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## CR Mixed-bag Part 1

### Answer Key

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| 1. D  | 39. C |
| 2. C  | 40. A |
| 3. E  | 41. D |
| 4. E  | 42. A |
| 5. D  | 43. B |
| 6. E  | 44. D |
| 7. B  | 45. B |
| 8. C  | 46. B |
| 9. B  | 47. E |
| 10. E | 48. A |
| 11. D | 49. D |
| 12. E | 50. D |
| 13. C | 51. C |
| 14. E | 52. C |
| 15. E | 53. C |
| 16. A | 54. B |
| 17. D | 55. D |
| 18. E | 56. D |
| 19. E | 57. A |
| 20. C | 58. B |
| 21. D | 59. B |
| 22. A | 60. D |
| 23. C | 61. B |
| 24. C | 62. C |
| 25. B | 63. B |
| 26. B | 64. E |
| 27. C | 65. E |
| 28. D | 66. E |
| 29. E | 67. D |
| 30. A | 68. D |
| 31. B | 69. B |
| 32. E | 70. E |
| 33. C | 71. A |
| 34. A | 72. B |
| 35. C |       |
| 36. E |       |
| 37. D |       |
| 38. C |       |



## Solutions

1.

A) the effort which took to confirm fullerene presence in shungite is irrelevant to the argument. What matters is whether shungite contains fullerene or not.

B) This one is close. It seems to offer an alternate explanation for the formation of fullerene. But what should be considered is, even if fullerene is formed in outer space does that change anything (temperature and pressure, for instance) if it is also formed in earth? No, it does not.

C) This one provides more evidence to the argument and thus is strengthening the argument.

D) CORRECT. This choice undermines the argument by attacking the premise by suggesting that naturally occurring fullerene and synthetic fullerene differ in their structure. Since the objects of comparison are not similar, the comparison between the conditions these were formed does not stand.

If we're actually talking about two completely different kinds of fullerenes, then any information about the conditions precipitating the growth of one kind can't be taken to apply to the growth of the other kind.

E) Shungite may require distinctive conditions completely different from that to fullerenes to form. Therefore, this option neither strengthens nor weakens the argument.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The short answer to this is Option (D) tells you the fullerene found in nature is fundamentally different from the fullerene synthesized in the laboratory. Then the argument that the conditions in the Earth's crust were similar to the ones in the laboratory when fullerene was created there falls flat - if the two types are different, nothing indicates the conditions must have been similar



2.

A) The length of the program is irrelevant to the argument. What matters is will the cost of the therapeutic treatment be lesser than the emergency cost of treating injuries, thereby undermining the conclusion that the cost of the therapeutic treatment is not justified.

B) Once again, the place of occurrence of the fall is irrelevant.

C) CORRECT. This indicates that the cost of emergency treatment may well exceed \$11,000 thereby undermining the argument that the cost of the therapeutic treatment will always be higher.

D) The procedure followed by the therapeutic treatment is not relevant.

E) If true, this only strengthens the conclusion further by stating that the cost of the program will continue to rise beyond \$12,500 rather than undermining it.

3.

This one is tricky. Let's understand the conclusion first. the conclusion says:

"The seasonal variation in group size can probably be explained by a seasonal variation in mortality among young voles" which really means:

"the groups are smaller in spring and summer because lots of young voles die, for some reason, in the spring and summer."

Now let's see which option strengthens this conclusion

- A) If this were true, it would mean that the vole population in from spring to early autumn must be at its highest. This weakens the conclusion rather than strengthening it.
- B) The variation in the prairie vole population size each year, is no way related to the conclusion which talks "Group Size" that changes *every* season.
- C) This option does not explain why the young voles would die in spring. On the contrary, it indicates that the prairie vole has a higher chance of surviving in the spring due to the presence of broad-leaves plant.
- D) Same reason as above. Low mortality rate of young voles in spring is still unexplained which is lower from spring through summer rather than in winter.
- E) CORRECT. Strengthens the correlation by not only providing a reason for the differential in sizes of vole families, but also showing specifically that it's the young voles that are killed (as required by the conclusion).

4.

A) Indicates that the number of sharks by the beach are much lower. Which means that the lower life expectancy of the offspring of dolphins feeding at the beach is unrelated to falling prey to sharks.

B) This is irrelevant. Does nursing offspring on the beach cause them to have a lower life expectancy? We are not told.

C) Once again this option provides no explanation for the lower life expectancy of the offspring of dolphins.

D) Irrelevant. The number of times the dolphins visit the beach does not have an impact on the life expectancy of their offspring.

E) CORRECT. This option gives us a reason why the offspring of adult dolphins that feed at the beach have a lowered life expectancy as they are not trained well enough to catch a fish in the wild. It also explains why dolphins that first benefit from the program as adults continue to lead a long healthy life.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Fish are given to dolphins several times a day; many dolphins get as much as half of their food each day there. Dolphins that first benefit from the program as adults are healthy and long-lived, but their offspring have a lower life expectancy than offspring of dolphins that feed exclusively in the wild.

This is a kind of 'explain the paradox' question. You expect the offspring of all dolphins to have similar life expectancy. You might even think that dolphins who feed at the beach and their offspring might, in fact, have better life expectancy than others since half of their daily need is supplied by the beach. But actually offspring of dolphins that feed at the beach have **lower life expectancy!** What will explain this?

A. Sharks that prey on dolphins are less common in the open seas off the beach than in many other areas of the open seas where dolphins congregate.

If the number of predators is lower near the beach, it should **increase the life expectancy** of the dolphin offspring, not decrease it. Not correct.

5.

The main revenue generators for Tenare

- 1) Fishing
- 2) Tourism

if you want to weaken this argument, you want to show that killing the tiger sharks will have a deleterious effect on the other pillar of the economy - namely, FISHING.

- A) This has the opposite effect: it actually strengthens the mayor's policy, by assuring that there will be a positive effect even if the program is not carried out to the fullest.
- B) This is neutral (transferring \$ from businesses neither infuses \$ into the economy nor removes \$ from the economy).
- C) Strengthens the policy, because it underscores the idea that the beaches are critical to the economy (and therefore that removal of the tiger sharks is of paramount importance)
- D) CORRECT, because it shows that, while killing tiger sharks may be good for TOURISM, it will be bad for FISHING (which, the passage asserts, is ultimately a more important industry).
- E) Irrelevant, because the non-beach tourists have no bearing on the issue either way.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

There is a plan - to help the economy, kill tiger sharks within a mile of the beaches.

We have to weaken it i.e. we have to prove that killing the tiger sharks will not help the economy.

Option B doesn't weaken it.

**B. Business owners who depend on tourism are willing to pay most of the cost of implementing the program.**

Again, if anything, it strengthens our plan (very slightly though!). The cost of the program will not be paid by the government and hence the revenues generated will not be lost on implementing the program. So the economy will be helped.

D. The small sharks on which tiger sharks prey feed on fish that are commercially important to the island's fisheries.

If tiger sharks are killed, small sharks will prosper which means the number of fish they feed on will decrease. Since this fish is commercially important, if their availability reduces, the revenues from fishing may reduce. Hence, actually, the economy may not be helped. This weakens our plan.

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#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The mayor wants to help the economy - it depends on tourism to a large extent and tourists are scared of the tiger sharks. But the economy also depends (and even more than on tourism) on another thing - fisheries. Finally, the fish that smaller sharks feed on are commercially important to the fisheries industry on Tenare. The mayor plans to kill some of the Tiger sharks, these sharks feed on the smaller sharks, which feed on the commercially important fish. If Tiger sharks decrease in number, the smaller sharks will increase in number, they will feed on the fish and the number of fish will reduce. This will have a negative impact on the economy, so the mayor's overall idea of helping the economy will be brought into question.

6.

The argument suggests that apple growers from Kosolia believe that selling their apples at half price will give them the main competitive advantage over Ertland's apple growers. We need to find option that indicates this may not be true.

- A) This is irrelevant to proving that the plan of the apple growers from Kosolia will not succeed. Even though the apples may have been originally derived from Kosolia, the argument clearly indicates people of Ertland prefer the local variety better.
- B) Irrelevant. Once again, the spending habits of the people of Ertland will not affect the plan of the Kosolia apple growers.
- C) This is irrelevant to the argument. Irrespective of whether apples were imported from Ertland to Kosolia, the question is will selling Kosolia-grown apples at half the price of local apples and promoting them as a nourishing, low-cost alternative work?
- D) This option would strengthen the plan of Kosolia apple growers. Unlike Ertland apples, this indicates that the apples of Kosolia will be available all year round and at lowered cost.
- E) CORRECT. If Ertland growers can reduce the price of their apples, then the main plan of kosolian apple growers to promote their apples by selling it at a lowered rate will get affected.

7

- A) This weakens the argument by indicating that the change of entrance may negatively impact the revenue of the train company as most commuters work on Main Street.
- B) CORRECT. This clearly indicates that the revenue from the commuters will not decrease due to a shift in entrance. Meanwhile, the train company can make money by leasing the high-rent entrance space to retail businesses. It's a win-win
- C) This weakens the proposal to some extent by indicating that there are several other owners on Flowntown's Main Street looking to lease their buildings.
- D) Once again, weakens the merit of the proposal by indicating that the train company will need to undertake costly renovations to its Main Street entrance space, something the company's "Tight Budget" may not permit.
- E) This is irrelevant as it does not discuss whether moving the entrance will affect ridership on Flowntown trains. We are not concerned with what happened in the past.

8.

The thing to keep in mind here is, while the Highway Traffic Safety Institute reports that the PZ 1000 has the fewest injuries per accident of any car in its class, the advertisement states that the PZ 1000 is one of the safest cars (implying in any class) available today  
Now lets examine which option weakens the claims of the advertisement.

- A) This strengthens the argument to an extent by indicating that many cars in other classes also have more injuries per accident than PZ 1000
- B) Again, adds some merit to the advertisement by indicating that PZ 1000 have had the highest sales. This may or may not be due to the safety it provides. We do not know and we cannot assume.
- C) CORRECT. The evidence presented compares the PZ1000 to other cars in its class, but then uses that evidence to conclude that the PZ1000 is one of the safest available, comparing it to all other cars. If the class to which PZ 1000 belongs is more likely to be involved in accidents than other classes, its relatively low injury rate in its own class cannot be extrapolated to the industry in general.
- D) We are simply told that the difference is pronounced. We do not know if PZ 1000 has the highest number of injuries or the lowest. Even if it were the lowest this simply restates the premise in the argument which already tells us the same.
- E) Irrelevant. The frequency of the report's publishing is not related to the claims made by the PZ 1000 Advertisement

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

The conclusion is that "the PZ 1000 is one of the safest cars available today."

The evidence is that "the PZ 1000 has the fewest injuries per accident of any car in its class."

Based on the evidence, the PZ 1000 might be one of the safest cars in its class, but does that necessarily make it one of safest cars available today?

PZ 1000 might be the safest within its class. But if it belongs to a particularly dangerous class, then PZ 1000 still might be more dangerous than most cars in OTHER classes.

Choice (C) tells us that PZ 1000 belongs to a particularly dangerous class, so it is the best answer.

9.

- A) This refers to only a part of the ocean in the southern hemisphere which would no way weaken the plan.
- B) CORRECT. Since the amount of carbon dioxide released when seaweed is burned is the same amount that was absorbed during its lifetime, it would make the plan outlined by the scientists a waste of time.
- C) even if “some” people refuse to switch to sea-weed, this option makes no comment of the majority of the people who may or may not be willing to do so.
- D) Irrelevant. By increasing the amount of plant life, the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed will also increase. This would strengthen the plan rather than weaken it.
- E) Irrelevant as the point of the plan is not to generate money but to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide.

10.

Let's simplify the argument first

Jennifer: The loss of 10,000 rentals was all Videorama's fault as they started selling the videos cheaply in addition to renting them.

Brad: That's not possible, since Videorama only sold 4000 videos.  
in other words, brad's objection is based on the fact that 4000 is a smaller number than 10,000.

To WEAKEN brad's objection, we have to COME UP WITH A WAY FOR 4000 SALES TO CANCEL OUT 10,000 RENTALS.

A) This is easy to fall for. However, the argument says “Video rental outlets in Centerville **together** handled 10,000 fewer video rentals in 1994 than in 1993”. This means that including the videos rented by Videorama, the total number of videorentals in the ENTIRE city was still 10,000 lower – a fact Jennifer attributes to the videos Videorama started selling Hence, A is irrelevant to the argument



- B) This is irrelevant as well. Since the total rentals have decreased by 10,000 this includes the new stores as well as the old ones.
- C) Irrelevant as we need an option that discusses how the 4000 videos sold by Videorama could cancel out the 10,000 rentals that decreased in all the other rental stores combined.
- D) This does not discuss whether Videorama selling videos for cheap had any effect on the renting habit of the people.

E) CORRECT. provides a perfect reason why the 4000 sales could, indeed, compensate for the 10,000 rentals: if the sold videos are loaned around, then each of them could cancel out multiple rentals. Also, the sale of videos , in this case, is the direct reason for the number of rentals in the city to drastically decrease.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

We need to weaken Brad's objection, which states that Videorama only sold 4,000 videos. Therefore, that number is not enough to account for the 10,000 fewer videos that the video rental outlets rented out in 1994 vs. 1993.

(A) is tempting because it is easy to think that Brad is only focusing on the number of videos Videorama sold, not on the number it rented. Even then, had Videorama rented 5,000 videos that doesn't quite add up to 10,000. (A) therefore is not the 'best answer.'

(E) Brad's objection focuses on the number of videos bought at Videorama. His argument is that number alone cannot account for 10,000. However (E) directly counters Brad's argument by offering an explanation for how 4,000 can account for the 10,000: friends frequently lend videos they own to other friends. For instance, if one video is loaned 5 times that is 5 fewer people who will rent that video from the other Centerville video stores. Videorama sold 4,000 videos and all of these people loaned out to many, many, many of their friends. That's that, it is highly possible, then, that all of these people, for all of these movies, did not have to rent the videos from other stores. So the renting out of videos at other stores *could* simply have reduced based on the 4,000 videos sold by Videorama. Hence, it is correct.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

We want to weaken Brad's argument. Brad was arguing against Jennifer --> essentially we are trying to find something that supports Jennifer's case.

Jennifer says: Decline is due to Videorama

Brad says: No, that's not true, something else is responsible

To weaken Brad's claim, we almost have to reaffirm that the decline is due to Videorama. We just need a more clear way to explain it.

Jennifer's claim can still be valid if we fill in some of the holes. Brad pointed out one of the holes, which was that Videorama only sold 4000 videos and there's a gap in order to reach the 10,000 decline in video rentals.

Now what can explain the gap?

(E) does the best job because if for every 1 video sold that cannibalized 2, 3 or more video rentals, then the cannibalization effect could be far in excess of 10,000 video rentals.

(A) also helps explain the gap but it's not strong enough. If Videorama rented out more than it sold, it's possible that it sold 4,000 and it rented 5,000. Together, that's 9,000 and so there's still 1,000 that cannot be explained. On the other hand, it's possible that 4,000 was sold but 6,000 was rented. That would reach the 10,000 and this would weaken Brad's argument. However, since it goes both ways it does not definitively weaken the argument...and would only be a "weak" method of weakening the argument.

