

GMAT 2025

WBA FASTRACK

Lecture- 02

VERBAL Ability

Critical Reasoning – 1

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TOPICS

to be covered

- 1 Introduction to Critical Reasoning
- 2 Basic Terms used; Deconstructing Arguments
- 3 Learning to analyse Arguments + Questions

Question 1

You have been given a sentence with a word highlighted. From the options, choose the word that is most inappropriate in the given context and mark that as your answer.

Negotiations seemed to have reached an impasse.

A. Halt

B. Deadlock - *Synonym*

C. Standstill

✓ D. ~~Unfold~~



Question 2

You have been given a sentence with a word highlighted. From the options, choose the word that is most inappropriate in the given context and mark that as your answer.

Ratan took us to his home via a **devious** route.

- A. Serpentine
- ✓ B. Straight - *antonym*
- C. Circuitous
- D. Winding



Topic: Critical Reasoning – 1



Critical Reasoning 1





DI LR → Non-verbal



**Verbal
Reasoning**





Logic?

What is Reasoning?



MBA
Wallah

3 Idiots





What is a reasoning?





“

Reasoning is a special type of thinking in which we think over some facts in order to arrive at a conclusion.

”



What is 'Verbal'?



“

Verbal means ‘related to words or language’.

”



What is 'Verbal Reasoning'?



“

Those aspects of reasoning
that are ‘related’ to language.

”



Basic Terms Used





Basic Terms Used

1. Statement
 - a. Conclusion
 - b. Premise
2. Argument

Logic = Common sense

Statement

- A group of words that affirms or denies something.

It is raining.

It is not raining.

Conclusion

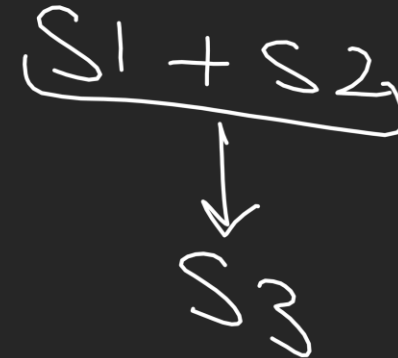
Premise

- A special type of statement that receives the support from some other statement.

S_1 / Identical twins often have different IQ test scores. [^{S_2} Yet, such twins inherit the same genes.]

S_3 [So, environment must play some part in determining IQ.]

→ Conclusion



- A special type of statement that provides support to some other statement.
- Also known as **reason** or **basis**.

S1 [Global warming is real] [because the most reputable science points in that direction] S2

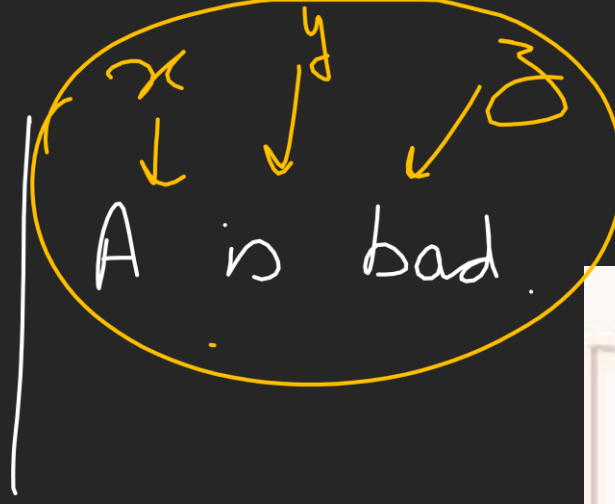
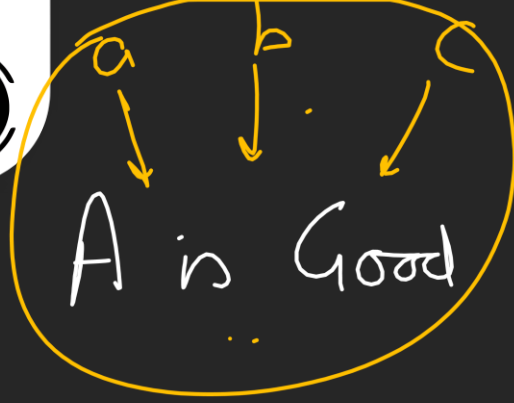
Conclusion

- A set of interconnected statements that contains a conclusion.

