

# **Special Event: GMAT Terminator by Dustin**

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*Ways to Tackle*

*Critical Reasoning “Archeology” Questions*

# Rundown

- **Source Validity**      證據從哪來？
  - Where does the evidence come from?
  - Is the sample size sufficient and reliable?
  - Does the evidence represent a broader population or only isolated cases?
- **Temporal Alignment**      結論跟證據在時間上是否吻合？
  - Do the event and evidence match chronologically?
  - Is the timeline consistent across all data points?
- **Geographical Uniqueness**      此地點是否是唯一可能出現此事件的地方？
  - Is the location uniquely associated with the claimed event?
  - Could the same evidence have originated elsewhere?
  - Is the site exclusive in terms of artifacts or patterns?



# Rundown

- **Alternative Explanations** 他因：這個證據能不能被結論以外的其他原因解釋？
  - Could the evidence be explained by a different cause?
  - Are there competing hypotheses that fit the data equally well or better?
  - Has confounding information been ruled out?
- **Argument from Absence** 若某事發生，則一定會有XX證據  
如果沒證據，代表沒發生
  - What does the absence of expected evidence suggest?
  - If the event occurred, should we expect certain evidence?
  - Is the lack of evidence itself meaningful or inconclusive?

若P則Q = 若非Q則非P  
若非P則非Q(X)  
若Q則P(X)



# Geographical Uniqueness, Temporal Alignment, Source Validity

可栽培的小麥痕跡（當時）

現在有野生的小麥

Traces of cultivated emmer wheat have been found among the earliest agricultural remains of many archaeological sites in Europe and Asia. The only place where the wild form of emmer wheat has been found growing is a relatively narrow strip of southwest Asia. Since the oldest remains of cultivated emmer wheat yet found are from village sites in the same narrow strip, it is clear that emmer wheat was first domesticated somewhere in that strip.

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

從野生→可栽培（V）

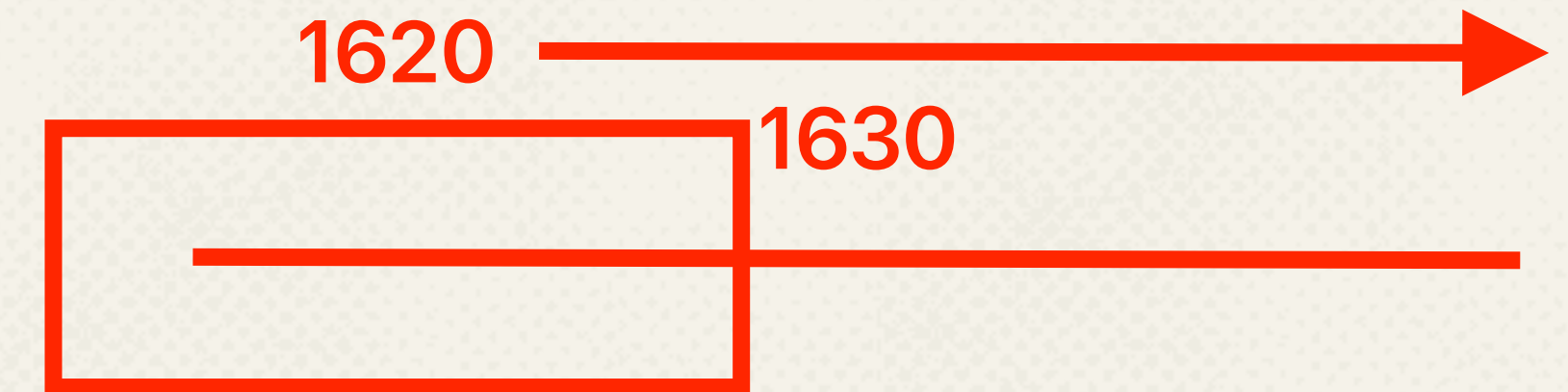
- ~~(A) The present day distribution of another wild wheat, einkorn, which was also domesticated early in the development of agriculture, covers a much larger area of southwest Asia.~~
- ~~(B) Modern experiments show that wild emmer wheat can easily be domesticated so as to yield nearly as well as traditionally domestic strains.~~
- ~~(C) At the time when emmer wheat was first cultivated, it was the most nutritious of all the varieties of grain that were then cultivated.~~
- (D) In the region containing the strip where wild emmer wheat has been found, climatic conditions have changed very little since before the development of agriculture.
- ~~(E) It is very difficult, without genetic testing, to differentiate the wild form of emmer wheat from a closely related wild wheat that also grows in southwest Asia.~~



## Argument from Absence, Temporal Alignment, Source Validity

Archaeologists in Michigan have excavated a Native American camp near Dumaw Creek. Radiocarbon dating of animal bones found at the site indicates that the camp dates from some time between 1605 and 1755. However, the camp probably dates to no later than 1630, since no European trade goods were found at the site, and European traders were active in the region from the 1620's onward.