11.

A) Strengthens Danville Winery's argument by making the gold colored label a signature of the wine produced by him.

B) Strengthens Danville Winery's argument by indicating that the customer will be able to distinguish between the bottles made by Danville Winery and Mourdet Winery based on the height of the bottle.

C) Once again, indicates Danville Winery is trying to promote its wine under its own brand by prominently displaying its label, strengthening Danville Winery's argument.



D) CORRECT. This tell us that consumers may look only at the general shape and design of the bottle rather than paying careful attention to the label. This clearly undermines Danville Winery's argument.

E) Even if many wines are sold in bottles of a standard design, this fact does not help Danville Winery's argument which states that the customers will be clearly able to distinguish their bottle from those of Mourdet Winery based on the gold label.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

"Occasional purchasers" are simply people who do not buy wine *regularly*. Who is buying Mourdet's most popular wine? Maybe a significant portion of the sales come from *occasional* purchasers (i.e. they don't buy wine regularly, but when they do, they go for the one with the distinctive tall, black bottle).

When they say, "many customers intending to buy our wine," they could certainly be referring to occasional wine purchasers. Even if occasional wine purchasers accounted for, say, a quarter of total sales, that group could still qualify as "many customers" (note the use of "many", not "all" or "most").

Also, we are only talking about "customers intending to buy our wine." So we are only looking at the subset of wine shoppers who intend to buy Mourdet wine. That doesn't necessarily constitute a large portion of ALL wine shoppers. Perhaps most customers intending to buy Mourdet wines are, in fact, occasional wine purchasers.

There is nothing incongruous about "occasional purchasers" and "many customers intending to buy our wine", so (D) is the best answer.

12.

in this problem:

of the orders placed by **subscribers** in response to ads, only 30% were from the under-35 crowd.

of the orders placed by **anyone** in response to ads, most of them (I.e over 50%) were from the under-35 crowd.  
there's the discrepancy.

Now lets examine which option helps resolve the above discrepancy:

A) Irrelevant. By discussing the age of the people who have never ordered merchandise in response to advertisement, GMAC is only looking to confuse you!

B) Irrelevant. The argument discusses the % of under 35 subscribers last year. The % this year is immaterial to the argument.

C) This option is already stated by the first part of the problem which indicates that only 30% of the subscribers were under 35 years of age. Does not help solve the discrepancy.

D) We are talking of the number of orders placed and not the amount of dollars spent on these orders. That people over 25 years of age spent more on their orders is irrelevant to us.

E) CORRECT. This option clearly explains why although only 30% of the "Subscribers" who placed orders last were less than 35 years of age, of the total number of people who placed an order most of them were under 35 years of age i.e these people were NOT SUBSCRIBERS.

13.

There is a literal gap we need to fill here.

European companies emerge

AND

European companies take over European market

AND

US. market emerges

AND



THEREFORE

US. companies will be able to capture the US. market sales

We currently have facts asserting that the US. firms will lose their hold on the European market. however, we have nothing asserting that the US. firms will gain a hold on the US. market, the second half of the conclusion.

therefore, we need an assertion that says, or implies, that the US. firms will gain a hold in the US. market (i.e., the European firms won't take over the US. market as well).

A. Irrelevant:

- recent increases are unrelated to maintaining production in the future

- recent increases in production have nothing to do with the main logic gap (ensuring that US. firms will have a hold on the US. market)

B. Irrelevant:

This has nothing to do with US or European companies or markets. It generally discusses a trend in the solar industry.

C. CORRECT.

This statement strongly suggests that the US. firms will dominate the US. market for the same reasons that the euro firms will dominate the euro market.

D. We know that the US. firms will lose the European market anyway, so it doesn't matter whether that market grows or not

E) WEAKENS the argument. If the US. market is very small, then it's likely that the production/revenue/etc of US. firms will decline rather than stay constant.

### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

We have multiple parties here: US market, US manufacturers, Europe market and Europe manufacturers.

Till now, US manufacturers have been supplying to the European market.

Now, European manufacturers are coming who'll dominate most of the European market.

Lastly, the US is going to initiate programs which'll promote the use of solar gensets.

Now, the question comes to the condition that'll enable the US to have significant production levels after everything.

Very fundamentally, since the US was manufacturing to Europe previously it can also now be that Europe starts to manufacture & export to the US which is a very real possibility.

Even if E may be true, can we say for certain that it's the US manufacturers who's production levels will increase given the increased demand? Can't infer. Another, this option doesn't tell us what'll happen if/when the demand actually increases. Please keep in mind that we're concerned with the levels of production.

Now in option C, the argument follows what's given to us in the passage. Like the European markets, the manufacturers there will be able to grab the market due to a myriad of reasons but surely including the geographical positioning as well else the US would've continued to sell there indefinitely. This is given to us a fact. Now looking at option C, if the US govt's ideas work out well and the demand gets increased, with the US manufacturers having strong hold over the region, they indeed would be able to maintain high levels of production. The reasoning is in line with the statement as well thereby logically completing the problem statement.

Note – If you look at the passage, what will complete the passage is straight up a reason for why the manufacturers will *maintain significant production levels* if demand keeps up. If the market were limited, would producers keep producing? No. So it's a weakener. Fairly straight-forward to understand. On the other hand, there are competitive advantages and demand is increasing (as the passage says If the initiatives help to drive demand, the production levels will be maintained); then why would the producers not produce more. So Option (C) concludes most effectively.

Another way of looking at it, again, is that we are looking for a reason for something to happen. So something that weakens the argument *cannot* be the answer (if something is a reason for you *not* to do something, would you do more of it)? Then we are automatically looking for something that strengthens that reason to produce more.

14.

the first premise states, as fact, the following correlation:  
higher vitamin/minerals in bloodstream <--> better lung function

The loophole:

if smokers get higher levels of the vitamins/minerals into their bloodstreams, then based on the premise they will also have better lung function. The argument is therefore airtight, provided the smokers can get the vitamins and minerals into their bloodstreams to begin with.(absorption)

That's the only missing link here - all that's mentioned in the argument is intake, which is an entirely separate matter from absorption into the bloodstream. We need to look for an option that can close this gap.

- A) Irrelevant. it speaks of vitamins and minerals in general, not the special vitamins and minerals mentioned in the passage.
- B) Strengthens the premise which we already know to be true
- C) Irrelevant as we are only discussing how lung capacity of a smoker can be improved. People suffering from vitamin deficiency (smokers or non-smokers) who have other health problems are not relevant here.
- D) irrelevant, as cessation of smoking doesn't affect the issue (the effect of the vitamins/minerals) at all.
- E) CORRECT because it takes care of the connection between intake and absorption, by establishing that the smokers' intake of vitamins and minerals will actually make it into the bloodstream.

Lets negate this option:

Smoking introduces into the body chemicals that prevent the helpful vitamins and minerals from entering the bloodstream. This would destroy the conclusion by stating that despite smokers increasing their vitamin intake it will not help improve their lung function.



15.

BF2: It is clear that the second bold part is the conclusion. "Some of the fragments were large and they penetrated". This is the reason behind posting this whole argument.

BF1: first part serves as a premise for this conclusion. These fragments did not have sulfur. BF1 also tells us that the outer cloud layer contains sulfur.

This provides a basis for concluding that the fact that these fragments contained sulfur means that they must have been large enough to pass through Jupiter's outer atmosphere.

A. Incorrect as it does not identify BF2 as the conclusion.

B. Incorrect as it tells us that BF1 weighs against the conclusion. We know that BF1 is offered as a support to the conclusion.

C. Incorrect as it does not identify BF2 as the conclusion.

D. Same as C.

E. CORRECT.

Says that first part is supporting conclusion (Correct) and second part is the conclusion (Correct)

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The word 'but' is a part of BF1. There is no contradictory word **between** BF1 and BF2.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**



The second BF portion is indeed the conclusion itself, not *evidence* in support of the conclusion.

Why is it "*likely* that some of the fragments were at least ~~large enough to have~~ passed through Jupiter's outer atmosphere without being burned up?" Because the OUTER atmosphere contained *unprecedented traces* of sulfur after the fragments' entry. The word "*unprecedented*" implies that traces of sulfur had never been detected before the collision. So the outer atmosphere should NOT contain sulfur.

In that case, how did traces of sulfur appear in the outer atmosphere? Well, IF the fragments had penetrated the cloud layer BELOW the outer atmosphere, then the sulfur from the cloud layer could have seeped up into the outer atmosphere. This would explain the traces of sulfur that were detected in the outer atmosphere AFTER the entry.

Based on the sulfur evidence, it is *likely* that at least SOME of the fragments were large enough to reach the cloud layer (this is the conclusion of the argument). Someone might respond to that argument by saying, "Well, what if the sulfur came from comet itself? Then your argument is invalid." But the first BF portion addresses this possible criticism. Thus, the first BF statement is a *judgment* (*almost* certainly, not certainly) advanced in *support* of the conclusion of the argument.

The first BF statement actually *helps* the argument and does not weigh *against* the conclusion. Thus, (C) should be eliminated.

(E) is the best answer.

Let's breakdown the argument.

Fact1: Most of the uranium comes from mines. i.e deposit on land.

Fact 2: cost of extracting uranium from seawater is higher than the market price for uranium,

Conclusion : until the cost of extracting uranium from seawater can somehow be reduced, this method of obtaining uranium is unlikely to be commercially viable.

Loophole: The above conclusion depends on the argument that uranium will continue to be available on land

A) CORRECT. The answer to this question will tell us if the prices of uranium will continue to remain the same. If uranium on land decreases, the prices are likely to go up making extracting uranium from seawater a commercially viable process.

B) Irrelevant. Irrespective of whether uranium is used close to the land where it's being mined, the cost of extraction will remain constant. The argument does not take into account transportation costs and such.

C) Inconclusive. Only tells us that there will be a reduction in the cost of extracting uranium from the sea. We do not know whether that reduction would even be enough to make up for the current cost disparity, much less make such a venture profitable.

Note: the important qualifier in the original argument:

**until the cost of extracting uranium from seawater can somehow be reduced**, this method of obtaining uranium is unlikely to be commercially viable.

in other words, the argument already acknowledges the fact that reducing the cost of extracting uranium from seawater (if possible) would make the method commercially viable. so choice (c) basically just repeats that consideration, and therefore neither helps nor hurts the argument.

on the other hand, if that choice contained any other method of cost reduction, then it would be correct

D) Irrelevant. Even if the amount of uranium is higher in seawater as long as it can be mined on land, this becomes immaterial to the cost of uranium and ultimately, the argument.



E) Irrelevant. The comparison is between the cost of extracting uranium from mines and extracting it from sea water. Fresh water extraction and its costs become irrelevant here.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Lets look at options A and C.

Option A. It says that the uranium in deposits on land is rapidly being depleted. We know that most of the uranium comes from mines, that is land. Now, if the uranium available in mines is depleting, can we say that the overall supply of uranium in the market has gone down rapidly? [I hope this point is clear]. Now, if the overall supply of uranium has gone down, can we say that the price of uranium in the global market goes up? [Prices go up when supply goes down, assuming demand is fixed]. Since the price of uranium has gone up, can we say that the process of extracting uranium from seawater becomes viable even if the cost of extracting uranium remains the same? [cost remains the same, but the price of uranium goes up, making the process commercially viable]. Option A looks okay!

Option C : it tries to assess the possibility of any technological advances that show promise of reducing the cost of extracting uranium from seawater. Even if that were true, that is not affecting the argument we have to evaluate. The argument says 'UNLESS the cost of extracting uranium from seawater can somehow be reduced, this method is not commercially viable'. We need to find out if there is a case under which the method is commercially viable even if the cost of extracting uranium remains the same. Another way to think of this is that we don't know if these new technological advances that reduce the cost of extracting uranium will be able to make up for the price of uranium in the world market. Incorrect!

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The conclusion is that "until the cost of extracting uranium from seawater can somehow be reduced, this method of obtaining uranium is unlikely to be commercially viable." According to the author, the only way that extracting uranium from seawater will likely become commercially viable is if the COST of that method is decreased. But what if the PRICE that Uranium fetches on the world market increases? In that case, the seawater method could become commercially viable even if the cost does not decrease.

In order to evaluate the author's argument, we would want to know whether the price of Uranium is likely to increase, so (A) is the best choice.

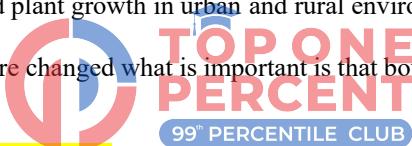
As for choice (B), if the cost is greater than the price, then the method is not economically viable. We are told that the cost of the seawater method is currently greater than the price, REGARDLESS of where the Uranium is used.

Imagine a city with a high demand for Uranium, so you open a seawater extraction plant nearby. In order to be commercially viable, you'd still have to sell your Uranium at a price that exceeds the cost. But if that price exceeds the world market price, the city will buy it's Uranium from elsewhere, even though your plant is closer.

Sure, we could come up with hypothetical situations in which choice (B) might be relevant (i.e. something about transportation costs?), but in order to evaluate the specific argument in this passage, choice (A) is the most relevant and useful.

17.

- A) This choice is irrelevant, since both the urban and rural greenhouses are free of sulfur dioxide.
- B) This choice doesn't account for any difference in growth; instead, it indicates that the greenhouse environments in both urban and rural areas are more conducive to plant growth than are the outside environments.
- C) Irrelevant. Size of the class does not matter as the argument does not indicate it affects the plant growth rate in any way.
- D) CORRECT. This answer choice provides a factor other than sulfur dioxide that may account for the slow growth in urban environments. This is important because it undermines certain potential conclusions that the classes might make concerning the relationship between sulfur dioxide and plant growth in urban and rural environments.
- E) Irrelevant. Despite how many filters were changed what is important is that both environments remained sulfur dioxide free (as stated in the premise).



**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The idea of any such experiment is always the concept in economics called *ceteris paribus* - everything else apart from the factor being tested is to be held constant. Subsequently, when we change the factors, the experiments are called factorial experiments.

Here the factor being tested is the sulfur dioxide content and its effect on the rate of growth of plants. A good experiment design here would have been to grow plants in greenhouses with air quality and other environmental factors as similar as possible, with only the SO<sub>2</sub> content varying, then do hypothesis testing on the means of the two rates of growth in the two samples. That has not been done here, but what we have to understand is kind of the opposite has been done. SO<sub>2</sub> has been completely taken out, and then the growth rates are being observed to deduce what the effect of SO<sub>2</sub> on growth rate is. Irrespective, *ceteris paribus* is the most crucial thing - in Option (D), if the greenhouses provide environments that differ significantly in at least one other factor (light in this case), then any statistical difference in the means of any observed statistic from the two samples cannot be uniquely attributed to only one factor that differed (SO<sub>2</sub> as is intended to be). The other answer choices are largely irrelevant

18.

- A. Irrelevant to why the accident rate increased slightly as the number of winding roads remained the same both before and after the marking.
- B. Irrelevant to the argument. Bad visibility (whether due to poor weather conditions or night) is the reason why the edge marking were painted in the first place.
- C. Irrelevant. The comparison of the accident rate is not with other counties.
- D. Weakens the argument. If this were true then the marking on the road should have decreased the number of cars veering off the street.
- E. CORRECT. This says that people who were not familiar with the route, started to take it post the marking. The presence of increased, inexperienced drivers would explain the slight increase in the accident rate.

