

Advanced Critical Reasoning | Nikita Ma'am | Aug 8

Special class

RODHA • Aug 8, 2025

Eustress
↙
Good

Advanced CR Workshop

-Nikita Gupta

Is this happening with you?

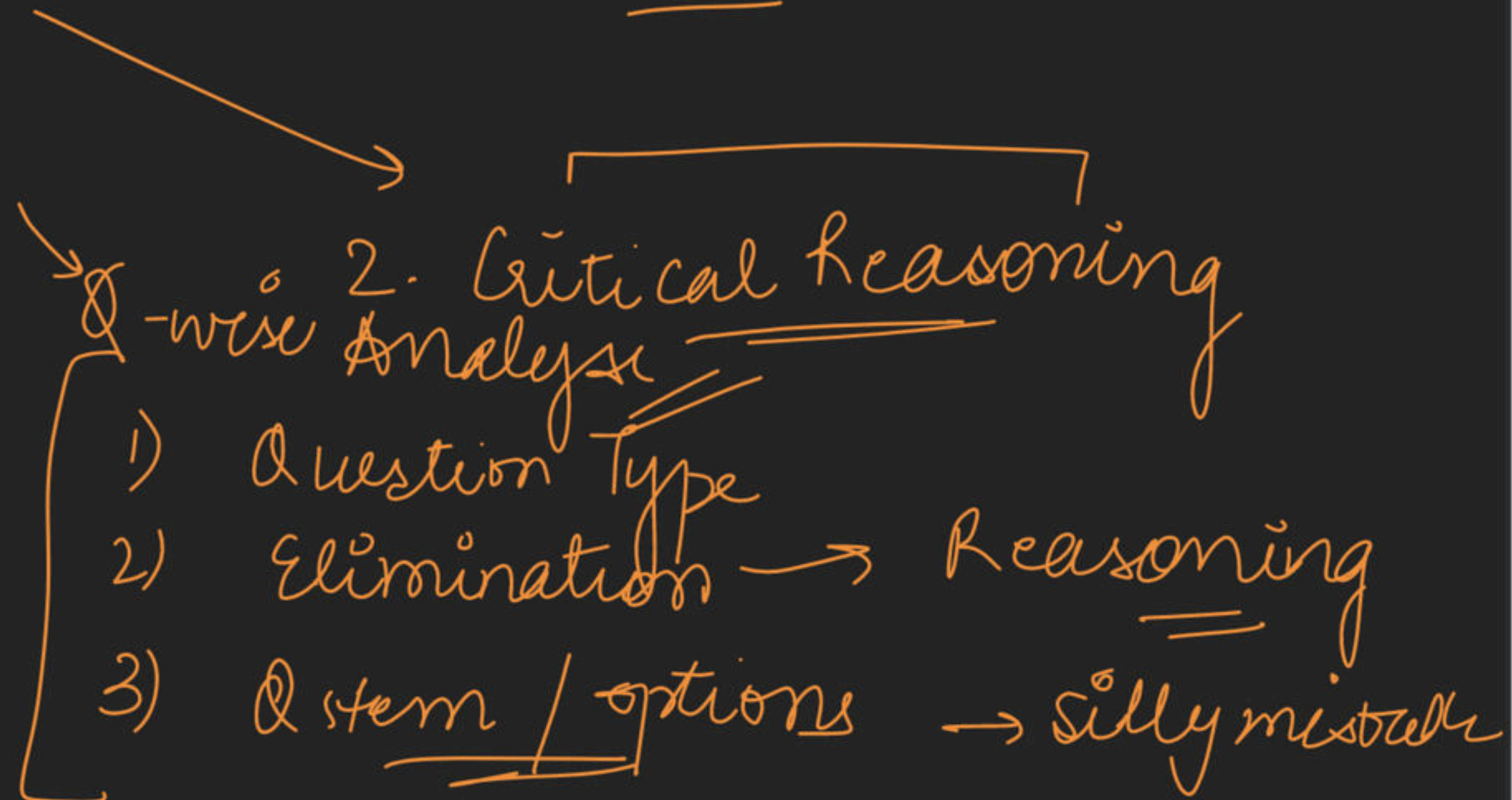
Me after guessing the answer on a multiple choice question.



