

CAT 2025

MBA FASTRACK

Lecture- 03

VERBAL ABILITY

Critical Reasoning – 2

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TOPICS

to be covered

- 1 Identify the Assumption
- 2 Strengthen the Argument
- 3 Practice Questions

Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word

Question 1

COARSE = Rough ; Vulgar

- A. Common
- B. Colourful
- ✓ C. Refined
- D. Vulgar



Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word



Question 2

- **CONTEMPLATE** :

- A. Deify
- B. Conceive
- ✓ C. Ignore
- D. Meditate



Topic: Critical Reasoning – 2



Critical Reasoning 2





Verbal Reasoning



CAT: 6-11 gr.

OMETS: Logic

“

Those aspects of reasoning
that are 'related' to language.

”



Basic Terms Used



Basic Terms Used

1. Statement

a. Conclusion

b. Premise

Reason / basis / Justification

2. Argument

$P_1 + P_2$



Conclusion



Critical Reasoning





“

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

”



What do we plan to study in
Critical Reasoning?

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



Home Work





What is the difference between a statement and a sentence?

Statement vs Sentence

- A statement can either affirm or deny whereas a sentence can go beyond these two functions.

→ Assertive Sentences

Interrogative Sentences ?

Imperative Sentences -

Exclamatory Sentences !

Order, req., instruct

Homework: Rhetorical qp.?



Statement vs Sentence

- A single sentence can have multiple statements.

[I am not talking to you] because you did not invite me to your party.

[I went to meet him] but [he refused to come out of his room.]



Statement vs Sentence

- Multiple sentence can convey a single statement.

⇒ Some people say that Shyam is not a good student.

However, I happen to have a different opinion.



Shyam is a good student.



Statement vs Sentence – Recap

1. A statement can either affirm or deny whereas a sentence can go beyond these two functions.
2. A single sentence can have multiple statements.
3. Multiple sentence can convey a single statement.



Identify the Assumption

1



What is an assumption?



The Story of Things Left Unsaid

Conclusion → I love you

R1 R2 R3

↓ ↓ ↓



The Story of Things Left Unsaid

- You are wearing a nice jacket. It must be expensive.

Premise: You are wearing a nice jacket.



Conclusion: It must be expensive.



What is an assumption?

- Assumption is a premise that has been used to arrive at the conclusion, BUT it has NOT been stated.
- Assumption = unstated premise
- Assumption = New information + ^{Necessary} Essential for the conclusion

Unstated + New info. + Essential

APPROACH

1. Read the paragraph and understand it.
~~Paraphrase if needed.~~
2. Identify the total number of statements given.
3. Identify the conclusion and the premise/s
4. Think of the assumption



Question 1

- Martians are green. Therefore, Pinchoo must be green.
- Martians are green. Therefore, Pinchoo must be green.
- Martians are green + (^{NOT} Pinchoo is a Martian).
Therefore, Pinchoo must be green.

Question 2

$A \text{ is } B +$

$B \text{ is } C$

$C \text{ is } B$

\downarrow

$A \text{ is } C$

- [I am an idealist] since [I believe in the spiritual existence of everything.]

- A C A B
I am an idealist since I believe in the spiritual existence of everything.

- I am an idealist since I believe in the spiritual existence of everything + (Anyone who believes in the spiritual existence of everything is an idealist).

- It is very cold in Delhi today. It must have snowed in Shimla.
- It is very cold in Delhi today. It must have snowed in Shimla.
- (It gets cold here when it snows in Shimla.) + It is very cold in Delhi today. It must have snowed in Shimla.

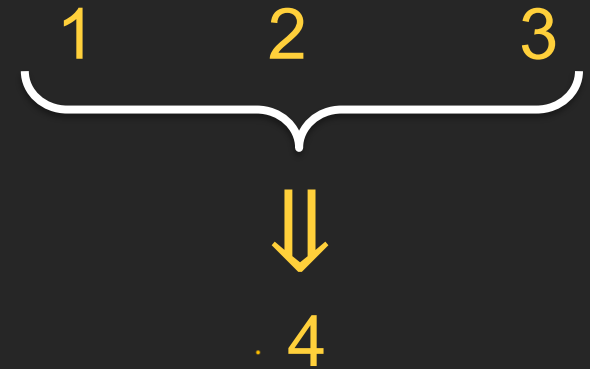


Question 4

- Radhika goes for a movie every Sunday. She goes to either Batra or Priya. Since she has already watched the movie playing at Batra, she must be at Priya.

Question 4

- **1.** Radhika goes for a movie every Sunday. **2.** She goes to either Batra or Priya. **3.** Since she has already watched the movie playing at Batra, **4.** she must be at Priya.
- Today is Sunday.
- Radhika does not watch the same movie twice.