19.

Argument:

Since the per capita income of Gortland has increased more people can afford meat. Therefore meat consumption has increased.

Since it takes several pounds of grain → one pound of meat the grain consumption must also proportionately increase.

Conclusion:

Gortland will have to import either meat or grain

Assumption:

This is based on the assumption that the current level of grain consumption will remain the same thereby causing a shortage of grain/meat, since Gortland does not plan on increasing domestic grain production.



- A. Irrelevant. Argument does not discuss acreage.

Let's see the negation of this:

The total acreage devoted to grain production in Gortland ~~will increase~~.

Despite the negation being true, the conclusion that Gortland will have to import meat or grain would still hold true

B. Irrelevant.

Let's look at the negation of this argument.

Importing either grain or meat will result in a significantly higher percentage of Gortlanders' incomes being spent on food than is currently the case.

If the negation were true, it does not affect the conclusion in anyway.

Infact this option simply indicates a possible outcome of the conclusion.

C. Irrelevant. The argument discusses the total consumption of meat and not at each income level. Also let's look at the negation of this option:

The per capita consumption of meat in Gortland is not increasing at roughly the same rate across all income levels.  
Even if the negation were true, the conclusion would still be valid.

D. Irrelevant. The income of the producers does not strengthen the argument in anyway nor does it tell us about why there is a need to import meat or grain or both.

E. CORRECT.

This strengthens the argument by indicating that since increased consumption of meat will not lead to lowered intake of grains, there will be a shortage of grains.

Let's negate this option:

People in Gortland who increase their consumption of meat will radically decrease their consumption of grain.

This means that the increase in consumption of meat will be compensated for by the lowered consumption of grain. This would destroy the conclusion as it would be possible to supply the excess meat in demand through domestic grain production.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

If the people of Gortland do radically reduce their consumption of grains (negation of Option (E)), then there will be a lot

of surplus grains left. All of these can then potentially be used to fuel the production of meat (essentially cows etc will eat the grains; that is how grains go into the production of meat. This understanding however, is inconsequential, as the question mentions as a fact a lot of grains go into the production of a smaller amount of meat). So if the people of Gortland reduce the consumption of grains drastically, Gortland may be able to continue sustaining both their grain and their meat production, and may not have to import either. The argument is weakened severely. So Option (E) was an assumption being made.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(A) - Negating it would give that the acreage would in fact increase meaning more grains but due to limited resources now the meat production will take a hit and in that case meat would have to be imported.

This solidifies the conclusion. Eliminate A.

(E) - E states a condition wherein people would not stop their consumption of grains radically but just increase the production of meats.

Now, since there are limited resources, there is a limit on production of the two as well.

If grain's demand stays the same with increase in meat production, then the increase in meat production can be offset by a decrease in grain production leading to a shortage of grain further leading to imports of the grain.

Negating E would give us that indeed the demand for grain goes down with the increased demand for meat. This will lead to meat production taking preference over the grain production and the levels will balance out since grains won't be needed that much anymore at all. This undermines the need for imports.

E's the right option.



20.

Fact:

1. the exhaust from the buses damage the buildings.
2. Idling buses produce as much exhaust as driving.

Main conclusion:

By providing parking spaces the damage to the buildings will decrease significantly.

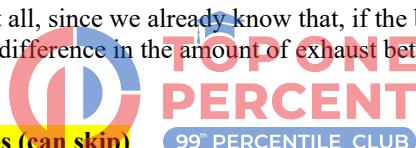
This conclusion is based on the **assumption** that buses spend more time idling than driving (since both actions produce the same amount of exhaust) . If this assumption were to be untrue, then there is no point in providing parking spaces to curb damages to the buildings.

Let us see which option supports this assumption.

- A. Weakens the argument by suggesting that the exhaust from the bus is not a significant threat to the building. This makes the argument about parking spots redundant.
- B. Irrelevant. The argument is not concerned about the other sources of pollution (or the lack of it) apart from bus exhaust.
- C. CORRECT. provides the new information that the buses spend 3/4 of the total time - i.e., all the time that they don't actually spend transporting passengers - either parking or idling. since, according to the passage, most buses idle rather than park, this means that most buses spend 3/4 of their total time idling in front of historic buildings.
- D. Irrelevant. This does not indicate how parking spaces may help diminish the damage to the building.

E. Irrelevant.

this statement doesn't help the argument at all, since we already know that, if the buses can't find parking, they either idle at the curb or drive around. since there is no difference in the amount of exhaust between idling and driving around, this statement doesn't have any effect.



**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

What is the conclusion here? That damage to Palitito's buildings from BUSES' EXHAUST will diminish significantly by the introduction of new parking spaces. The conclusion is very specific about the impact of buses' exhaust on the buildings. We don't care about the other sources of pollution. Since B is talking about other sources, it is totally irrelevant. We're looking for an option that gives us reason to believe that the damage from buses' exhaust will diminish significantly. B does not give us that.

C simply says that only 1/4th of the time the buses are actually driving. Else they're idling. If there were more parking spaces, these buses would in fact get parked there reducing the time of idling and bridging the damage from exhaust down.

E simply reinstates what's already been told. An additional lot of parking doesn't necessarily mean that the buses would actually go and get parked there, just that it would now be an option. Doesn't strengthen the argument.

21.

A. Irrelevant as the argument only discusses emmer wheat. Where einkorn was found and domesticated neither strengthens nor weakens the argument.

B. Irrelevant. Basically, this just says that wild emmer wheat can be domesticated. This is something we already know, since the wheat was domesticated by the ancient people!

C. Irrelevant, nutrition is not the topic of discussion. This does not tell us where emmer was first domesticated and therefore neither strengthens nor weakens the argument.

D. CORRECT. The evidence in the argument is based on where this strain of wheat has been found growing, NOW in modern times (as you can tell from the present perfect, "has been found growing"). If we're going to argue about the domestication of this wheat, in ancient times, then we need to know that the same conditions that prevail now also prevailed back then.

E. Weakens the argument slightly by saying that it is difficult to identify emmer wheat without genetic testing from another strain of wild wheat also growing in the same region.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

We are asked what strengthens the argument. Then apart from the actual answer, every other choice will either be irrelevant or will weaken the argument. To that end, everything other than Option (D) is irrelevant. Still, look at Option (D). Negation is conditions have changed a lot. If that is true, it weakens the argument - it is quite possible that cultivated wheat was grown separately in the same spot as opposed to being domesticated there first from wild wheat (all wheat is emmer for it to be relevant to this question). Then the original Option (D) is a strengthener



22.

Fact 1: In the late 1980s, the population of sea otters in the North Pacific began to decline

Fact 2: A concurrent sharp decline in populations of seals and sea lions is believed to have been caused by disease

A. Correct. The reasoning given by the argument is weakened significantly if we find an option that tells us that the sea otters were killed by predation rather than disease. Option A does just that.

In the absence of seals and sea lions (which were killed because of a disease) killer whales seek other prey (possibly sea otters) thus giving us an alternate explanation for the decline of otters.

B. This tells us that the otter population did not decline, rather it migrated. This option tells us that the premise (Fact 1) is false.

On GMAT such answer choices must be eliminated at once. As far as GMAT is concerned the premise is ALWAYS true.

C. Irrelevant. This simply restates the premise by telling us that the otter population has declined.

D. Irrelevant. This states a natural consequence of the premise. It does not tell us the cause for the decline in otter population.

E. Irrelevant. Once again this does not establish the cause of otters' death and hence neither strengthens nor weakens the argument.

23.

A. Irrelevant. Absolute weight has no bearing on percentage decline. if the weight glass bottles in trash declined by 25%, this is in comparison to the weight of the glass bottles itself from previous years. So the weight of the glass bottles relative to the aluminium cans are irrelevant.

B. Irrelevant. The argument discusses the decrease in weight due to beverage containers.

C.CORRECT

facts:

\* the PERCENTAGE of recycled aluminum was higher than the PERCENTAGE of recycled glass. this is what it means when we say that aluminum recycling was more widely practiced.

BUT

\* the NUMERICAL CHANGE in aluminum in the trash was lower than the NUMERICAL CHANGE in glass in the trash.

if all the stuff missing from the trash had been recycled, this would be impossible. therefore, we need another explanation, besides recycling, for WHY THE TOTAL USE OF GLASS HAS GONE DOWN. that's the only way that these findings are mathematically possible.

(c) is such a statement.

D. Weakens the argument as it is the EXACT OPPOSITE of this sort of statement. if (d) were true, we would expect to see aluminum, not glass, declining at a faster rate in the trash.

E. Irrelevant. This does not help solve the discrepancy. We already know that aluminium recycling was more widely practiced. If sorting glass bottles by color deterred people from recycling, why did the weight of the glass bottles decrease?



**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The question asks us to "account for a finding," so let's take a look at the exact "finding" in the passage: "the weight of glass bottles in household garbage declined by a greater % than the weight of the aluminum cans." There is a discrepancy between this finding and the fact that "aluminum recycling was more widely practiced than glass recycling." This fact would otherwise lead us to expect the weight of aluminum cans in the trash to decrease by a *greater* percentage than that of glass bottles, because cans that are recycled would not end up in the trash. Our task is to find an answer choice that explains the discrepancy between the finding and the evidence. Let's go through the answer choices:

A) The finding in the passage deals with change in the **percentage** of weight of both items. Even if glass bottles are heavier than aluminum cans, you would still expect their weights to be reduced proportionally -- so if aluminum cans are recycled more, you would expect the weight of aluminum cans in the trash to decline more **by percentage** than the weight of glass bottles.

Answer choice (A) would be relevant in studying the change in **total weight** of these materials, but not so much for **percent** of weight. This factor does not explain the discrepancy in the change of percentage of weight. Answer (A) is out.

B) If you look back at the "finding" in the passage, it does not mention beverage containers at all. We are concerned only with the weight of glass bottles and aluminum cans in the trash by percentage. The contents of those glass and aluminum objects are irrelevant to the conclusion, so answer (B) is out.

C) This is more like it. We need a reason for a **greater decline** in percentage of glass bottles in the trash than aluminum cans in the trash, and answer (C) gives us a good reason. Households replaced "many" glass bottles with plastic containers, while only replacing "few" aluminum cans with plastic. So fewer glass bottles would end up in the trash despite more aluminum cans being recycled. This accounts for the discrepancy between the evidence and finding.

(C) is looking great, but let's finish up the other answer choices.

D) We are looking for a reason that the percentage of weight of glass is **lower** than expected when compared to that of aluminum. Answer (D) states that household purchases of glass bottles is increasing *faster* than purchases of aluminum. Thus, the **weight of glass bottles in garbage should be higher**. But we know that the weight of glass bottles has declined at a faster rate. This is the opposite of what we need to resolve the discrepancy, so answer (D) is out.

E) This answer might explain why aluminum recycling is more widespread than glass recycling, but it has nothing to do with the central discrepancy we are trying to resolve: why did the percentage of weight of glass *decrease* more than that of aluminum?

Answer (E) is out, and answer (C) is correct.

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Understand that the main finding / discrepancy of the passage is that even though aluminum was recycled more (so fewer aluminum cans should have been in the trash), the weight of glass bottles as a percentage of the weight of trash fell more than it did for aluminum. More glass was going to trash, but its weight as a percentage of the weight of trash was falling. What explains this? If Option (B) is true, if anything, the percentage of the weight of glass in the trash should have increased - the discrepancy is not just for beverage containers, but across the board. Beverage containers as a percentage of total trash may have been decreasing, but if glass bottle were used for other purposes in a vast number of cases, why was the weight of glass containers in the trash decreasing as a percentage of the total weight of the trash?

If Option (C) is correct, there were just fewer glass bottles in general, so of course fewer went to trash, whereas only a small percentage of the total aluminum cans were replaced with plastic, so even with higher recycling of aluminum, cans made out of still made it into the trash quite a lot.

24.

A. This neither explains the first hypothesis nor the second. This indicates that the beetles can maintain their pace (unlike hypothesis 1) and that they can process rapidly changing visual information. (unlike hypothesis 2)

B. Although “In pursuing a moving insect, the beetles usually respond immediately to changes in the insect's direction” weakens the second hypothesis that “while running tiger beetles are unable to process the resulting rapidly changing visual information” it does not strengthen the first hypothesis



C. CORRECT.

This is correct because keeping a fixed interval supports the visual processing hypothesis and undermines the rest hypothesis. If the pauses are needed to get a visual fix, it makes sense that the intervals would be fixed because the time needed to get a visual fix shouldn't change. However, if the beetles need to pause for rest, they should need longer pauses after they start moving faster.

D. Irrelevant. This neither explains hypothesis 1 nor does it provide support for hypothesis 2.

E. While this may strengthen the visual processing hypothesis to an extent, it does not undermine the rest hypothesis.

25.

- A. Irrelevant. If anything it looks to strengthen the politician's stand.
- B. CORRECT. This that means that they're already making almost as much as they can today. In addition, they were not making anywhere near as much as they could 12 years ago and 5 years ago. That's a change from the last two times when exports went up a lot. This indicates that the weakening the currency this time may not work as expected.
- C. Irrelevant. While this option makes a good point, we are not looking for the best plan to strengthen Dafir's economy. Rather we need to find what will weaken the politician's argument
- D. Irrelevant. Is the issue whether other countries have stable currencies? Do we know about those other countries during the previous 2 periods (12 years ago and 5 years ago)? No – not from the argument and not from this choice
- E. Irrelevant. This might be true; perhaps this is a better plan overall... but they didn't ask to find a better plan. They are asking you to weaken the given conclusion. Does it address the stated conclusion, which is to increase exports specifically by weakening the currency? No

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Politician's recommendation: government should allow the pundra to become weak again.

The intention of the recommendation: To increase exports.

The point: Weakening the Pundra will cause an increase in exports. We need to weaken this point. Basically, supporting that even after Weakening the Pundra, this action will NOT cause an increase in exports. What other factors can increase exports is not relevant in this question.

We are concerned about the outcome when currency is weakened, not about other stimuli/factors which might/might not affect the exports. Option E mentions other factors that can increase the exports but does not weaken this—" Weakening the Pundra will cause an increase in exports".



26.

- A. Weakens the Argument. This option indicates that the magnitude of mortality rate from traffic accidents is not as high as Mortality rates that were associated with poor sanitation in Megacity a hundred years ago, thereby implying that traffic accidents cannot be the sole reason for the city's population growth rate stagnating.
- B. CORRECT. It suggests that the birth rate is declining DESPITE the fact that the sanitation, and immigration to the city are going up.
- C. Irrelevant. The question is why is the population rate of Megacity not rising despite increased migration and improved sanitation. The population growth of smaller cities has nothing to do with the argument.
- D. Irrelevant. We already know that the immigration rate has increased. The question is why has the population growth not accelerated?
- E. Irrelevant. Provides a reason for increasing immigration rate but not for the stagnant population growth rate.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

What would be a way to gauge population rate increase in a Remsland?