Question 2: Provide your reasoning for your answer in question 1.



1. Elimination with Justification



Rodha

foragers —
food
hunters



② Harvester-ant colonies live for fifteen to twenty years, though individual worker ants live only a year. The way a colony behaves changes steadily in a predictable pattern as the colony grows older and larger. For the first few years, the foragers behave quite aggressively, searching out and vigorously defending new food sources, but once a colony has reached a certain size, its foragers become considerably less aggressive.

system

If the statements above are true, which of the following can most properly be concluded based on them?

①

evidence

- ~~A.~~ [As a result of pressure from neighbors, some colonies do not grow larger as they become older. *Alien*]
- ~~B.~~ Unpredictable changes in a colony's environment can cause changes in the tasks that the colony must perform if it is to continue to survive. *Out of scope / opp-3*
- ~~C.~~ The reason a mature colony goes out of existence is that younger, more aggressive colonies successfully outcompete it for food. *17*
- ~~D.~~ The pattern of changing behavior that a colony displays does not arise from a change in the behavior of any individual worker ant or group of worker ants. *39%*

40%

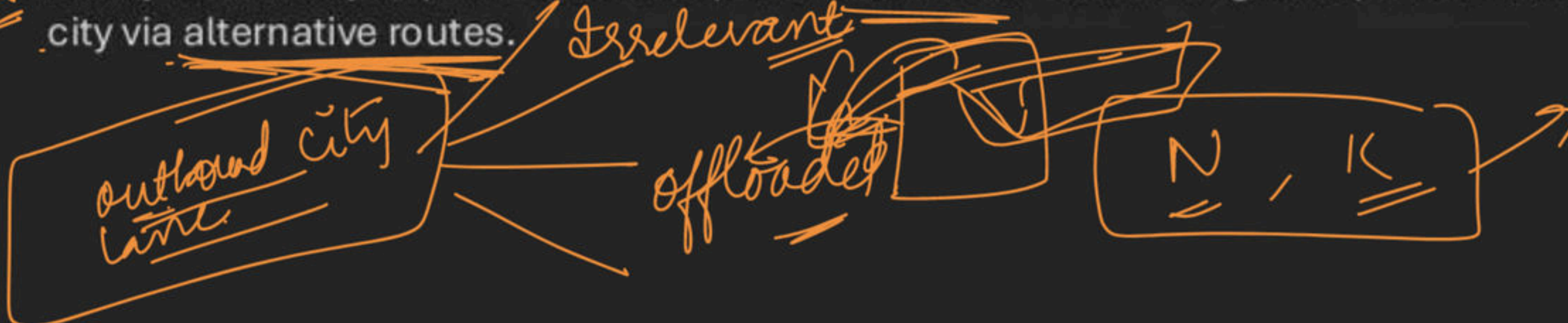
A logistics report shows that a dual-lane industrial access road to the port of Easterport has experienced faster degradation on the inbound lane than on the outbound lane. This is despite equal traffic volumes in both directions, with both lanes mainly serving large freight vehicles.

Which of the following, if true, most helps explain the faster wear on the inbound lane?

- 7 A. The total number of freight trips to and from Eastport has increased significantly over the last decade.
- 3 B. The inbound lane experiences greater road damage during the monsoon season than the outbound lane does.
- 14 C. Trucks entering Eastport tend to be fully loaded, whereas outbound trucks are often empty or only partially loaded.
- 11 D. Heavy machinery imported into Eastport is offloaded before being transported out of the city via alternative routes.

