristics: a squarish heel and a big toe immediately adjacent to the next toe. However, since the footprints indicate that if hominids made those prints they would have had to walk in an unexpected cross-stepping manner, by placing the left foot to the right of the right foot. Dr. Rees rejects Dr. Tyson's conclusion.

Which one of the following, if true, most seriously undermines Dr. Tyson's conclusion?

human like

- (A) The foot prints showing human characteristics were clearly those of at least two distinct individuals. C unclear
- (B) Certain species of bears had feet very like human feet, except that the outside toe on each foot was the biggest toe and the innermost toe was the smallest toe.
- (C) Footprints shaped like a human's that do not show a cross-stepping pattern exist at site M which is a mile away from site G, and the two sets of footprints are contemporaneous. C
- (D) When the moist volcanic ash became sealed under additional layers of ash before hardening, some details of some of the footprints were erased.

footprints Human



∴ C → human pre



BUT

→ (feet had cross struc)
∴ Rees disagreed



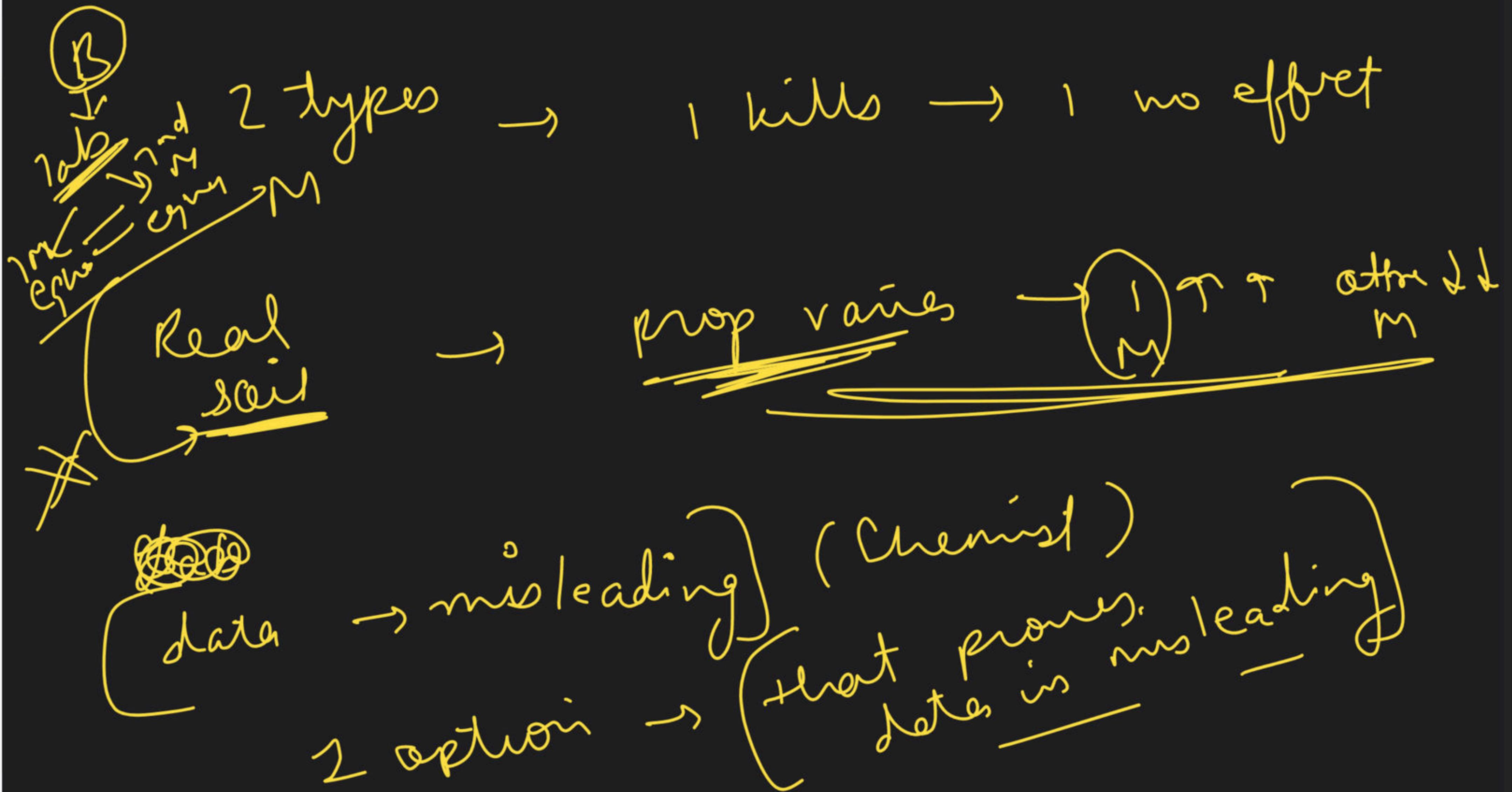
[prove → prints are not human
option →

Many (generic)

Q2. Chemist: The molecules of a certain weed-killer are always present in two forms, one the mirror image of the other. One form of the molecule kills weeds, while the other has no effect on them. As a result, the effectiveness of the weed-killer in a given situation is heavily influenced by which of the two forms is more concentrated in the soil, which in turn varies widely because local soil conditions will usually favor the breakdown of one form or the other. Thus, much of the data on the effects of this weed-killer are probably misleading.