Population rate of increase / year = (Immigrants + New births - Deaths due to sanitation - Deaths due to other major causes) / year

The stem says the LHS of the above equation has remained fairly stable YoY. On the RHS, the number of immigrants entering the place has remained fairly stable (maybe even slightly increased), there is no talk about new births, deaths due to sanitation problems have reduced in number quite a bit. The only term that remains is deaths due to other major causes.

Option (A) says Deaths due to sanitation in the past was a very large number as compared to Deaths due to other major causes (vehicular traffic in present times; on the past this term wasn't significantly large). Just put any representative values into the equation above and you will see that if this is true, it can no way explain how the LHS has remained reasonably the same.

However, what Option (B) says is exactly what we need - New births / year has decreased massively; so even if a subtraction term has fallen in absolute value, because a smaller addition term is now present, the LHS can potentially be brought back into balance at the earlier state or near it

For even more clarity:

This is what Option (A) says:

This is in the past.

Immigrants / year = 8,000

New births / year = 30,000

Deaths due to sanitation / year = 20,000

Deaths due to other causes (vehicular traffic) / year = 0

Population increase rate / year =  $8,000 + 30,000 - 20,000 - 0 = 18,000$

This is the present.

Immigrants / year = 8,000

New births / year = 30,000

Deaths due to sanitation / year = 300

Deaths due to other causes (vehicular traffic) / year = 200

Population increase rate / year =  $8,000 + 30,000 - 300 - 200 = 37,500$



Is it possible for the 'Deaths due to sanitation / year' term to fall massively, 'Deaths due to vehicular traffic / year' increase not near as much (orders of magnitude lesser), everything else to remain reasonably the same, and the 'Population increase rate / year' term *not* to increase significantly? No. It will increase a lot - everything else held constant, one term that was being subtracted has reduced massively in absolute value, while another term that was being subtracted has not increased nearly as much in absolute value (so overall a much smaller absolute value is being subtracted now)

Option (B) says that new births / year have steadily reduced in number. Then you can again plug in numbers and see that, rather than 30,000 if a much smaller number is added, then the present population will not increase that much. For Option (B), the other causes term needs to be held constant thought (as nothing is said about that) - essentially everything else held constant, a smaller absolute value is being subtracted (sanitation deaths) and a smaller absolute value is being added (new births)

27.

This is a tough one - there are essentially two conclusions: the main point of view and a contrasting point of view.

S1 Plant scientists have used genetic engineering on seeds to produce crop plants that are highly resistant to insect damage.  
S2 Unfortunately, the seeds themselves are quite expensive, and the plants require more fertilizer and water to grow well than normal ones.

S3 Thus, for most farmers the savings on pesticides would not compensate for the higher seed costs and the cost of additional fertilizer.

S4 However, since consumer demand for grains, fruits, and vegetables grown without the use of pesticides continues to rise, the use of genetically engineered seeds of this kind is likely to become widespread.

The key thing to notice is, first, the two boldface statements are on opposite sides of the fence. Second, the first boldface is a fact that is used to support sentence 3. The second boldface goes against sentence 3 - it can't actually go against sentence 2, since S2 is a fact, but it does go against the main point of view given in S3.

I want a choice that is consistent with the above relationships.

A. The first is not context (or background) - it is a premise used to draw a conclusion. The second is not the main point of view but a contrasting point of view. (This one also implies the two are on the same side of the fence and they are not!)

B. The first part is fine, but the second is not. The argument does not deny that the second boldface will be part of the outcome - rather, it says that the contrasting viewpoint is likely to overcome the main point of view.

C. correct.

The first presents a development (S2) that the argument predicts will have a certain outcome (S3); the second acknowledges a consideration (S4) that weighs against that prediction (S3).



D. The author does not actually attempt to defend either conclusion - it just presents the two. This choice also says the two are on the same side of the fence when they're not.

E. This one says that S2 and S4 are on the same side of the fence.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The development is the production of these new GMO seeds and the fact that they cost more than normal ones and require more fertilizer. This is BF1, so it is introducing this development. The prediction (intermediate prediction so to say) is that for most farmers the cost won't add up to the benefits, and so the seeds will not be popular. Then BF2 comes in and raises an issue to be considered (the fact that people really like such agricultural produce; i.e. the demand will be high) and says that this will likely result in the seeds actually becoming popular (weighing against the intermediate prediction). So Option (C) is the answer

28.

this is a "draw the conclusion" problem (i.e., you need a statement that is "supported BY" the facts). this means that you have to be able to PROVE the statement given, beyond any reasonable objection. in otherwords, basically, you have to be 100% sure (or at least 99.99% sure, anyway) that the statement is true.

since that's a rather stringent criterion, it follows that you can't PROVE statements about things that just aren't discussed in the first place. therefore, in these problems, any statement about a topic that isn't in the original passage is WRONG. (note the HUGE contrast with "explain the discrepancy" problems, in which you must pick a statement that lies outside the scope of the original passage.)

- A. the passage mentions absolutely nothing about competitors' prices, so you can't PROVE this statement.
- B. the passage mentions absolutely nothing about non-computer products, so you can't PROVE this statement.
- C. the passage mentions absolutely nothing about the origin of the computers being replaced -- i.e., the only dichotomy mentioned is "replacing a new computer [from we-have-no-idea-where]" vs. "buying a first computer" -- so you can't PROVE this statement.
- D. CORRECT. Notice that this choice actually stays within the scope of the statements made in the passage. i.e., it doesn't bring in ANY outside topics.
- E. the passage mentions absolutely nothing about production costs, so you can't PROVE this statement. in fact, you can't produce any sort of argument for this statement at all -- it's random wild guessing.

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There is a big circle that constitutes all PXC computer buyers. Now within this circle there is a smaller left portion (P1) that is of net new PXC buyers (low margin, low revenue customers). Within the overall big circle, there is another smaller right portion (P2) that is of PXC replacers (high profit, high revenue customers). P1 and P2 together comprise the entire big circle. We want to increase revenue and profit. Intuitively at this point it should appear to you that P2 from the previous year needs to be smaller than P2 from last year (i.e. last year's P2 needs to be bigger than the previous year's P2). This is true because the size of the overall circle has remained the same, as the question tells us.

What Option (C) is saying is that within P2 itself, the proportion of people replacing non-PXC computers with PXC computers was greater last year than the previous year; that is to say the proportion of people replacing PXC computers with other PXC computers was smaller than the same proportion the previous year. But so what? What if P2 shrank by a huge amount last year compared to the previous year. Will the revenue and profit have increased? No. Even with all of these internal proportion changes within P2, revenue and profit still would not have increased. So P1 must have shrunk, P2 must have increased in proportion; anything happening within P2 will not have a net effect on the overall revenue and profit delta - the margin and revenue of replacing any machine with a PXC machine is still the same.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(D) - Understand the argument. There are two types of customers :

Customer type 1 : First-time computer buyers buying PXC computers that cost much less and have a smaller profit margin.  
Customer type 2 : Customers who replace their computers with more powerful PXC computers. These computers are more expensive and have a higher profit margin.

We are given that last year, PXC's profits from computer sales were higher than the previous year. We're also given that in these two years, the number of PXC computers sold was the same and the prices and profit margins of the computers remained the same. We need to choose an option that can be best inferred from this information.

Let us say that last year and the previous year, PXC sold 100 computers. The price of the computers and the profit margins remained the same across the two years.

We know that the profit margin of computers bought by customer type 2 > profit margin of computers bought by customer type 1.

Profit in the previous year = Profits from computers bought by customer type 1 + Profits from computers bought by customer type 2

Now, Profits from computers bought by customer type 2 > Profits from computers bought by customer type 1 [because the computers bought by customer type 2 are more expensive and have a higher profit margin]

Now, last year, 100 computers were sold.

In the last year, let the number of PXC computers bought by first-time buyers = a and the number of PXC computers bought by customers replacing their existing computers = (100-a)

Profit in the last year = Profits from computers bought by customer type 1 + Profits from computers bought by customer type 2

**We also know that Profit in the last year > Profit in the previous year.**

How is this possible? Let's go through all the relevant variables :

- 1 - Total number of computers sold - same for both years
- 2 - Prices of computers over the two years - same
- 3 - Profit margins - same.

What could be the reason for the bolded equation? The % of computers bought by customer type 1 and % of computers bought by customer type 2

If last year, % of computers bought by customer type 2 increased from the previous year, then a greater number of "more expensive, higher margin" computers were sold. This will increase the profit last year. If % of computers bought by customer type 2 increases, then % of computers bought by customer type 1 will have to decrease, since the total number of computers sold is constant.

So D is our answer.



29.

- A. Rather than undermining the argument, this strengthens the argument to an extent by indicating that the proposal to use catfish has already been in use.
- B. Irrelevant. The argument does not discuss Mechanical methods (or its usefulness) but rather the effectiveness of using catfish.
- C. This restates the fact that catfish swim erratically before earthquakes. We already know this and it does not undermine the argument in anyway.
- D. Irrelevant. This does not discuss the use of catfish and therefore neither strengthens nor weakens the argument.

E. CORRECT.

This indicates that using catfish may raise an alarm for even fleeting earthquakes, thereby undermining the usefulness of monitoring catfish to predict **dangerous** earthquakes.

30.

- A. CORRECT. This indicates that by raising the cost of housing in the city, the plan may not be able to attract new citizens to the city.
- B. Irrelevant. This does not affect the city's plan to ask developers to provide recreational facilities at no extra cost. It maybe a completely different factor that attracts new citizens and is irrelevant to our evaluation of the city's plan.
- C. Irrelevant. This will in no way affect the outcome of the city's plan nor does it help us evaluate it.
- D. This actually strengthens the argument. If the developers saw this as an additional cost of doing business and did not pass on the extra cost to the buyer then this would in fact cause the plan to succeed.
- E. Irrelevant to finding the flaw in the plan. This simply indicates that the buyers maybe attracted by such recreational facilities being offered.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

If the recreational facilities that the city is trying to push are also important to the buyers the city is looking to attract, then that's doubly good for the city's plan, everything else remaining constant? *How can this possibly* be a flaw in the plan then? People will be attracted by the recreational facilities (that are important to them), the city is providing these facilities, and so the people will come and buy houses in the city. This is *exactly* what the city wants.

Without looking at any other answer choice, a possible flaw in the plan will be if the developers say they won't provide these facilities for free. Why should they? It's a hit on their profit margins. Yet, a part of the city's plan is to get these facilities for free from the developers. This can be a potential flaw. Or maybe something else the question is giving us but *certainly* not Option (E).

31.

- A. Strengthens the campaign by indicating that customers need "inducement" (or cents-off coupon in this case) to try new brands.
- B. CORRECT. By indicating that customers who tend to use cents-off coupons are not loyal to a brand, this choice clearly indicates that giving these coupons will not win the brand any loyal customers.
- C. Irrelevant. The value of the coupon is irrelevant to the argument.
- D. Irrelevant. While this indicates a relatively small segment of the consumers use coupons, it still does not explain why they will not switch over to the brand that offers these coupons.
- E. While this option suggests how to improve the plan of using cents-off coupons, it does not indicate that the plan will fail.

32.

- A. Comparing rate of increase in expenditure with other states is irrelevant. The governor talks of “total expenditure” This option neither strengthens nor weakens his argument.

B out of scope. The contention is that unlike businessmen who believe that the road system of the state is inadequate, the fact that the state has been spending an increasing amount of money on it indicates that this is not the case. What factor is more important for businessmen to do business is completely out of scope.

C. Irrelevant. Since we are not told that the businesses left due to inadequate road system or that new ones moved in due to good road system, this option becomes irrelevant.

D. This is just a fact and is not related to argument anyway.

E. CORRECT.

This indicates that because the existing road system is not good, more money is being spent on the roads. So the view held by many businessmen that that road system is inadequate may have some merit.

Note: Do not be allergic to extreme answer choices!

Even when you are asked to make an inference based on a set of facts, the correct answer may have words such as 'only', 'impossible', 'never', 'always'. Simply make sure this language is justified.

If you take E as a fact (this is exactly what you are supposed to do!), then you see that high expenditures per mile may actually be a sign that the state's road system is inadequate.

33.

This is pretty self explanatory.

A. If this were true, then it negates the premise that “When a caterpillar emerges from the egg on a tree branch, it immediately climbs upward until it finds a leaf bud to eat”. It does not tell us why the caterpillar usually moves in the direction opposite to gravity but moved in the direction of gravity only when a light was placed under the tree.

B. Once again, this wouldn't tell us why they moved in the direction of gravity only when a light was placed under the tree.

C. CORRECT. When a caterpillar moves upward, it's climbing towards the sun i.e a source of light but when a stronger source of light was placed below the tree, it moved towards it.

D. Negates why the caterpillar moved down, towards light, if this were true.

E. Irrelevant. We are only concerned with the movement of the caterpillar as soon as they are hatched.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Read option C carefully. It is not talking about the strongest light source on planet earth. It is talking about the stronger light source in the environment of the caterpillar. Given that the sun is many million kilometres away from the Earth and that sunlight will have to face many obstacles to reach Earth (including leaves of the tree), I think we can say that the 'strong light source' is the stronger light source of the two.

We are not saying/concluding that it is definitely because of the light source that the caterpillar moved. We're simply using this observation to support the **hypothesis (a hypothesis is simply a possible explanation)** mentioned in option C. We'll probably need to perform a couple more experiments to conclude that the caterpillar moved because of the light source.

Now, if the innate tendency of the caterpillar was in fact to move in the opposite direction of gravity, then it would have done so in the second case as well. But it didn't. This tells us that it wasn't really gravity that affected the caterpillar's movement. But you're right. we cannot infer that the caterpillar moves towards the sun if the first set of experiments was conducted at night. But what we do know is that it wasn't because of gravity. And given the information in the question, C is the best answer.

34.

"per-capita expenditure" is the total price paid for drugs (price per pill \* # of pills) divided by the number of people.

If the per capita expenditure is increasing, either the numerator has to be increasing or the denominator has to be decreasing or both.

So, either the price is increasing, the number of pills is increasing, or the number of people is decreasing (or some combination of the above).

premise: product prices can't be raised (note: by definition, this only addresses existing products; new products not yet introduced do not yet have assigned prices)

--> So I can't raise the price of existing products, but I could introduce more expensive products.

premise: the use of prescription drugs did not increase after the price freeze

--> So the number of pills isn't changing

A. new medications = new price introductions. If these prices are higher than the prices for the old products, then that's how I can increase the numerator of my "per capita expenditure" calculation

B. if this changes anything, it would decrease the per capita expenditure (if the new people didn't take any drugs) - though the more reasonable assumption is that the new people are taking drugs at the same rate as the old people, meaning there's no change in per capita expenditure. Either way, per capita expenditure is not increasing.

C. we're concerned with why the per capita expenditure is still increasing and profit levels don't affect that calculation

D. the government can encourage anything it wants - that doesn't mean it happened. And, anyway, if the gov't were successful in this plan, that should have lowered per capita expenditure, not increased it.

E. if this changes anything, it would decrease the per capita expenditure (people aren't buying as many of the expensive drugs anymore)



**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Population related answers will "always" be wrong in this particular question and not in every question.