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



~~(A) Due to trade among~~ Native Americans, some European trade goods would have reached the area before the European traders themselves did.

(B) At all camps in the region that have been reliably dated to the late 1620's, remains of European trade goods have been found.

~~(C) The first European~~ trade goods to reach the area would have been considered especially valuable and preserved as much as possible from loss or destruction.

~~(D) The first European~~ traders in the area followed soon after the first European explorers.

~~(E) The site is that of a~~ temporary camp that would have been used seasonally for a few years and then abandoned.



# Temporal Alignment, Argument from Absence

Excavation of the ancient city of Kourion on the island of Cyprus revealed a pattern of debris and collapsed buildings typical of towns devastated by earthquakes. Archaeologists have hypothesized that the destruction was due to a major earthquake known to have occurred near the island in A.D. 365.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the archaeologists' hypothesis?

- ~~(A) Bronze ceremonial drinking vessels that are often found in graves dating from years preceding and following A.D. 365 were also found in several graves near Kourion.~~
- (B) No coins minted after A.D. 365 were found in Kourion, but coins minted before that year were found in abundance.
- ~~(C) Most modern histories of Cyprus mention that an earthquake occurred near the island in A.D. 365.~~
- ~~(D) Several small statues carved in styles current in Cyprus in the century between A.D. 300 and 400 were found in Kourion.~~
- ~~(E) Stone inscriptions in a form of the Greek alphabet that was definitely used in Cyprus after A.D. 365 were found in Kourion.~~



# Alternative Explanations, Temporal Alignment

## 時間先後

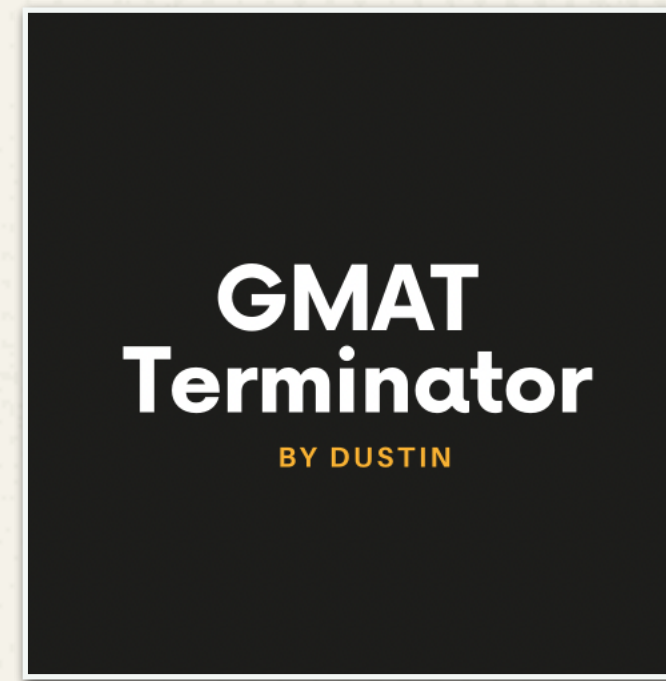
An unusually severe winter occurred in Europe after the continent was blanketed by a blue haze resulting from the eruption of the Laki Volcano in the European republic of Iceland in the summer of 1984. Thus, it is evident that major eruptions cause the atmosphere to become cooler than it would be otherwise.

## 火山爆發會導致變冷

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

- ~~(A) The cooling effect triggered by volcanic eruptions in 1985 was counteracted by an unusual warming of Pacific waters. (洋流)~~
- ~~(B) There is a strong statistical link between volcanic eruptions and the severity of the rainy season in India.~~
- (C) A few months after El Chichn's large eruption in April 1982, air temperatures throughout the region remained higher than expected, given the long-term weather trends.
- ~~(D) The climatic effects of major volcanic eruptions can temporarily mask the general warming trend resulting from an excess of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.~~
- ~~(E) Three months after an early springtime eruption in South America during the late 19th century, sea surface temperatures near the coast began to fall.~~





**Remember:**

*Evidence speaks - but only logic decides what it says.*

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