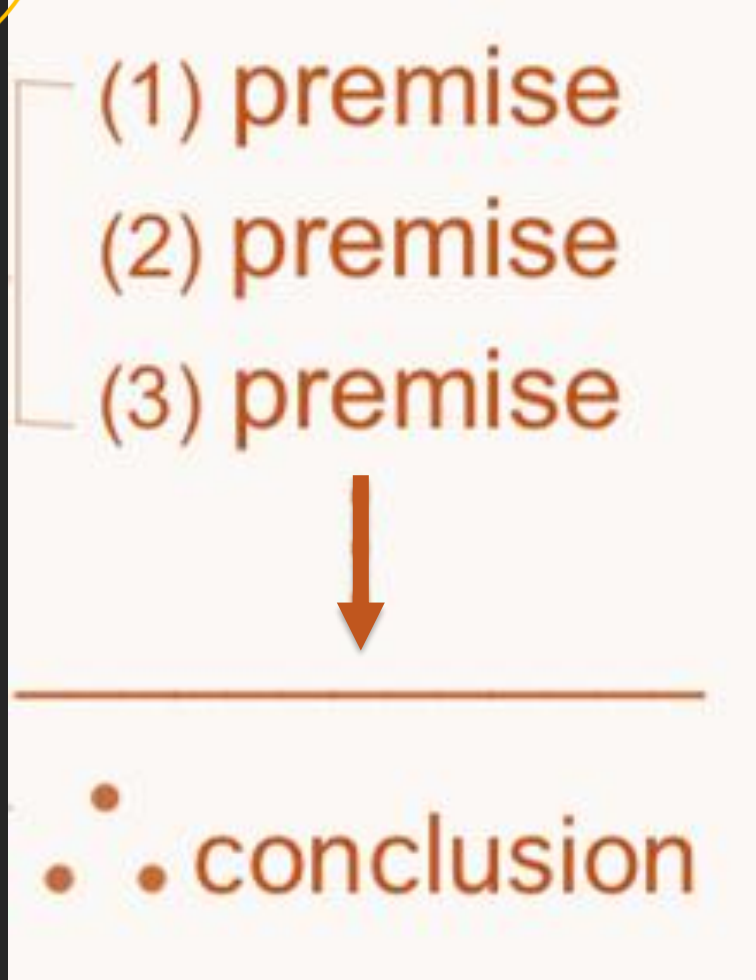


Argument

- A set of statements...
- where some of them are premises...
- and one of them is the conclusion.
- These premises must be intended to provide basis to the conclusions.



Argument



premise

- Relatable story
- Excellent Acting
- Soothing Music
- Rib-tickling Humour

- 3 Idiots is a good movie.



HOME
WORK

What is the difference between a
statement and a sentence?



Critical Reasoning





What is Critical Reasoning?

Syllogisms
↓

All cats are
dogs. Some

Cats are lion.

“

CR is when we start applying our reasoning skills to arguments found in our lives.

”



What do we plan to study in
Critical Reasoning?



6 to 11 qs. →

Seven Question Types

1. Identify the Assumption
- 2. Strengthen the Argument
- 3. Weaken the Argument
4. Identify the Logical Flaw
- 5. Identify the Inference
6. Resolve the Paradox
7. Parallel / Similar Structure Arguments



How do you become good at CR?



Three Prerequisites

- I. Ability to comprehend the text
- II. Ability to analyse an argument
- III. Ability to think objectively



Analysing

ARGUMENTS





Identify the Premise and the Conclusion in the following arguments.



Parts of an Argument

- Argument = Conclusion + Premises



Question 1

- This topic is easy, so the class on it should not be mandatory.