In this question:

Firstly, it is not stated that per capita expenditure is borne by the government. It just says per capita expenditure increased (this expense is most likely borne by individuals).

Secondly, if the population decreased (as you have considered), the per capita expenditure would increase (15% or more) only if the remaining portion of population increased the drug purchase (as the price per drug is fixed) and this did not happen (argument says-use of prescription drugs did not expand after this price freeze...). Hence, options based on population don't play a vital role in this particular question.

35.

This is pretty straight forward. Which option would best explain why the cave paintings depict deer with humps while the fossils of the same animal does not have any humps?

A. Irrelevant. Hump on another animal does not explain whether the cave paintings portray the European Wild Deer correctly.

B. Irrelevant. This tells us that possibly more European Wild deer inhabited Ireland than France. But this gives us no reason to believe that the deer's of France had a hump while those in Ireland did not. Further, the passage does not discuss whether the fossils were found in Ireland or France or both.

C. CORRECT. Perfectly explains the paradox. In this case, it's possible that the deer of Ireland as well as France had a hump which did not fossilize.

D. This indicates that the cave paintings were painted well before the deer became extinct. But it still does not explain the discrepancy between the presence of a hump in the paintings and the lack of it in the fossils.

E. This option has little bearing on the argument. Whether current species of deer have such humps or not tells us nothing of giant deer's anatomy.

36.

- A. This simply tells us that Vernon has parts of its business that are too complicated to outsource. This does not help strengthen the plan for outsourcing the rest of its business in any way.
- B. This adds no value to our conclusion. It does not tell us whether outsourcing its components will allow Vernon to generate increased profits.
- C. This says that the probability of independent supplier becoming a competitor to Vernon is low. That is good in that it tells us that Vernon will not face any threats by outsourcing but it does not say how Vernon can make a profit through it.
- D. irrelevant; it merely makes a general statement about the way in which Vernon will choose the companies to which it will outsource. Note that this choice says nothing about choosing "optimal" bids; for all we know, Vernon will actually choose the worst bid.
- E. CORRECT. If managers' time and effort are spent on core business, it could be a way of boosting profit. In the premise it is mentioned that there has been a decline in profit and "THOSE parts of business" will be outsourced. This answer explains as to why Those parts of business may have been inefficient.

Note:

The point here is the main theme of the argument, which is the effect of outsourcing on profit. The way in which the outsourcing companies are selected doesn't really pertain to that theme at all - remember that you need an answer choice that shows that OUTSOURCING WILL BE MORE PROFITABLE THAN NOT OUTSOURCING.

choice (e) requires the assumption that freeing up top managers' time will somehow contribute to profits - BUT remember that you're looking for the choice that "most strongly supports" the argument. In this case, the other four answer choices are completely irrelevant to the issue, which is the effect of outsourcing on profit. choice (e), on the other hand, unlike the other choices, really does support the idea that OUTSOURCING WILL BE MORE PROFITABLE THAN NOT OUTSOURCING.

Therefore, even though (e) requires additional assumptions, it's still the choice that "most strongly supports" the argument - because it's the only choice that even could support the argument.



37.

if you see "Which of the following would be most useful to determine in order to evaluate the argument", then you should think of the same sorts of things you'd consider in a STRENGTHEN/WEAKEN problem.

so, let's think about this as a STRENGTHEN/WEAKEN QUESTION.

when you consider STRENGTHEN/WEAKEN problems, you should SIMPLIFY THE ARGUMENT as much as possible.

in this problem, the argument basically boils down to they only rub the millipedes during the rainy season. during the rainy season, there are more mosquitoes than usual. Therefore, the rubbing must have to do with mosquitoes.

the weak link in this argument is the assumption that there's no OTHER connection between the rubbing and the rainy season.

in other words, the argument assumes that because both of these ideas are connected to the mosquitoes, the mosquitoes MUST be responsible for the overall connection.

therefore, if an answer choice gives ANOTHER connection between the rubbing and the rainy season, then it weakens the argument.

A. talks about the millipedes protecting themselves against their own predators. Does that address the hypothesis? No. The hypothesis is specifically about the monkeys protecting themselves against the mosquitoes. This one is out of scope. Eliminate A.

B. talks about the location of the millipedes – whether they can be found in other places. Does that address the hypothesis? No. The hypothesis is specifically about certain monkeys located in Venezuela. This one is also out of scope. Eliminate B.

C. talks about whether other animals besides the capuchins exhibit the same type of behavior. Does that address the hypothesis? No. The hypothesis is specifically about certain capuchins exhibiting this behavior. This one is also out of scope. Eliminate C.



D. CORRECT

This option provides another reason why the rubbing might be connected to the rainy season, a reason that has nothing at all to do with mosquitoes. IT is possible the only reason the monkey run millipedes during the rainy seasons is because this is the only time they are available.

E. This doesn't really help unless there's some connection to the rainy season (which is the crux of the argument). whether or not there are such alternate insects, it doesn't really matter unless they would have differential effects during the rainy season vs. non-rainy season.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

##### CAUSAL ARGUMENT:

During Rainy Season --> Higher Mosquito Population, More Rubbing Behavior --> CORRELATION

There comes causation --> Therefore monkeys probably rub millipedes into their fur only because doing so helps protect them against mosquitoes. This is even the CONCLUSION of this argument.

(D) Whether the only time millipedes are readily available to capuchins is during the rainy season

YES- the only time millipedes are readily available to capuchins is during the rainy season : THIS BREAKS THE CONCLUSION. If that was the case then what about the other seasons?? How will the capuchins protect themselves against the mosquitos if millipedes are not available to them, when they are using millipedes (ONLY BECAUSE) for rubbing as a protection measure. The CAUSATION is weakened.

NO - the millipedes are readily available to capuchins not only during the rainy season (implies -- the millipedes are available in other seasons as well): THIS SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSION. Capuchins use millipedes ONLY BECAUSE for protection against the mosquitoes. CAUSATION is strengthened.

(E) Whether secretions of any other insects accessible to capuchins contain chemicals that repel the mosquitoes.

YES - the secretions of some other insects are accessible to capuchins containing chemicals that repel the mosquitoes. BUT how does that even matter to our conclusion at hand. It does not affect the CAUSATION at all. The conclusion is exclusively related to the rubbing of millipedes as a protection measure. So, even if some other insects which are accessible to capuchins and contain the mosquito repellent chemicals, would not be useful to evaluate. INCORRECT.

It doesn't matter whether there is availability of other insects!! Focus on the core of the argument/conclusion. Let's start with the conclusion, which is that "monkeys *probably* rub millipedes into their fur *only* because doing so helps protect them against mosquitoes." The author reasons that since the monkeys only rub the millipedes into their fur during the rainy season when mosquitoes are at their worst, it is likely that the monkeys are only doing this for mosquito protection. If there were OTHER reasons for rubbing the millipedes into their furs, then the monkeys would probably do it all year round. For example, if the millipede secretions were also good for the monkeys' skin and fur, then the rubbing behavior would probably continue regardless of whether mosquito populations were high or low. But, according to the author, since the monkeys only do this during peak mosquito season, **the protection from mosquitoes is probably the only motivation for the rubbing.**

D) We know that the rubbing is rare outside of the rainy season. The author explains this by suggesting that the rubbing is not needed when the mosquitoes aren't so bad. But what if there is another explanation? What if the monkeys would LIKE to rub the millipedes into their furs outside of peak mosquito season but simply cannot do so because the millipedes are not readily available? If that were the case, it would suggest that the monkeys have OTHER reasons for wanting to continue the rubbing behavior. Wanting to repel mosquitoes during the rainy season would probably not be the ONLY reason. This would contradict the author's argument and conclusion. Thus, choice (D) would be useful to determine in order to evaluate the argument. CORRECT.

E) We are told that the rubbing behavior is rare outside of the rainy season, and we can infer that the monkeys often rub the millipedes into their fur during the rainy season. Sure, they might be doing the same thing with some other insects, but why is the rubbing behavior rare outside of the rainy season? The author provides one explanation, and choice (E) does not provide an alternative. Choice (E) has no impact on the author's argument and can be eliminated.



38.

the argument basically states that

lowered premium → greater amount of money taken in by the insurance company → larger their investments using this money.

We need to find an option that explains why lowered premium leads to more money generation for the company.

A. Irrelevant. The premise is “when interests are high”

B. Irrelevant. We are discussing whether by lowering the premium insurance companies can take in maximum amount of money.

C. CORRECT. This indicates that a reduced premium results in more policies being sold.

Lowered premium → more insurance policies sold → more money generated by the insurance company → more money available to the company to invest at high interest rates

D. Irrelevant to explaining why reduced premium would help companies invest more money at high rates of interest.

E. same as above. This tells us that the number of claims an insurance company has to pay is higher than the number of policies sold. This would mean that the company will not have sufficient money to invest at high interest rate. This would weaken the plan.

39.

We need to look for an answer choice which does not strengthen the claim that the company's tactics increased sale of number of new policies.



A. recommendations are likely to produce new sales, so we can eliminate this answer.

B. this choice actually states, explicitly, that new sales resulted from these actions. definitely eliminate.

C. CORRECT. nothing here would lead to increased sales. in fact, if postponing the paperwork had any result on sales, that result would be to decrease overall sales numbers (because a sale is not complete until the paperwork has been finished).

D. new customers will lead to more sales. This is the opposite of what we want. Eliminate

E. This talks of how the new plan has helped increased sales by increasing the customer trust in the agent. Again, this is the opposite of what we are looking for. Eliminate.

40.

you need to boil the columnist's position down to its essence, which is basically this: fat absorbs vitamins that are essential.  
therefore, body doesn't get vitamins.  
therefore, bad news.

the second 'therefore' here is unassailable (it's definitely bad news if your body doesn't get vitamins), so the only thing that might sway the argument in one direction or the other is the first 'therefore'. if we could break the connection between absorption of vitamins and robbing the body of vitamins, then we could possibly destroy the argument.

- A. CORRECT. This breaks the connection, because it introduces the possibility that the body might get the vitamins anyway, despite the absorption of some of those vitamins by the fat.
- B. irrelevant, as it doesn't matter where the vitamins come from (only whether they're properly absorbed)
- C. irrelevant, as the possible dangers of low-fat diets don't affect the above line of reasoning (the dangers of the artificial fat) at all
- D. irrelevant: which foods can contain the artificial fat has nothing to do with whether it will rob the body of vitamins
- E. irrelevant: taste has no bearing on the discussion at hand

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

We know that artificial fats do not allow the body to consume certain essential vitamins. But is it really important to know if those vitamins are present in the same food containing the fats? Not really. The vitamins can very well be present in other food items. That does not impact the conclusion in any way. The end result would still be the same, that is "the artificial fats absorb essential vitamins and do not allow them to be absorbed by the body". So B is not our answer



41.

- A. This would ideally mean that the number of people involved in car fatalities should have decreased since.
- B. Irrelevant. The disparity we are trying to address is this : Although the number by car owners increased by only 40% why have the accidents increased by 300%? This option does not provide an answer.
- C. Irrelevant since we do not know if there is a connection between used cars and the number of car fatalities.
- D. CORRECT. A sudden increase in inexperienced drivers on the streets, accounting for most of the total distance by cars in East Germany, would explain why there was an increase in the number of car fatalities also.
- E. Irrelevant. We are concerned with the car owners and car fatalities only.

42.

the passage goes from  
'the loss of some export markets'  
to  
'annual exports of ... goods will ... diminish'

That's a logical leap. In particular, the hidden assumption is that no other export markets will step up to take the place of the ones that will be lost. If we can find an answer choice that contradicts this assumption, we can weaken the argument.

A. CORRECT.

It says that the new pollution-control equipment will create a new market, which will then offset the loss of the old markets. (the words 'strong worldwide demand' create a reasonable deduction that the offset will be significant enough to help make up the losses.) . The world-wide demand for this new good may result in annual exports of Risemian manufactured goods remaining the same or increasing.

B. Further strengthens the fact that stringent regulations will result cause the a price increase in Risemian goods. This strengthens the argument than weakening it.

C. Same as above. This indicates that the manufacturers will be unable to balance the cost of installing the pollution control equipment simply by recycling the chemicals the equipment captures. This indicates that the price increase of manufactured goods is inevitable.

D. Irrelevant. Irrespective of the international standards, the Risemian government will continue to impose these regulations which will in turn cause the aforementioned price increase.

E. This simply says that the manufacturers will have additional pressure from the stockholders to install the equipment. This does not weaken the argument in anyway.



43.

Pretty straightforward. We need to find an option that will reduce the cost for the airline in the long-term.

A. Irrelevant. We already know the there are two options for how the paint is applied.

B. CORRECT. This clearly indicates that by reducing the overall weight of the aircraft, the new process would in the long term substantially increase the revenue for the airline (due to increased lead bearing capacity)

C. Negates the question that asks us for an option most in line with the airline's long-term economic interest.

D. This option indicates the lack of need for the new process. Can be eliminated.

E. Although this would mean the airline does not have to invest in new equipment it still does not address how using the new process will be **more economical** than using the existing process.

44.

- A. Strengthens the argument by stating that despite abolishing patents, the drug manufacturers will still be able to generate profits.
- B. Irrelevant. We can option that will weaken the statement that abolishing patents on life saving drugs will make them more accessible (Affordable). This option does not help weaken the above argument.
- C. The conclusion talks about "everywhere" abolition of drug patent and this talks about some countries + this talks about processes being patented and not drugs, which is Irrelevant. Also there is no mention of such patents increasing/reducing accessibility.
- D. CORRECT. Clearly indicates why abolition of patents would lead to lack of sufficient resources for research and thereby reduce the number of new drugs in the market.
- E. Since the argument discusses abolishing patents everywhere, this option would mean that if patents on life saving drugs were to be abolished, free importation across countries will be possible. But this does not weaken the statement that abolishing patents on life saving drugs will make them more accessible.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The key to solving CR questions is to fully understand the conclusion. Always find the conclusion.

The conclusion here is the final sentence: **These facts show that future access to new life sustaining drugs can be improved if the practice of granting patents on newly developed life-sustaining drugs were to be abolished everywhere.**

In all weaken/strengthen arguments the conclusion contains the main point that can be attacked or supported. So since we want to weaken the argument, we're looking for the answer that most successfully attacks this conclusion.

- A.) In countries in which life-sustaining drugs cannot be patented, their manufacturer is nevertheless a profitable enterprise. **This statement somewhat strengthens the conclusion, if companies without patents are profitable, the patents could not be necessary.**
- B.) Countries that do not currently grant patents on life-sustaining drugs are, for the most part, countries with large populations **This statement neither weakens or strengthens the conclusion, it merely points out that the non-patent granting countries are ones with large populations.**
- C.) In some countries specific processes for the manufacture of pharmaceutical drugs can be patented even in cases in which the drugs themselves cannot be patented. **This is the trap answer. There is logic behind this answer that could potentially weaken the argument. You probably said to yourself, "if we don't necessarily patent the drug itself, but the manufacturing process instead, it could (key word here) lead to the monopoly-type environment that the author wants to avoid!" But, the reverse is also true. Try not to get sucked in. There are many ways to manufacture drugs and even if one way is patented it can still be possible to reach the non-patent Utopia (through multiple manufacturing processes) that author is hoping for. This answer is close, but not quite up to snuff.**
- D.) Pharmaceutical companies can afford the research that goes into the development of new drugs only if patents allow them to earn high profits. **BINGO! This answer hits the conclusion right in the sweet spot! The Companies need the profits that the patents provide to enable the research to create the "future access to new life sustaining drugs" that the author talks about directly the conclusion argument. No HIGH (key word) profits = no new drugs. This kills the author's argument.**
- E.) Countries that grant patents on life-sustaining drugs almost always ban their importation from countries that do not grant such patents. **This statement actually strengthens the argument of the author. If patent granting countries banned their supposedly cheaper imports, it would further increase the profits on the companies that are granted patents that the author says need to be eliminated. This is the opposite of what we're looking for.**

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The conclusion here: These facts show that future access to new life sustaining drugs can be improved if the practice of granting patents on newly developed life-sustaining drugs were to be abolished everywhere.