Resolving the discrepancy

Easy



Music educators agree that for a child to make sustained progress in learning the piano, the child must be able to practice regularly at home. High-quality instruments, however, are expensive, and purchasing one is only justifiable if the child proves to have both talent and perseverance, traits that are difficult to assess before lessons begin. As a result, parents are advised to purchase a low-cost secondhand piano first and to upgrade only if the child demonstrates consistent ability and interest.

Which of the following would be most relevant to determine whether the plan recommended for parents is likely to succeed?

- A. Whether children with innate musical sensitivity are discouraged by poor tone quality in practice instruments.
- B. Whether most reputable teachers require that students have access to any piano, regardless of its quality.
- C. Whether many children experience an initial burst of interest in piano that fades regardless of instrument quality.
- D. Whether some parents feel financial pressure to justify piano costs by demanding faster results from their children.

Yes → Plan fail

No → Plan succeed

Yes → redundant does not

No → High quality

Researchers have long noted strange grooves near the gum lines on dental remains of some early humans. The marks are absent from the teeth of modern-day toothpick users, and have therefore been assumed ~~not~~ to present evidence of tooth picking where they have been present. But an anthropologist has recently proposed that the early humans used grass stalks, which, unlike wood, contain abrasive silica, a substance that would facilitate the development of the grooves.

Which of the following would, if found to be true, be most useful to the evaluation of the anthropologist's hypothesis?

- A. The dental remains that have the type of grooves in question almost as commonly show signs of tooth decay as do the remains that lack the grooves.
- B. Dental remains of some of the early humans without the grooves have been found at places where the available grass could have been suitable for tooth picking during their lifetimes.
- C. The grooves occur on the teeth of some early humans whose remains were found at places where no grass suitable for tooth picking would have been obtainable during their lifetimes.
- D. Abrasive silica derived from grasses and other, similar plants could be useful in the removal of cavity-causing plaque from humans' teeth.



Most of Western music since the Renaissance has been based on a seven-note scale known as the diatonic scale, but when did the scale originate? A fragment of a bone flute excavated at a Neanderthal campsite has four holes, which are spaced in exactly the right way for playing the third through sixth notes of a diatonic scale. **The entire flute must surely have had more holes**, and the flute was made from a bone that was long enough for these additional holes to have allowed a complete diatonic scale to be played. **Therefore, the Neanderthals who made the flute probably used a diatonic musical scale.**

main conclusion speculation

Boldface

In the argument given, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

Fact

Opinion Premise
Evidence Conclusion

Context

- A. The first is presented as evidence that is confirmed by data presented elsewhere in the argument given; the second states a hypothesis that this evidence is used to undermine.
- B. The first is an opinion, for which no supporting evidence is presented in the argument given, that is used to support the main conclusion of the argument; the second is that main conclusion.
- C. The first describes a discovery as undermining the position against which the argument is directed; the second states the main conclusion of the argument.
- D. The first is a preliminary conclusion drawn on the basis of evidence presented elsewhere in the argument given; the second is the main conclusion that this preliminary conclusion supports.

Statistician: Changes in the Sun's luminosity correlate exceedingly well with average land temperatures on Earth. Clearly—and contrary to accepted opinion among meteorologists—the Sun's luminosity essentially controls land temperatures on Earth.

Meteorologist: I disagree. Any professional meteorologist will tell you that in a system as complicated as that giving rise to the climate, no significant aspect can be controlled by a single variable

The rejection by the meteorologist of the statistician's conclusion employs which one of the following techniques of argumentation?

- A. supporting a conclusion about a specific case by invoking a relevant generalization
- B. producing a single counterexample that establishes that a generalization is false as state
- C. reanalyzing a correlation as reflecting the multiple effects of a single cause
- D. rejecting a conclusion because it is a proposition that cannot be experimentally tested

Rodha

As part of an economic development plan, Country Y has made a great effort over the last twenty years to increase the number of new drugs and medical devices produced by its companies—even though there have been budget cuts in some areas. However, despite the increases in government grants and tax incentives, the number of new drugs and devices approved by the government regulatory agency has actually dropped by 30 percent over ten years—even though the approval process has not changed nor the diligence with which it is carried out.

over the last 20 years

Which of the following, if true, would most help to explain why the 30 percent drop has occurred?