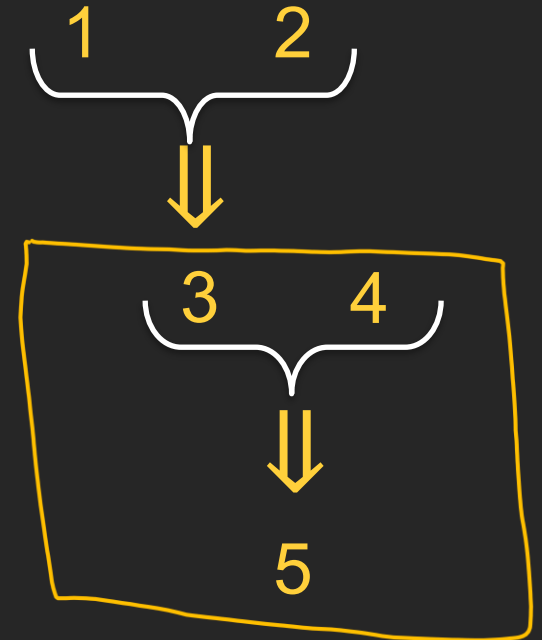
- Ashu noticed Somu looking at Vineet's answer sheet during the test. Besides, both Somu and Vineet got the same questions wrong. Thus, Somu must've cheated. Since cheating is deplorable, Somu should be disciplined.

Question 5

A is C
+
C is D

∴ A is D

- 1. Ashu noticed Somu looking at Vineet's answer sheet during the test. 2. Besides, both Somu and Vineet got the same questions wrong. 3. Thus, Somu must've cheated. 4. Since cheating is deplorable, 5. Somu should be disciplined.



1. Read the paragraph and understand it.
Paraphrase if needed.
2. Identify the total number of statements given.
3. Identify the conclusion and the premise/s
4. Think of the assumption
5. Use Elimination to arrive at the answer
6. Use 'negation test' to eliminate close answer choices.



Negation Test

- Negation = Contradiction / opposite

It is raining.

It is a fabulous movie.

Some people cheat on their partner.

- Negation = Contradiction / opposite
- Negate the answer choice and check for the impact on the conclusion / argument
- No impact = Not an assumption
- Makes the argument fall apart = ✓



Revisiting Question 1

M are G

P is G

- Martians are green. Therefore, Pinchoo must be green.
G
- Martians are green. Therefore, Pinchoo must be green.
- Martians are green + (Pinchoo is a Martian).
Therefore, Pinchoo must be green.



Question 6

The increase in the number of reality shows on television channels bolsters the contention that channel owners are more interested in boosting their revenues by pandering to voyeuristic tendencies of viewers.

Which of the following is an assumption necessary to the author's argument?

- ☒ A. Reality shows on television channels are ^{NOT} a recent phenomenon.
- ☒ B. Everything that a channel broadcasts should be educational.
- ☒ C. Reality shows on television ^{do not} appeal to the basic instincts of viewers.
- ☒ D. Reality shows make more money than other types of programs.
- ☒ E. The channel owners can influence what is watched by the viewers.

↳ Contradict



Question 7

Physician: In itself, exercise does not cause heart attacks; rather, a sudden increase in an exercise regimen can be a cause. When people of any physical condition suddenly increase their amount of exercise, they also increase their risk of heart attack. As a result, there will be an increased risk of heart attack among employees of this company due to the new health program.

The conclusion drawn by the physician follows logically if which one of the following is assumed?

- ✓ A. Employees will abruptly increase their amount of exercise as a result of the new health program.
- B. The exercises involved in the new health program are more strenuous than those in the previous health program.
- C. The new health program will force employees of all levels of health to exercise regularly.
- ✗ D. The new health program constitutes a sudden change in the company's policy.

Question 8

Braille is a method of producing text by means of raised dots that can be read by touch. A recent development in technology will allow flat computer screens to be made of a material that can be heated in patterns that replicate the patterns used in Braille. Since the thermal device will utilize the same symbol system as Braille, it follows that anyone who is accustomed to reading Braille can easily adapt to the use of this electronic system.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the conclusion depends?

- A. Braille is the only symbol system that can be readily adapted for use with the new thermal screen. *do not*
- B. Only people who currently use Braille as their sole medium for reading text will have the capacity to adapt to the use of thermal screen.
- ✓ C. People with the tactile ability to discriminate symbols in Braille have an ability to discriminate similar patterns on a flat heated surface.
- ✗ D. Some symbol systems encode a piece of text by using dots that replicate the shape of letters of the alphabet.



Question 9

To prevent some conflicts of interest, parliament could prohibit high-level government officials from accepting positions as lobbyists for three years after such officials leave government service. One such official concluded, however, that such a prohibition would be unfortunate because it would prevent high-level government officials from earning a livelihood for three years.