→ Premise

→ Conclusion

- This topic is easy, so the class on it should not be mandatory.



Conclusion indicator



Conclusion Indicators

- Accordingly
- Clearly
- Consequently
- This indicates that
- Hence
- It follows that
- So
- Therefore
- This indicates that
- This shows that
- Thus
- We may infer that

- Democratic socialism is superior to a pure democracy because it results in better outcomes and greater equality for more people.

→ Conclusion

- Democratic socialism is superior to a pure democracy because it results in better outcomes and greater equality for more people.

↳ Premise



Premise Indicators

- The reason is that
- Because
- Since
- As
- On the basis of
- It follows from
- In view of
- We may infer from



Question 3

- We had better leave now. If we do not, we might miss the last train, and we will be stuck here all night.
- We had better leave now. If we do not, we might miss the last train, and we will be stuck here all night.

→ why? →



Parts of an Argument

- Argument = Conclusion + Premises
- Argument = Conclusion + Premises + Context

- One of this neighborhood's residents has been complaining about his sister Sarah having been unemployed for so long. She's applying for programming jobs at many companies, but she only received her first interview invite last week. She'll probably receive a job offer because she has ten years of experience. In a job market like the current one, anything over eight years of experience gives a candidate a great advantage.

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- Sarah will probably receive a job offer, because she has ten years of experience, and experience over 8 years gives a candidate a great advantage in the current job market.

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Question 5

The provincial government of British Columbia and/or the federal government of Canada should regulate the fisheries. All non-partisan, scientific studies show the devastating effects of salmon farming on the native Pacific ecosystem. The essential problem stems from the fact that it is impossible to keep the farmed salmon completely isolated from wild populations and from the ecosystem in which the farming occurs. Once farmed salmon have escaped, they have the potential to out-compete wild salmon for scarce resources, since the farmed variety have been genetically engineered to swim faster and consume more. In addition, most farmed salmon is Atlantic, which tends to out-compete the wild Pacific species. This then has devastating effects on wild populations – 100 populations have disappeared, and salmon are extinct in 40 percent of the rivers where they once spawned along the North American Pacific coast. The pollution from the farms also has a negative impact on the entire ecosystem; indeed, the level of toxicity approaches that of raw sewage, but is dumped into receiving waters with almost no treatment. To reduce these effects and prevent devastation, we must strictly regulate salmon farming, especially on Canada's pacific coast.



Question 5

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Parts of an Argument

- Argument = Conclusion + Premises
- Argument = Conclusion + Premises + Context
- Paragraph = Argument + counter argument



Question 6

Admittedly, many students would like to smoke on campus. [Some people may rightly argue that if smoking on campus is not illegal, then it should be permitted;] [however, second-hand smoke may cause harm to those who have health issues like asthma, possibly putting them at risk.]



Angel

Owl

Colony

Question 7

[Some people argue that using animals as test subjects for health products is justifiable.] To be fair, animal testing has been used in the past to aid the development of several vaccines, such as smallpox and rabies. However, [animal testing for beauty products causes unneeded pain to animals. There are alternatives to animal testing. Instead of using animals, it is possible to use human volunteers. Additionally, Carl Westmoreland (2006) suggests that alternative methods to animal research are being developed; for example, researchers are able to use skin constructed from cells to test cosmetics. If alternatives to [animal testing] exist, then the practice causes unnecessary animal suffering and [should not be used.]



Analyse the Argument





What do we mean by analysing the argument?



“

The ability to deconstruct an argument and figure out the role played by the various statements presented

”



What can a statement do in an argument?

- It can act as a premise.
- It can act as a conclusion.
- In the case of argument-counterargument paragraphs, a statement can be a premise or a conclusion involved with either of the two arguments.
- The examiner may use synonyms for premise and conclusions.
- The examiner may test your understanding of the opinion of the author in the case of an argument-counterargument paragraph

Question 1

Hunter: **Hunters alone are being blamed by many people over the past eight years for the decline in Alita National Forest's reindeer population.**

Yet clearly, tigers have also played an important role in this decline. In the past eight years, tiger population has risen sharply under the forest department's protection, and examination of tigers found dead in the forest during the reindeer hunting season showed that a number of them had recently fed on reindeer.