Which one of the following, if true, most strengthens the chemist's argument?

- (A) Data on the weed-killer's effects that rely solely on the examination of the effects of only one of the two forms of the weed-killer's molecules will almost certainly be misleading.
- (B) Almost all of the data on the effects of the weed-killer are drawn from laboratory studies in which both forms of the weed-killer's molecules are equally concentrated in the soil and equally likely to break down in that soil. *overhead (R'S)*
- (C) Of the two forms of the weed-killer's molecules, the one that kills weeds is found in most local soil conditions to be the more concentrated form. *Too narrow*
- (D) The data on the effects of the weed-killer are drawn from studies of the weed-killer under a variety of soil conditions similar to those in which the weed-killer is normally applied. *Data is good*



Q3. Marvin's behavior at the party last night is fascinating in that there is no evidence that he drank the entire container of punch despite the fact that he was the only person known to have been by the punchbowl between the time it was filled and the time it was observed to be empty. If Marvin had drunk the entire bowl, then some of the punch would inevitably have spilled on the tile, but I examined the tile carefully and found no evidence of spilled punch. Thus Marvin must not have drunk the entire punchbowl.

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

- (A) The person examining the tile for evidence of spilled punch has been able to detect such evidence in considerably more obscure, hidden places.
- (B) Most large drinks that have been imbibed at parties result in significant spillage. generic
- (C) At certain raucous parties like the party in question, some punchbowls are merely thrown out the window as part of a prank. noisy in elevator
- (D) Many of the other telltale signs of a punchbowl's being consumed were found.

A → [M did not drink all P]
option → prove that M had not drunk

If M drank all → spill

No spill → ∴ M did not drink all P

A

no spill ∴ no drink



Q4. Johnson is on firm ground when he asserts that the early editors of Dickinson's poetry often distorted her intentions. Yet Johnson's own, more faithful, text is still guilty of its own forms of distortion. To standardize Dickinson's often indecipherable handwritten punctuation by the use of the dash is to render permanent a casual mode of poetic phrasing that Dickinson surely never expected to see in print. It implies that Dickinson chose the dash as her typical mark of punctuation when, in fact, she apparently never made any definitive choice at all.

Which of the following best summarizes the author's main point?

"dash"

- A. Although Johnson is right in criticizing Dickinson's early editors for their distortion of her work, his own text is guilty of equally serious distortions.
- B. Johnson's use of the dash in his text of Dickinson's poetry misleads readers about the poet's intentions.
- C. Because Dickinson never expected her poetry to be published, virtually any attempt at editing it must run counter to her intentions.
- D. Dickinson's editors, including Johnson, have failed to deal adequately with the problem of deciphering Dickinson's handwritten manuscripts.

(no info) scope

true "dash"

accidently

Q5. A certain variety of spear thistle, a weed that quickly spreads across grasslands, was inadvertently introduced into Canada from the United Kingdom in the late 1960's. This weed takes nutrients and moisture from the soil that would otherwise go to timothy grass, the most common Canadian grass varietal. To help track the spread of spear thistle, the Canadian government has released a fact sheet to farmers to help them identify the weed—the fact sheets contain pictures of the weed and explain its effect on soil; the sheets also ask farmers to report any outgrowths of the weed found on their land.

Which of the following, if true, would provide the most support for the prediction that the agencies' action will have its intended effect?

out of scope

- (A) The spear thistle is one of several foreign weed species that draws nutrients from the soil of Canadian farmers.
- (B) The animals that graze on timothy grass on Canadian farms are uninterested in eating spear thistle because of its thorns. *deviating my focus (S → A) & mention Report*
- (C) The spear thistle leaves spiny thorns on the ground which can poke holes in timothy grass.
- (D) Most Canadian farmers use timothy grass as the main varietal with which to feed and nourish their livestock.

farmers want
to avoid

TG
T

→ report after checking
fs

T harms TG

Fact sheets → help ID (T)

farmers are familiar with TG
will report back to group about option that proves

general

Q6. Until recently it was believed that weight training did not help children but in fact did harm and possibly stunted their growth. A new study has determined that weight training among children between ages 6 and 18 helped them grow stronger even though they did not gain muscle mass like adults. Therefore our government should require weight training for all children in public schools who are between the ages of 6 and 18.

is not going
to help

Which one of the following statements, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) The school year is only nine months of the year, and with children, weight training must be done on a consistent basis all year round. A home-based program is required for success. new info
- (B) Children do not respond positively to government requirements and low morale may adversely affect results of any government-instituted weight training requirements.
- (C) The study was performed with subjects from only one geographic location where weight training is more culturally acceptable. specific
- (D) The gain in strength over a nine-month school year will be minimal. It takes at least a year for the children to show significant results from weight training.