- ~~A.~~ Shortage of staff Funding for staffing of the medical regulatory agency in Country Y fell by 25 percent over the last fifteen years. 22
- ~~B.~~ New drugs typically require 1-10 years to be developed for market. 48
- ~~C.~~ Research companies' spending on drugs fell relative to spending on medical devices during this period. 23
- ~~D.~~ The number of graduates from pharmacy schools in Country Y decreased by 10 percent in the last fifteen years. 7

B. Pharma, M. Pharma, R&D development

Trucking company owner: Theft of trucks containing valuable cargo is a serious problem. A new device produces radio signals that allow police to track stolen vehicles, and the recovery rate for stolen cargo in trucks equipped with the device is impressive. The device is too expensive to install in every truck, so we plan to install it in half of our trucks. Using those trucks for the most valuable cargo should largely eliminate losses from theft.

Rodha

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the trucking company owner's expectation about the results of implementing the plan?

A. Some insurance companies charge less to insure cargoes transported in trucks protected by the device. 12%

B. Most stolen trucks are eventually found, but unless a stolen truck is found very soon after it is taken, the likelihood that the trucking company will recover any of its cargo is very low. 12%

C. Thieves generally avoid trucks belonging to trucking companies that are known to have installed the device in a large proportion of their trucks. 58%

D. The manufacturer of the device offers a Five-year warranty on each unit sold, a longer warranty than any that is offered on any competing antitheft device. 71%

speed of recovery

sidetrack

Distractor

Artistic success as an actor is directly dependent on how well an actor has developed his craft. This has been demonstrated by the discovery of a positive relationship between the number of classes taken by an actor and the number of professional productions in which that actor has appeared in the past two years.

Rodha

self-reporting

Each of the following, if true, casts the LEAST doubt on the author's argument about artistic success for actors?

- A. The figures for the number of classes taken were based solely on information provided by actors. *data accuracy*
- B. Success as an actor cannot necessarily be judged exclusively by recent credits.
- C. For most successful actors, it is not the quantity but the quality of their classes that has helped to develop their craft.
- D. There is no relationship between the number of professional productions in which an actor has appeared and true artistic success.

core logic

Scenario:

In the past decade, the inmate population of Ravenhurst County Jail has grown steadily.

However, official records show no rise in either the number of criminal trials held or in conviction rates during that period. Hence, the conclusion is drawn that a higher proportion of those convicted are now receiving prison sentences, which accounts for the rising inmate population.

decade

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

- A. Judges in Ravenhurst have increasingly shifted toward alternative sentencing options such as community service and probation.
- B. A reform in the judicial code a decade ago increased the mandatory minimum sentence length for several crimes.
- C. Many individuals are now spending longer periods in pretrial detention due to backlog and legal delays.
- D. The number of repeat offenders returned to prison for violating parole conditions has grown significantly in recent years.

prisons

inmates

Cocoa cultivated beneath the rainforest canopy using organic techniques earns a price premium. However, the certification process is laborious, and the premium (about 30%) is outweighed by the double yield achieved by conventional sun-grown cocoa. Thus, using standard methods is financially wiser for most farmers.

Rodha

30% ← X → org

2X → non-organic

The argument above depends on which of the following assumptions?

- A. Demand for organic cacao will not rise sharply enough in the near future to offset its lower yield.
- B. The added cost of fertilizers and pesticides used in sun-grown farming does not outweigh the benefits of higher yield.
- C. Most consumers do not consider the environmental impact of cacao farming when making purchasing decisions.
- D. Local government policies neither significantly subsidize organic farming nor penalize the use of chemicals.

① Structure the argu

② Assumptions (Identify)

③ option that tests assumption

④ Eliminate



Thank You 😊

strong

weaken

3-4 →