We should for the answer that most successfully attacks this conclusion.

(D) Pharmaceutical companies can *afford* the research that goes into the development of new drugs only if patents allow them to earn high profits.

If without patents pharmaceutical companies could not afford to develop new drugs, then **abolishing patents would mean that people would have reduced access to new life-sustaining drugs**, thereby weakening the argument presented. Therefore, choice D is the correct answer.

(E) This statement actually strengthens the argument of the author. If patent granting countries banned their supposedly cheaper imports, it would *further* increase the profits on the companies that are granted patents that the author says need to be eliminated. This is the opposite of what we're looking for.

Basically, Choice E presents a further way in which patents are linked to restrictions on the availability of new life-sustaining drugs, and therefore it supports rather than weakens the argument in favor of abolishing patents.

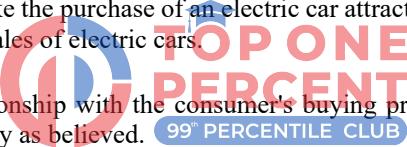
45.

A. This negates the premise. The premise clearly tells us that “A major impediment to wide acceptance of electric vehicles even on the part of people who use their cars almost exclusively for commuting is the inability to use electric vehicles for occasional extended trips”. This means that even people who may largely use their electric vehicle for commuting would want to use it on an occasional extended trip.

B. CORRECT.

This tells us that the cost of providing free rentals would be passed on the price of the electric car. Increasing cost of the vehicle would act as a deterrent for purchase of electric vehicle thereby weakening the plan.

C. This simply tells us that commuters can make the time for charging an electric car without too much alteration to their daily schedule. While this would make the purchase of an electric car attractive on its own, this does not tie the free rentals of a conventional car to increased sales of electric cars.

D. This does not have an established relationship with the consumer's buying preference. It simply tells us that electric vehicles may not be as environment friendly as believed.  99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUB

E. 'SOME' narrows the scope. We need a reason that affects all buyers.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option (E) is rendered largely irrelevant because the stem of the question specifically mentions that the company is targeting commuters. Then anything non-commuters do is largely irrelevant to the success / failure of the scheme

46.

B is CORRECT.

Option A and B seem feasible.

However,

per the directions, you're looking for the one answer choice that MOST strengthens the argument.

choice b strengthens the argument more than does choice a, because it fills in a badly needed assumption. In particular, the argument moves from a statement that no European goods were found at the site to an inference that lack of those goods indicates that they weren't present at all. That's quite an inductive leap, as not everything that was ever present somewhere leaves a trace; therefore, any choice that fills in that hole will be the best choice to strengthen the argument.

this is precisely what choice b does: by providing evidence that such traces are, indeed, left behind when the trade goods in question have been present. This tells us that the archeologist are correct in assuming the camp could not be based later than 1630 based on the absence of such goods.

While option A tells us that there is a chance that the goods could have travelled to the camp before the traders did, it does not explain the lack of these goods at the camp.

C. Ambiguous. preserved as much as possible from loss or destruction

this statement carries no guarantee that 'as much as possible' will be successful in preserving those trade goods all the way to the present day, some four hundred years later. the trade goods could have been preserved as much as possible - in accord with this statement - and still disappeared before the present.

by contrast, there is no such problem with choice b, because that choice states that the goods 'have been found' at the sites (present perfect = this is a pattern that continues into the present)

D. Irrelevant. When European trade began is irrelevant to the argument. All we are concerned with is the period during which the European traders were active in this region.

E. This weakens the argument to an extent by stating that the camp was used seasonally and then abandoned, giving rise to the possibility that at the season of the existence of the camp, no European traders travelled through it.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries

(E) - It says all sites dating to late 1620s have had European artefacts, this one didn't, so safe to say this site would have barely made it to late 1620s (replace that with 1630 in your mind). This is like saying we haven't discovered aliens so far in the universe, so the universe has no aliens (the negation is in reverse here, but hopefully you get the point). Point is, just because so far no sites have been found without European artefacts, doesn't preclude the possibility that literally the next site from the late 1620s that is found, will not have European artefacts. Basically everything that has been discovered has had European artefacts doesn't mean everything that will be discovered also will have European artefacts, ergo, the absence of European artefacts doesn't prove conclusively that the site could not have been used beyond 1630 (or had to have been used in a different time period). Past doesn't conclusively say about the future.

However, if we know that European artefacts would have been especially carefully preserved by these people, European artefacts would potentially have been available 1620s onwards AND artefacts were not found, we can say with more certainty that the site was not used for much longer after 1620 (maybe 1630 tops, as the passage says)

47.

Note: we need to find an option that undermines BOTH “boost in the economy” as well as the “decrease in pollutants”. However, the economy factor is dependent on the buying of new cars which will take place only if the old cars are scrapped due to excessive pollution. Incentive will help buying of new cars which will reduce pollution and hence trigger the economy.

- A. This would in fact be a good reason for the planned incentive to be implemented.
- B. By stating that Torina's automobile plant will manufacture cars that will cause lower amount of pollution, this strengthens and not weakens the success of incentivizing.
- C. Irrelevant. Does not affect the plan of incentives at all.
- D. Note that the automobile manufacturing plant has already been built. Therefore, Torina currently suffers from pollution because of cars as well as manufacturing plants. The aim of the incentives is to reduce pollution. It does not matter that the cars may not be the largest source. Scrapping old cars will still reduce pollution. Also, this option does not indicate the economic effect that the plan may or may not have on the economy.
- E. CORRECT. If this happens, the aim of lessening the air pollution won't be satisfied as significant amount of air pollution is caused in both old cars as well as manufacturing of new cars and scrapping of old cars. The argument states as a premise that "cars over five years old typically generate significantly greater amounts of pollutants than newer cars". But if the procedure in this transition leads to same amount of pollution, why will people think of changing their cars even if there are incentives. And if new cars are not purchased then there is no point boost in economy.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



The question says to choose the fact that undermines the likelihood that the plan will achieve both of its aims.

This means that the plan can achieve one or the other or none but not both.

The opposite of both is not none only; it is either or none.

This is a very important concept.

A actually strengthens.

It says without the planned incentives, most would not buy a new car.

A does not help us prove that the two benefits would not be achieved.

E does that. That pollution will still be an issue.

48.

A. CORRECT. The passage states that "Parasitic wasps lay their eggs directly into the eggs of various host insects in exactly the right numbers for any suitable size of host egg". therefore, we could observe the parasite's behaviour until we saw a host egg for which "exactly the right number" was 1 egg. since the wasp cannot lay less than 1 egg, this particular egg would then be the smallest possible host egg. therefore, we should be able to determine the smallest possible host egg, so (a) is justified.

- B. Out of scope. We have been given no information about the available defences that the host insects bring to the table.
- C. All we know is that the wasps always lay exactly the right number of eggs. We have no information to determine whether the wasps learn this behaviour or if it's something else (such as instinct).
- D. No information about the speed of death for overpopulated vs. under populated host insect eggs.
- E. No information about visual cues vs. any other cues.

49.

- A. this weakly suggests that the overly centralised economy of Country X is to blame for poor agricultural production: this strengthens the argument more than weakens it.
- B. The availability of a seaport does not explain the differences in agricultural production.
- C. Similar climate conditions in both the countries have already been established in the argument.
- D. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies a factor that weakens the argument. Since the crops are different, they may be affected differently by the same climatic conditions.
- E. the intention with which a centralised government was set-up is irrelevant to the argument. The question is how it affected the country X?

50.

- A. Many scientists make this assumption, of course – but it's not an assumption on which the explanation depends. The explanation concerns the scientists' motivation, not their style of doing research.
- B. This statement gives another reason that scientists may reject a populariser, but because it is not the reason implied in the passage, it is not assumed.
- C. Even if this is true, it does not address the core issue of the argument, what scientists believe about the motivation of popularisers.
- D. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies an assumption on which the explanation for scientists' rejection of popularisers depends.
- E. The passage is not concerned with whether non-scientists can understand new research, but rather with the beliefs and motivations of scientists who reject popularisers as colleagues.



#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

For the research scientist vs. popularizer scientist question how can anything *other than* Option (D) be correct? Everything else is fairly irrelevant to the argument. The reason why research scientists accept other research scientists as colleagues (so in the same league) is that they feel they are all motivated to do world-changing research. This group doesn't consider popularizer scientists as true colleagues. Then what would be the assumption? The popularizer scientists don't match up to the research ones on the one parameter the passage mentions – the desire / ability to do groundbreaking research.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Let's understand the premise & conclusion of the question!

##### **Premise:**

Scientists enter their field with the goal of doing important new research and accept as their colleagues those with similar motivation.

##### **Conclusion:**

Therefore, when any scientist wins renown as an expounder of science to general audiences, most other scientists conclude that this popularizer should no longer be regarded as a true colleague.

Here, the Assumption by the research scientists is:

A popularizer doesn't have motivation of doing important new research. Hence Option D is correct.

On negating Option D, we can arrive at the following:

Research scientists DO NOT believe that those who are well known as popularizers of science are not motivated to do important new research.

This weakens our conclusion.

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- (A) serious scientific research is not a solitary activity, but relies on active cooperation among a group of colleagues --> this isn't the author's argument; he never alludes to cooperation being necessary to be deemed a "true colleague"
- (B) research scientists tend not to regard as colleagues those scientists whose renown they envy --> irrelevant
- (C) a scientist can become a famous popularizer without having completed any important research --> true, but this doesn't mean that that individual is not motivated
- (D) research scientists believe that those who are well known as popularizers of science are not motivated to do important new research --> negate: if you aren't motivated to do new research, then you aren't a "true colleague"
- (E) no important new research can be accessible to or accurately assessed by those who are not themselves scientists --> irrelevant

51.

- A. The information is about percentages, not total dollars; the percentages could have remained the same for each of three years even though sales income increased each year.
- B. there is no information about the competition faced by either division; the higher profit margin for the pharmaceutical division would suggest, if anything, less intense competition in its market.
- C. CORRECT. If the information in the passage is true, then this must also be true.
- D. Since there is no information about the product mix, no inference about it is also possible.
- E. The passage does not distinguish between highly profitable products and other products, so this inference cannot be drawn from the information.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

'20 percent of dollars sales' means 20% of sales/revenue.  
Assume Total sales=500 and Total profits=100  
Sales of pharmaceutical division= $0.20 \times 500 = 100$   
Profits from pharmaceutical division=40  
**Profits per dollar of sale=** $40/100=0.4$   
Sales of chemical division= $0.80 \times 500 = 400$   
Profits from chemical division=60  
**Profits per dollar of sale=** $60/400=0.15$   
**0.15 < 0.40**

- C) **The chemical division has realized lower profits per dollars of sales** than has the pharmaceuticals division.

52.

- A. The argument concerns innovation in bicycle technology. It is not about the entire market for all bicycles, so this claim about traditional bicycles is not assumed.
- B. The passage does not discuss where the best innovation are likely to be created, so no assumption about small workshops versus large manufacturers is made.
- C. CORRECT. This statement identifies information that appropriately fills the gap in the reasoning as stated in the passage.
- D. This claim provides an explanation of manufacturers' technological conservatism that is quite different from the explanation indicated in the passage.
- E. The passage does not indicate what the racing authorities do or do not know about bicycle innovation – even though it suggests that they may be reluctant to approve every possible innovation for racing purposes.

53.

Premises: Inconclusive test fails to show truth or untruth. Some employers refuse to hire someone with an inconclusive test

- A. We aren't told anything about how often people do or do not lie, so we can't assume this.
- B. Even though this seems like an entirely logical thing to conclude, given the evidence, it is too much of a leap. The passage DOES NOT tell us what should or should not happen in terms of the test.
- C. CORRECT. There's no logical "fair" reason to refuse to employ someone with an inconclusive test, so we can assume this directly from what we've been told.
- D. This is a great example of a "previous knowledge" trap. All of us know (from watching Law & Order) that polygraph tests are not always correct. But is that mentioned anywhere in the passage? No.
- E. Much like D, this would be a logical thing to conclude in real life but there is no indication of it in the passage.



**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option E- Nowhere in the stem does it say that employers don't consider the results of the polygraph test. No information has been given about **how employers evaluate applicants based on the results**. So this is clearly incorrect

54.

- A. The greater number of similarities than differences in style in one population could be attributed to either cultural acquisition or genetic transmission, so the conclusion is not strengthened.
- B. CORRECT. Compared with the other options, this information provides the most additional support for the researchers' conclusion.
- C. The cited differences are among populations of the same species; differences between species are outside the scope of the conclusion.
- D. Since no information is given about the nest building styles of these populations (whether or not they are of the same species), the fact that they have little contact neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion.
- E. This statement provides an example of learned bird behavior and so provides a little additional support for the conclusion but not as much as B.

55.

How do the authorities plan to raise funds to improve commuter rail line? → by raising automobile tolls on the two highway bridges along the route the rail line serves.

We need to find a reason why this plan for raising money may not succeed.

A. Although this suggests that a public hearing has to be held before the toll can be increased, it does not tell us for a fact that the plan will be rejected by the public..

B. Irrelevant. The cost of adjusting automated toll collecting machines is irrelevant to the effectiveness of the authority's plan.

C. This option indicates that by buying more tokens, the commuters are only “postponing” paying higher toll which would eventually lead to enough funds for the rail, thereby causing the authorities plan to succeed.

D. CORRECT. With a decrease in 20% of the commuter traffic there will be a significant reduction in the revenue. Also, option states that the alternate route “has since been improved” indicating that maybe more than 20% will take to the alternate route this time.

E. Irrelevant. The fact that the automobile club has registered a protest against the increase, does not help weaken the argument in anyway. Do we know whether the commuters will continue to pay the increased toll and thereby leading to the success of the plan, despite such a protest? Unless the option answers this, it becomes irrelevant.

56.

A. This statement tells us at what exact point in the growing cycle rain is critical to a good harvest, but it gives no information about this year's harvest.

B. This comparison of past price fluctuations does not affect what will happen to today's corn futures on account of the predicted rain. The argument is not weakened.

C. The only rain that matters is the rain that affects the corn growing region. Irrelevant.



D. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies information that weakens the argument by indicating that a devastating disease will affect the crop before the end of the growing season. This knowledge may lead to buyers of futures to expect a smaller harvest, causing prices of futures to rise rather than fall.