In the hunter's argument, the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles?

- data, evidence*
- A. It is the main conclusion of the argument.
 - B. It is a finding that the argument seeks to explain.
 - C. It is an explanation that the argument concludes is correct.
 - ✓ D. It introduces a judgment that the argument opposes.



Question 2

Intermediate

Concl.

Premise

Country Zeta's ^{Concl.} recent stock-trading scandal should not diminish investors' confidence in the country's stock market. For one thing, **Country Zeta has a strong regulatory system is confirmed by the discovery of this scandal**, as the following considerations show. Some fraudulent activity is inevitable in any stock market. Any significant stock-trading fraud in it will very likely be discovered if a stock market is well regulated. This facilitates improvement and arrests the potential perpetrators in regulatory processes.

In the argument, the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles?

- ☒ A. It is the argument's only conclusion.
- ☐ B. It is an assertion for which the argument provides support and which itself is used to support the argument's main conclusion.
- ☒ C. It is the argument's main conclusion and is supported by another explicitly stated conclusion for which further support is provided.
- ☒ D. It is an assumption for which no explicit support is provided and is used to support the argument's only conclusion.

Question 3

30%

Physicist



34 year

Physicists typically do their most creative work before the age of fifty. A common thought is that this happens because aging by itself brings about a loss of creative capacity. Although **a disproportionately large number entered their field at an older age than is usual, studies show that among these physicists those who produce highly creative work are beyond the age of fifty.** Since by the age of fifty a large majority of Physicists have been working in their field for at least twenty-five years, the studies' finding strongly suggests that the real reason why physicists over fifty rarely produce highly creative work is not that they have aged but rather that **physicists over fifty have generally spent too long in their field.**

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

- A. The first is a claim, the accuracy of which is at issue in the argument; the second is a conclusion drawn on the basis of that claim.
- B. The first is an objection that has been raised against a position defended in the argument; the second is that position.
- C. The first is evidence that has been used to support an explanation that the argument challenges the second is that explanation.
- ✓ D. The first provides evidence to support an explanation that the argument favors; the second is that explanation.



Question 4

The fight against the drug trade in Country X should focus for the time being on tightening the country's borders and targeting its major smugglers. Wiping out poppy fields in rural areas means even greater hardship for an economically depressed farming population. **Rather, the United Nations and the government of Country X must carefully rebuild agricultural infrastructure in areas where the economy depends on these poppy fields.**

What purpose do the two boldface sentences serve in the passage?

- A. The first is the conclusion drawn by the speaker; the second is the alternative to that conclusion.
- B. The first is a short-term solution to a problem; the second is a long-term solution to the same problem.
- C. The first presents a problem; the second poses an ideal solution to the problem.
- D. The first presents a popular solution to a problem; the second presents a solution preferred by the author.



Question 5

Modern navigation systems, which are found in most of today's commercial aircraft, are made with low-power circuitry, which is more susceptible to interference than the vacuum-tube circuitry found in older planes. **During landing, navigation systems receive radio signals from the airport to guide the plane to the runway.** Recently, one plane with low-power circuitry veered off course during landing, its dials dimming, when a passenger turned on a laptop computer. **Clearly, modern aircraft navigation systems are being put at risk by the electronic devices that passengers carry on board, such as cassette players and laptop computers.**

The two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- A. The first is a principle that the argument relies on and the second is a conclusion that can be drawn from the first.
- B. The first is a fact that argument relies on and the second is a conclusion that must be drawn from this argument.
- C. The first acknowledges a consideration that supports that main position; the second is that conclusion.
- D. The first is an evidence that supports the conclusion, the second is that conclusion.

- Introduction to CR
- Basic Terms Used
- Analysing an Argument



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You are slowly growing,
but you are still growing
and that is enough.

Itsuki Takahashi

Itsuki Takahashi



THANK
You