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

- A. Laws should not restrict the behavior of former government officials.
- B. Lobbyists are typically people who have previously been high-level government officials.
- C. Low-level government officials do not often become lobbyists when they leave government service.
- D. High-level government officials who leave government service are capable of earning a livelihood only as lobbyists.



Strengthen the Argument

2



Question Stems

- Which one of the following if true, most strongly supports the argument?
- Which one of the following if true, most strengthens the author's reasoning?
- Which one of the following if true, bolsters the author's argument?
- Which one of the following if true, makes the argument more attractive?
- Which one of the following if true, increases the probability of the conclusion being true?



What is strengthening an argument?



“

To strengthen is to make
something stronger.

”



How do we strengthen an
argument?

An argument is like a table.





How to strengthen an argument?

The right answer choice presents some new information that:

- Acts as a premise
- Cites some fact, statistics, or example that provides support to one of the premises / assumptions
- States the assumption

↳ Invisible support

↳



Question 1

- Textbooks purport to be a source of great wealth and importance. However, I have a clue that points to the other direction. In my 6 years of teaching in city and country schools, no textbook was ever stolen.



Question 1

- Textbooks purport to be a source of great wealth and importance.
- +
- However, I have a clue that points to the other direction.
- =
- Textbooks are not a source of great wealth and importance because...

Question 1

- Textbooks are not a source of great wealth and importance because in my 6 years of teaching in city and country schools, no textbook was ever stolen.
- Textbooks are not a source of great wealth and importance because in my 6 years of teaching in city and country schools, no textbook was ever stolen.

4

Question 2

Common perceptions aside, people are safer from crime in urban areas than in rural areas. The reason for this is that there are more people available to prevent crimes in urban areas and police can respond more quickly than in rural areas. For instance, a person who yells for help after being robbed is more likely to be heard in an urban area. It is also likely that a police officer will arrive more quickly because there are more of them in urban areas.

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

- ~~A.~~ People in urban areas are less likely to respond to a yell for help than in rural areas
- ~~B.~~ A higher percentage of crimes take place on the streets in urban areas than in rural areas
- ☒ C. On average, police respond to urban crime scenes twice as fast as rural crime scenes
- ~~D.~~ Crimes in rural areas tend to be less dangerous than in urban areas, although the overall number of crimes is comparable.

Question 3

Osteoporosis is a disease that results in a severe weakening of bones. A diet rich in calcium throughout one's lifetime is commonly known to be the best prevention against osteoporosis. Sources of calcium include legumes^①, leafy green vegetables^②, and dairy products^③. A medical group devoted to raising the awareness of osteoporosis recommends that people consume more leafy green vegetables than dairy products in order to raise their calcium intake.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the position above?

- ~~A.~~ Dairy products typically contain fat, and leafy green vegetables do not.
- ~~B.~~ Leafy green vegetables provide many other health benefits, most notably a higher iron content.
- ~~C.~~ Nutritionists recommend five to eight servings of leafy green vegetables per day, and only three servings of dairy per day.
- D. The body's absorption rate for calcium in leafy green vegetables is 50%, and for dairy products is 30%.



Question 4

Historically, the drug industry promoted its products to physicians by educating them in their offices or at industry conferences. In the last 10 years, it has become much more commonplace for drug companies to advertise prescription drugs directly to consumers, via television advertising and other media. Some public health advocates have become concerned that patients, encouraged by advertising, may pursue the use of prescription drugs that may be inappropriate for the individual patient or situation. However, since physicians must prescribe these medications, there is no reason for such concern.

Which of the following pieces of information would be most helpful in addressing the concern articulated by the public health advocates?

- A. Certain over-the-counter medications are as effective for many common medical conditions as more powerful nonprescription medications.
- B. Prescription medication television advertisements directed at the general public only appear on certain programs and are not seen by many potential consumers.
- C. Physicians are also subject to prescription drug advertisements that are directed toward consumers.
- D. Physicians are not susceptible to pressure from patients in determining appropriate courses of treatment, including drug prescriptions.



Question 5

A cost-effective solution to the problem of airport congestion is to provide high-speed ground transportation between major cities lying 200 to 500 kilometers apart. The successful implementation of this plan would cost far less than expanding existing airports and would also reduce the number of airplanes clogging both airports and airways.

Which of the following, if true, could proponents of the plan above most appropriately cite as a piece of evidence for the soundness of their plan?

- A. An effective high-speed ground-transportation system would require major repairs to many highways and mass-transit improvements.
- B. One-half of all departing flights in the nation's busiest airport head for a destination in a major city 225 kilometers away.
- C. The majority of travelers departing from rural airports are flying to destinations in cities over 600 kilometers away.
- D. Many new airports are being built in areas that are presently served by high-speed ground-transportation systems.



SUMMARY

- Identify the Assumption
- Strengthen the Argument
- Practice Questions



**The most effective
way to do it,
is to do it.**

- Amelia Earhart





THANK
You