E. Physical possession of corn is irrelevant to the price of corn futures.

57.

We are asked to identify Sharon's conclusion. Let's take a look at Ron's first:

Ron's Premise: 90% of the people report they know someone who is unemployed. Ron's conclusion: The unemployment rate is extremely high.

Sharon's premise: At a **moderate level** of unemployment of 5%, 1 in 20 workers is unemployed. So if a person knows around 50 workers, one or more may be unemployed. Hence it is entirely possible that 90% of the people know someone who is unemployed.

Sharon's conclusion: Despite 90% of people reporting they know someone who is unemployed, this could just mean that the unemployment rate is at 5% (moderate level) and thereby is no cause for alarm.

Option A is CORRECT and it concludes correctly that the fact stated by Ron is not a necessary indication of an abnormally high unemployment rate.

B. She is stating quite the opposite.

C. Once again, Sharon does not dispute Roland's statistics. She accepts them to be true but interprets it differently.

D. According to Sharon, despite Roland's statement being accurate, there is no cause for alarm.

E. This is taken into consideration neither by Sharon nor Roland. Both believe the unemployment percentage to accurately represent the number of people without jobs.

58.

Sharon makes a general statement claiming that if a person knows 50 workers, it is likely that at least one of them is unemployed. This generalization is not likely to be true if unemployment were concentrated in certain geographic isolated areas.

A. Sharon's argument is about normal level of unemployment; how rarely or frequently that level is exceeded is outside the scope of her argument.

B. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies an assumption that underlies Sharon's argument. If unemployment were concentrated in geographically isolated segments of populations, then randomly selected individuals would not have an equivalent chance of knowing an unemployed person. Instead, based on geographic factors, some individuals would be much more likely to know unemployed workers than would other individuals. In this case, Sharon's conclusion crumbles.

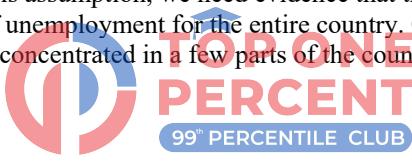
C. Although Sharon's argument is compatible with saying that even more than 90% of the population is unemployed, nothing suggests that she assumes this is true.

D. Sharon's argument is not based on the figure Roland cites and does not assume its accuracy or inaccuracy; her argument merely points out that his figure is not consistent with a normal rate of unemployment.

E. Irrelevant. We do not know if such a fear has any consequence. Maybe the person will work harder to keep his job or maybe he will bungle it up. The negation of this option would still cause Sharon's conclusion to hold.

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In her reasoning, Sharon refers to nationwide levels of unemployment. When she jumps to step 4 of her argument, she assumes that the employment patterns of the 50 workers each of us knows personally will resemble the nationwide employment patterns. In order to accept this assumption, we need evidence that the normal unemployment rate in any given area will roughly match the normal rate of unemployment for the entire country. Otherwise, it could be the case that the unemployed workers are overwhelmingly concentrated in a few parts of the country, and most people elsewhere might NOT know any unemployed workers.



Choice B is the correct answer.

In choice A: It makes no difference whether normal levels of unemployment are exceeded rarely or frequently. As long as the *current* level of unemployment is normal, then Sharon's argument is valid.

In other words, normal levels of unemployment could be exceeded frequently. But according to Sharon, the data cited by Roland is evidence that unemployment levels are normal *right now*. Sharon's argument does not rely on choice (A), so eliminate this one.

59.

A. This statement does not indicate whether the increased cost will dissuade people from taking private vehicles into the city, and therefore does not indicate whether the mayor's reasoning is flawed.

B. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies a flaw in the mayor's reasoning. This tells us that despite parking already making it more expensive for people to use their private vehicles over buses, they still continue to do so. This means that the factor driving them to use private vehicles is not money. Therefore a further increase in the expense of using private vehicles is not likely to deter people.

C. Current bus riders are not relevant to the mayor's plan which anticipates only that people currently driving private vehicles into the city will become bus riders.

D. Many drivers may continue to commute in their private vehicles, but others might switch to buses. The mayor's plan does not anticipate a switch by all drivers.

E. The 20 percent figure shows that most congestion is caused by vehicles entering from outside the city; this does not point out a weakness in the mayor's plan.

60.

Premise: Because no employee wants to be associated with bad news in the eyes of a superior, information about serious problems at lower levels is progressively softened and distorted as it goes up each step in the management hierarchy.

Conclusion: The chief executive is, therefore, less well informed about problems at lower levels than are his or her subordinates at those levels.

Assumption: The chief executive is less well informed about problems because his subordinates soften and distort the information at each level (based on the premise) indicating that problems have no other way of reaching the chief executive other than through his subordinates.

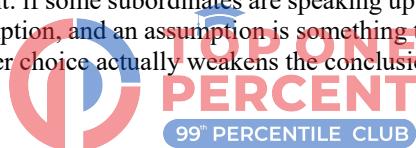
A. is tempting to choose because it seems like a pretty good assumption to make in the real world; Answer A is **wrong**, though, because how the problems “should” be solved doesn’t tell me anything about how well-informed the chief executive is about those problems.

B. is tempting to choose because it sounds like a good way to resolve the problem described in the argument. Answer B is **wrong**, though, because we weren’t asked to resolve the problem; we were asked to articulate a belief (an assumption) of the author who is pointing out the problem.

C. is tempting to choose because it sounds like a pretty good assumption to make in the real world. Answer C is **wrong**, though, because the ability to solve a problem still doesn’t tell me anything about how well-informed the chief executive is about those problems.

D. **CORRECT**. because this is exactly the assumption that the author makes to draw his conclusion. If CEOs really can’t get info from anyone other than their subordinates, and if those subordinates don’t want to tell them any bad news, then those CEOs are not going to be well-informed about problems.

E. wrong, because it weakens the argument: if some subordinates are speaking up, then the bosses aren’t less well-informed. We were asked to find an assumption, and an assumption is something the author must believe to be true in order to draw that conclusion. If the answer choice actually weakens the conclusion, then that answer can’t be a valid assumption



61.

- A. The immediacy of adopting controls does not prevent it from being overtly restrictive.
- B. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies the fact that controls on harmless effluents would be excessively restrictive and should be avoided.
- C. Avoiding unnecessary restrictions involves analysing the quality of the effluents not the composition of the countries favouring the restrictions.
- D. It is not necessary to prove that all pollutants reach North Sea. It is necessary to prove that only some of them do.
- E. Finding the damage is reversible will do nothing to prevent unnecessary restrictions.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

On the question and the answer provided, we can easily make out 'quality' is correct. While effluent in general means discharge from industrial / other such operations, and has a negative connotation, the point of the passage and the answer is that not all effluents will cause environmental damage (some may not even cause - think if an industrial plant uses very advanced water purification techniques on the waste effluent it produces; the quality of the effluent will be high in that it won't cause environmental damage to a tangible extent). In this context, you can essentially think of 'quality' of effluent as the degree to which it is likely to cause environmental damage

62.

Conclusion: Personalities unsuited to the requirements of the job will be eliminated from consideration during the interview.

Assumption: such personalities can be identified during the interview process. We need to look for an option that addresses this assumption.



A. This is simply restating the premise. We already know that "interview is an essential part of a successful hiring program".

B. There is nothing in the passage that makes the comparison between job development and interview.

Option C is CORRECT.

"Interviewers can accurately identify applicants whose personalities are unsuited to the requirements of the job"  
Clearly addresses the assumption made by the argument.

Lets try negating this option:

Interviewers **cannot** accurately identify applicants whose personalities are unsuited to the requirements of the job"

Now the entire conclusion made above crumbles, if the interviewers cannot identify suited/unsuited personalities for the job then the purpose of an interview is lost. This proves option C is CORRECT.

D. It can be the only factor or it can be one of the many factors assessed in an interview. All we know is that it is a factor.  
The conclusion will remain strong irrespective of whether the negation of this statement is true.

E. We are not concerned with what was important in the past.

63.

Premise1: No of employees at O = No of employees at P.

Premise2: Last year : No of job related accidents at O < No of job related accidents at P

Conclusion: Employees at Company O are less likely to have job-related accidents than employees at Company P

how could we weaken this argument? In order to do that, we need to either show that O and P have the same actual number of accidents (=same probability of job-related accident, assuming same number of employees) or O has had more accidents, DESPITE having reported fewer accidents in O. The only way to do this is if there's something wrong with the REPORTS

- A. We already know that the employees of Company O had fewer job-related accidents last year than did the employees of Company P. This simply adds another detail to this fact and does not weaken the argument.
- B. CORRECT. If B is true, then it is possible that O has the same number of accidents overall (or more), and is not safer for employees - they just don't consider them job-related, so they don't appear in the reports.
- C. Irrelevant. Health of the employees is irrelevant. Assuming this were true, it does not indicate why Company O may not be a safer place than company P.
- D. Irrelevant. Since the reports discuss overall number of accidents, not number of employees hurt by accidents. Therefore, we have to assume that the accidents that happened to the same employee would still be counted separately in the reports. If anything, D strengthens the notion that company O is indeed the safer place.
- E. Irrelevant. We are still interested in the number of accidents, not what caused these accidents.

64.

A. Irrelevant. The passage does not make any comparison between the smell in adult female rats versus those in rat pups.

B. Even if this were true, it does not explain why by disabling the female's sense of smell or by removing the scent-producing glands of the pup, the maternal instincts in a adult female rat can be accelerated.

C. Nothing in the passage supports such an assumption as the focus is only on female rats that have never given birth.

D. Same as above. We need to establish a connection between Adult female rat's (who have not given birth) sense of smell with its maternal instinct.

E. CORRECT. This clearly indicates why disabling the female's sense of smell or by removing the scent-producing glands of the pup would speed up the maternal instinct in a female rat towards the pup.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

We are given info that adult female rats start showing maternal behaviors towards rat pups in about 7 days. However, this period can be shortened if the female rat's sense of smell is removed or the pup's smell is removed. We have to identify why this contrast is happening

Option (E) tells us that 'the development of a female rat's maternal interest in a rat pup that she did not bear is inhibited by the odor of the pup'. This explains that the smell of the pup is inhibiting maternal interest of female rats. We can infer that the time would be shortened if the female could NOT smell the odor of the pup. As a result, those maternal interests would be developed in LESS time than usual. Hence, E best explains the difference described in the argument

65.

A. it doesn't allow us to deduce anything that actually has an effect on the argument.

in fact, (a) doesn't even imply that mammoth's sales themselves have actually gone down. it says only that mammoth's share - i.e., proportion - of the sales has decreased, but that's not the same as saying that the sales themselves have actually decreased. for instance, if mammoth's sales have gone up, but competitors' sales have simply increased by a larger factor, then mammoth's share will decrease, even though its sales have actually increased.

B. a slight decrease in the average inventory of telephones, does not indicate strongly that the plan will not work.

C. This is irrelevant and nothing in the passage suggests this knowledge will affect sales.

D. Slightly strengthens the plan instead of weakening it.

E. CORRECT.

the key is the words "in order to take advantage of this increase". these words show the assumptions that are being made. in particular, the passage assumes that an overall increase in telephone sales, industry-wide, will automatically translate into an increase in sales for mammoth industries.

choice (e) severs this connection completely - it showed that mammoth's sales dropped as the industry-wide sales increased sharply - and so utterly destroys this assumed connection.

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Premise: Sales of telephones have increased dramatically over the last year.

Conclusion: Mammoth industries plans to expand production of its own model of telephone.

Notice the CHANGE IN SCOPE.

The premise is about OVERALL SALES (sales of telephones), while the conclusion is about ONE PARTICULAR COMPANY (Mammoth industries).

To weaken the conclusion, the correct answer choice will BREAK THE LINK between overall sales and Mammoth industries.

Option E indicates a key difference between overall sales and Mammoth industries:

While overall sales have INCREASED DRAMATICALLY, sales of Mammoth's phones HAVE FALLEN, weakening the conclusion that Mammoth industries should expand production of its phones.

A) This does not weaken the argument. In fact, Mammoth sold all of its phones. By increasing production it will in all likelihood sell the extra phones.

B) Not quite sure how this relates to the argument. Telephones awaiting shipment and telephones sold do not fall into the same category. B talks about the average inventory of telephones awaiting shipment to retailers over the last year. How that affects sales for this year is something I have no idea about. Maybe inventory for this year increased, maybe it decreased. This is what will affect sales this year, not the decrease in inventory over the last year. Therefore, B is out of scope.

Also, our goal is to find the option that provides the 'most' support that Mammoth industries will not be able to increase its sales. B gives us a 'maybe/maybe not' answer, and is definitely not the best out of the 5 options. So we won't go with B.

C) People are buying the phone. That is the important part. Whether these people know that Mammoth owns the brand is not important to sales.

D) That's great - looks like mammoth is doing well, and will continue to do well by expanding its production.

E) Now suddenly things do not look so rosy for Mammoth. The rest of the market did well, yet Mammoth phones did poorly. Thus, one can't base market trends on Mammoth's phone sales. Sure the market may continue to do well, but that does not imply Mammoth will be able to take advantage of a surging market.

66.

Fact: Bank depositors in the United States are all financially protected against bank failure because the government insures all individuals' bank deposits

Premise: Since depositors do not lose any money if the banks fail, they do not care about the soundness of the investment the bank makes.

Conclusion: If the government did not insure the depositors' money, the depositors would take more care in understanding the bank policies, thereby making the banks more secure.

This conclusion is clearly based on the assumption that "the depositors would take more care in understanding the bank policies and hence will be able to determine which is a safer bank".

Let's look for an option that strengthens this assumption.

A. How bank failures are caused is irrelevant.

B. Irrelevant. The passage does not assume the number of accounts per bank per depositor anywhere.

C. Once again, the passage does not assume this. There is no connection made to the amount deposited versus the care taken by the depositor to pick a bank.

D. Irrelevant. Even if the opposite were true i.e "The difference in the interest rates paid to depositors by different banks is a significant factor in bank failures" it would still make no difference to the economist's argument which indicates that depositors become complacent on being assured of their money back despite bank failures.

E. CORRECT. This is the basis of the conclusion made by the economist. If potential depositors are unable to determine which banks are secure against failure, then the entire conclusion that removal of government insurance will make banks safer would crumble.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

What is the argument saying?



That part of the reason why banks fail is because of the depositor insurance provided. This gives depositors no incentive to do their own due diligence.

BUT if depositors were more selective, then banks would need to be secure in order to compete for depositors' money.

Why would that be? Why would banks be forced to secure themselves to compete for depositors' money? What is it about depositors doing their due diligence that banks now start caring if they're secure or not? The assumption that if depositors do their due diligence, they will be able to find out which banks are secure against failure.

If the depositors could not find that out, do you think the banks would have cared if they were secure or not? No!. And so, the banks would not need to be secure to compete for depositors' money.

So, E is our answer.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

To resolve the dilemma between D & E -

Author mentions that "**since it removes from depositors any financial incentive**" --->

so depositors are not financially concerned because in any case their money is secured as their deposits are insured by the government.

D restates that depositors are not financially motivated and that the interest rates are not a significant factor for them. Sounds good, and may strengthen the argument little bit but the conclusion is different here.