Q7. Fossil-fuel producers say that it would be prohibitively expensive to reduce levels of carbon dioxide emitted by the use of fossil fuels enough to halt global warming. This claim is probably false. Several years ago, the chemical industry said that finding an economical alternative to the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) destroying the ozone layer would be impossible. Yet once the industry was forced, by international agreements, to find substitutes for CFCs, it managed to phase them out completely well before the mandated deadline, in many cases at a profit.

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

no mention of expenses | profit

- (A) In the time since the chemical industry phased out CFCs, the destruction of the ozone layer by CFCs has virtually halted, but the levels of carbon dioxide emitted by the use of fossil fuels have continued to increase.
- (B) In some countries, the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the use of fossil fuels has already been reduced without prohibitive expense, but at some cost in convenience to the users of such fuels. *New angle*
- (C) If international agreements forced fossil-fuel producers to find ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions enough to halt global warming, the fossil-fuel producers could find substitutes for fossil fuels *no mention of expense*
- (D) There are ways of reducing carbon dioxide emissions that could halt global warming without hurting profits of fossil-fuel producers significantly more than phasing out CFCs hurt those of the chemical industry.

CFC phase out → Successful
[FF pro → cost to eli CO₂ ↑]

→ optimism
→ cost
CO₂ without
with cost
driving
vis
not expensive → profits will
be retained
this claim
propo (probably false)
argument

Q8. Scientist: My peers have said that my theory regarding molecular cohesion in glass is based on sheer conjecture and has no experimental basis. This is simply not true. I've based my theory on several findings that have been published recently by reputable research organizations. Even though I have not reviewed every detail of their experiments, I am confident in their work. Besides, you may recall that I was asked to develop theories on molecular cohesion in wood fibers five years ago and I used findings from the same labs then as well.

The scientist's argument is LEAST vulnerable to which one of the following criticisms?

- (A) It assumes that the experiments done by the research organizations are unaffected by bias or human error. ✓
- (B) It bases a conclusion about the scientific findings of the research organizations on uncertain recollections.
- (C) It assumes that the experiments done by the research organizations are the only work necessary to develop a scientific theory. ✓
- (D) It hastily concludes that the experiments done by the research organizations are accurate, without having studied them in detail. ✓

3 → criticise the argu → valid criticism
GP

Peers say projection
Since he used reputable labs
he is confident about results
as he used same labs before also

Q9. Asbestos, an almost indestructible mineral once installed as building insulation, poses no health risk unless the asbestos is disturbed and asbestos fibers are released into the environment. Since removing asbestos from buildings disturbs it, thereby releasing asbestos fibers, the government should not require removal of all asbestos insulation.

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

A

- (A) Asbestos is inevitably disturbed by building renovations or building demolition.
- (B) Asbestos can post a health threat to workers who remove it without wearing required protective gear.
- (C) Some kinds of asbestos, when disturbed, pose greater health risks than do other kinds.
- (D) Much of the time, removed asbestos is buried in landfills and forgotten with no guarantee that it will not be disturbed again.

implied meaning

govt policy

no men of govt
compa is not going
to help me

Q10. To avoid a hostile takeover attempt, the board of directors of Wellco, Inc., a provider of life and health insurance, planned to take out large loans and use them to purchase a publishing company, a chocolate factory, and a nationwide chain of movie theaters. The directors anticipated that these purchases initially would plunge the corporation deep into debt, rendering it unattractive to those who wanted to take it over, but that steadily rising insurance rates would allow the company to pay off the debt within five years. Meanwhile, revenues from the three new businesses would enable the corporation as a whole to continue to meet its increased operating expenses. Ultimately, according to the directors' plan, the diversification would strengthen the corporation by varying the sources and schedules of its annual revenues.

Which of the following, assuming that all are equally possible, would most enhance the chances of the plan's success?

- ~~(A) A widespread drought decreases the availability of cacao beans, from which chocolate is manufactured, driving up chocolate prices worldwide.~~ ↑↑
revenue from choc ↑↑
- ~~(B) New government regulations require a 30 percent across-the-board rate rollback of all insurance companies, to begin immediately and to be completed within a five-year period.~~ ↑↑
Reduction in
3 business part
- ~~(C) Congress enacts a statute, effective after six months, making it illegal for any parent not to carry health insurance coverage for his or her child.~~ means → health ins becomes compulsory for kids
- ~~(D) Large-screen televisions drop dramatically in price due to surprise alterations in trade barriers with Japan; movie theater attendance dwindles as a consequence.~~ ↓↓
revenue ↓↓
boosts the revenue

heavy debt → buy 3

buy ③ busi → go in heavy debt
new revenue \downarrow
+ rising
of manuf
rates
1 option → prove → that plan
will work

Answers

A1) B

A2) B

A3) A

A4) B

A5) D

A6) A

A7) D

A8) B

A9) D

A10) C



Thank You