Conclusion: If depositors were more selective, then banks would need to be secure in order to compete for depositors' money.

E assumes that the depositors have the knowledge of making decisions and can choose banks but they don't see any financial motive so they are least bothered.

E says- Depositor will select bank carefully, only if they have ability to determine which banks are secure against failure.

Using the negation technique:

Depositors do NOT have ability to determine, >>> They will NOT select bank carefully.

Hence E is correct!

67.

The argument assumes that killing the trees in the wild is the only way to obtain the bark. Can the tree be cultivated? If yes, majority if the trees in the wild can be left to flourish.

A. The method of the drug distribution is irrelevant.

B. The cost of producing the drug does not affect the outcome for the tree unless it deters production all together.

C. Irrelevant. We are not concerned with the use of Ibora in other drugs as no information is given about whether this causes destruction of the trees or not.

D. CORRECT. This most weakens the argument by employing the reasoning stated above.

E. Although this might make it difficult to access the Ibora tree, we are not told that it would prevent harvesting all together.

68.

A. Calculating the minimum amount of discount that should lead to profit does not explain the lack of profits.

B. This would actually favour manufacturers as customers do not become used to lowered prices.

C. Attracting customer attention should contribute to higher profits, not lower it.



D. CORRECT. How could surplus sales to retailers decrease manufacturers profits?

Manufacturers lose their normal profits during these discount sales to retailers. Moreover, the manufacturer will not be filling orders if surplus exists with the retailers. The resulting losses may be greater than any gains from increasing sales or winning new customers during the brief promotion period.

E. This shows that manufacturers actually tend to gain by such promotions.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Even if the discount offered is the bare minimum and is calculated, the argument is that the amount of profit could have been increased *without* any promotional discount in the first place. Then Option (A) cannot be the right answer

On the other hand, look at Option (D). During the promotional period, the manufacturer sold discounted products to retailers and got some profit. That is the end of the story from the perspective of the manufacturer. Downstream whatever the price the product is sold at to the customer will play into the retailer's profit, not the manufacturer's. Also, since retailers are simply stocking during the promotional period and then selling during regular times, then the products could have been sold during regular times anyway, *without the promotional offers to the retailers from the manufacturers*. Then the manufacturers are likely leaving money on the table (providing discounts where they are not required) through the promotional events

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

We need to support the claim that -> The manufacturers could make more profit by not holding the promotions'

Option D suggests that retailers buy a huge quantity of products from manufacturers at a discounted price and then later sell it off at the regular price. For eg. Retailer B buys 10,000 units from Manufacturer A at discounted price of Rs. 10 each (Regular price - Rs. 20). However, B only sells 1000 units ahead to customers at a discounted price and sells remaining 9,000 units at regular price. From A's point of view, he receives  $1000 \times 10$  as the revenue. However, if retailer did not accumulate the product, revenue of A =  $1000 \times 10 + 9000 \times 20$  which is higher. Hence his profit would have been higher (Cost of product will remain the same). This makes a case that manufacturer can make higher profit by not holding promotions

69.

- A. The existence of vessels made both before and after AD 365 suggests that Kourion was not destroyed by the earthquake
- B. CORRECT. The dates on the coin found on the site suggest that life in Kourion was flourishing before AD 365; the total lack of coins after the year of the earthquake supports the idea that the city had been destroyed.
- C. The occurrence of the earthquake is not in question. This statement confirms a fact we already know to be true.
- D. Weakens the argument. This argues against the destruction of the town in AD 365.
- E. Weakens the argument. The existence of inscriptions that used alphabets common only after the earthquake argues against the theory that the earthquake destroyed Kourion.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

The archaeologists conclude that **the destruction found in Kourion was caused by an earthquake near Cyprus in the year A.D. 365**. Here's how they arrive at that conclusion:

1. They found a pattern of destruction in Kourion (a city on the island of Cyprus).
2. This pattern is typically found in towns devastated by earthquakes.
3. An earthquake took place near Cyprus in A.D. 365.
4. Therefore, this earthquake is what caused the destruction of Kourion.

And the question is asking: which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the archaeologists' hypothesis? To strengthen this argument, we'll need to rule out other causes of the same pattern of destruction or find evidence that Kourion was actually devastated in A.D. 365, not sometime before or after the earthquake.



- (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.

If Kourion was devastated in A.D. 365, we wouldn't expect to see any drinking vessels originating from after that year. Choice (A) weakens the argument, so we'll eliminate it.

- (B) No coins minted after A.D. 365 were found in Kourion, but coins minted before that year were found in abundance.

Choice (B) presents exactly the kind of evidence we need to back the archaeologists. If they found pre-365 coinage in the debris but couldn't find a single coin created after 365, then we'd be more inclined to believe that the earthquake in A.D. 365 did in fact devastate Kourion. Let's keep this and continue eliminating choices.

- (C) Most modern histories of Cyprus mention that an earthquake occurred near the island in A.D. 365.

Choice (C) doesn't give us any new information. It may strengthen the fact that an earthquake took place in this year, but doesn't strengthen the argument that this earthquake caused the destruction seen in Kourion. Let's eliminate choice (C).

- (D) Several small statues carved in styles current in Cyprus in the century between A.D. 300 and 400 were found in Kourion.

Choice (D) would neither strengthen nor weaken the argument, which places the destruction of Kourion in A.D. 365. If these small statues were carved between 300 and 365, choice (D) would strengthen the argument. If these small statues were carved between 365 and 400, choice (D) would weaken the argument. Since we don't know when exactly the statues were carved, we'll eliminate choice (D).

- (E) Stone inscriptions in a form of the Greek alphabet that was definitely used in Cyprus after A.D. 365 were found in Kourion.

This evidence weakens the argument because it presents an artifact that was created *after* the year of the earthquake in A.D. 365. Let's eliminate choice (E).

Answer choice (B) is the best option.

70.

- A. strengthens the use of sleep deprivation this actually introduces another positive effect of sleep deprivation. remember, we're looking for negative effects.
- B. the comparison between depressed and non-depressed people is irrelevant at best. Also, even if it is difficult to enforce the sleep deprivation, that's not necessarily a reason why we shouldn't use it as a treatment modality. after all, if it is effective, then it should be used even if it is "difficult" to use it.
- C. may argue against the practice of sleep deprivation in general, but it has little, if any, direct relevance to the issue of depression. not only that, but it requires the assumption that this impairment of judgment is somehow worse than the depression thereby alleviated (because otherwise it's still a beneficial tradeoff, even considering the impaired judgment).
- D. this choice just discusses the state of theoretical knowledge; In this case the survey of 61 people already tells us there maybe a connection. Assuming this to be true, we need to look for an option which would make the use of sleep deprivation not viable despite missing a night's sleep lifting depression.
- E. CORRECT. CLEARLY relevant to the issue of depression, because it says, in so many words, that our alleged depression treatment will not get rid of depression

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

This is a discrepancy/paradox question. We're presented with a puzzling situation to explain. If a simple treatment (going without sleep) works well, why isn't that used as treatment in place of the conventional treatments, which often have side effects?

To solve this, we need an answer that does one of the following:

- \*Provides an important drawback of sleep deprivation (maybe it, too, can have serious side effects)
- \*Provides an advantage for conventional treatments (maybe they have some additional benefit that sleep deprivation doesn't)
- \*Provides some other reason that conventional treatments are used (maybe they are more profitable for those prescribing them than simple lack of sleep, or maybe mental health professionals simply don't know that sleep deprivation works)

E works by providing a major drawback for sleep deprivation. **99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUE!** We aren't told how long the effects of conventional treatments last, but presumably they don't go away immediately, and that's why they are used in place of sleep deprivation.

Here's a look at the other choices:

- A) This provides a mild advantage of sleep deprivation. We need a disadvantage!
- B) This compares the treatment to keeping *non*-depressed patients awake. We don't know how hard that is, or how hard the conventional treatments are. We need to compare the different kinds of treatment for depression.
- C) This seems to go in the right direction by providing a disadvantage of sleep deprivation. But we don't know if missing a night's sleep is considered prolonged loss of sleep, nor do we know whether the described impairment would count as a serious enough side effect to make this treatment worse than the conventional ones.
- D) This is simply irrelevant. We want to know why this method isn't used, not whether we understand the brain chemistry.

71.

- A. CORRECT. This indicates that most of the employees laid off will need government assistance, thereby increasing the taxation on the very companies that laid them off.
- B. This is already stated in the first sentence of the passage. We need to look for whether it helps substantiate the argument that “same corporations that are laying people off will eventually pay for that assistance through increased taxes and unemployment insurance payments”
- C. This is irrelevant. The question still remains are the corporations that are automating paying too? Note, the passage does not state that ALL the Taxes and unemployment insurance will be paid by automating companies.
- D. This does not strengthen the argument. This simply tells us that the per capita income may come down but people in lower paying jobs will not need government assistance to survive.
- E. While this tells us that the cost of purchasing machinery does not match the money saved by laying off workers, it does not discuss how these companies will end up paying for employees they laid off.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The conclusion is that the same companies who are laying people off now to save costs, will end up paying (indirectly through taxes etc.) for their government assistance. What strengthens this would be anything that shows this may actually materialize. If people are not unemployed any more, then they won't need government assistance and the argument won't exist. However, if people continue to remain unemployed, what the argument is saying may very well materialize.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

When machinery (called property plant and equipment, PPE) is added, cash is paid and / or debt is taken to pay for that PPE. However, the entire amount is not expensed because the machinery has a useful life over which it will generate revenue. Accrual basis of accounting dictates that revenue and costs are matched in the period they occur; so the cost of the machinery is depreciated over its lifetime (during which it helps generate revenue). The accounting entries (considering all cash purchase) is credit to cash, debit to asset. Then credit to a contra-asset account called accumulated depreciation, and a debit to an expense account (both of these are a fraction of the total cost = total cost divided by useful life). Then by the end of the useful life, the asset and the contra-asset account net each other off (the asset doesn't exist on the books any more) and the full cost has been expensed out.

Coming to this question - the author says companies will pay money upfront to install automation. This automation will save them money in the short and long term. People will be laid off and this will save money, just as an example. However, over the course of time, the company will have to pay more money for things like employment insurance etc. of these laid off people. That's it. That's where the argument stops. It does not say anything about which will be larger in what time frame - the upfront cost of the machinery, the cost of the employment insurance payments and taxes, the cost savings from automation, nothing. Then how can Option (E) be a strengthener? Something that strengthens the argument that yes, companies will end up having to pay for these laid-off employees too is a strengthener. Option (A) does that, and that's it.

72.

- A. Irrelevant. The passage does not touch on different kinds of medical procedures administered in hospitals
- B. CORRECT. The passage explains that the primary way hospitals have covered the cost of unreimbursed care in the past is no longer available to them. It follows that they have three options: finding a new way to cover that cost, reducing it by giving less unreimbursed care, or suffering a loss. This is essentially what choice B concludes, so B is the best answer.
- C. The passage gives no hint of who the paying patients are or how do not rely on insurance, so choice C is unsupported.
- D. Nothing in the passage allows us to conclude that if the actual hospital costs are reduced, insurance companies will maintain the current level of reimbursement. In fact, the statement "insurers have been strictly limiting what they pay hospitals for the care of insured patients to amounts at or below actual costs" states the opposite.
- E. While this provides an additional fact to the premise, it does not affect the conclusion in anyway.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The passage clearly says insurance companies will pay hospitals up to the amount of their (the hospitals') costs. If that is the case, and hospitals reduce their costs, the amounts insurance companies will pay them will also reduce. Then we know Option (D) cannot actually be concluded at all - the 'insurance companies will maintain the current level of reimbursement' part will not happen, clearly mentioned by the passage itself. Option (E), as an example, is something that is truly and absolutely out of scope - nothing in the passage suggests this in any way. Option (B) is objectively correct - hospitals won't make any more money from insurance companies than their costs for paying patients, then where will they get the money to offset losses accruing from non-paying ones? Then hospitals will either have to reduce their coverage to non-paying patients and / or bear losses from these patients.



## **CR Mixed-bag Part 2**

### **Answer Key**

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| 1. D  | 42. A |
| 2. C  | 43. D |
| 3. E  | 44. B |
| 4. A  | 45. D |
| 5. A  | 46. A |
| 6. E  | 47. E |
| 7. D  | 48. D |
| 8. B  | 49. E |
| 9. E  | 50. C |
| 10. E | 51. D |
| 11. A | 52. B |
| 12. D | 53. A |
| 13. C | 54. B |
| 14. D | 55. A |
| 15. B | 56. E |
| 16. B | 57. A |
| 17. C | 58. E |
| 18. A | 59. B |
| 19. C | 60. C |
| 20. B | 61. B |
| 21. B | 62. B |
| 22. A | 63. E |
| 23. B | 64. A |
| 24. E | 65. A |
| 25. C | 66. B |
| 26. C | 67. C |
| 27. A | 68. E |
| 28. C |       |
| 29. B |       |
| 30. E |       |
| 31. C |       |
| 32. A |       |
| 33. B |       |
| 34. B |       |
| 35. E |       |
| 36. B |       |
| 37. C |       |
| 38. A |       |
| 39. E |       |
| 40. B |       |
| 41. D |       |



## Solutions

1.

there's a logic gap in the passage: we're told that the house gecko is making gains in areas where humans settle, and we're then informed that the house gecko displaces the mourning gecko from feeding where insectscongregate. therefore, we need an answer choice that connects these two ideas.

A. Irrelevant. As it does not speak of any concrete steps taken by the urban area population to increase the number of house geckos.

B. Irrelevant. Still does not explain why the population of geckos in rural area is more stable(i.e the house geckoand the mourning gecko are able to co-exist) than in urban areas.

C. Irrelevant. How Geckos arrived on pacific islands does not explain the difference between the gecko population in urban and rural areas.

D. CORRECT.

This reasonably links human settlement to congregations of insects indicating that house geckos while feeding on these insects prevent the mourning geckos from doing the same. Thereby explaining why the population ofthe 2 species is more stable in rural areas.

E. Irrelevant. Unless urban conditions are inhibitive to asexual reproduction, this option is irrelevant.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Option (A) talks of all geckos and does not tell us why one particular type is doing better in urban areas. Option (B), Option (C), and Option (E) are simply irrelevant. Option (D) has to be the answer. Yes, you can say there is an element of assumption here - urban areas have more sources emitting such lights as talked about in this option. But as there are two things here - (i) Option (D) clearly explains why one particular gecko may be thriving (light sources attract insects, this gecko prevents the other type from eating those insects) and (ii) by our elimination of the other answer choices, the assumption that needs to be made becomes an extremely organic one

99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUB

2.

The main argument to lure businesses downtown - Villieu officials plan to have several modern office buildingsconstructed and to offer reduced local tax rates to any business that leases space in a new downtown building.What would weaken this stand the most? Any option that states that reduced taxes might not work as an incentive, as expected.

A. The argument discusses bringing in new business and not about the businesses that already exist.

B. We already know that most Villieu-area businesses are now located only in the suburbs. This option does not tell us anything new.

C. CORRECT. By telling us that local tax rates in Villieu's suburbs are significantly lower than downtown Villieu's taxes (even after the proposed cut-down) this option tells us that there is no real incentive for businesses to move from the suburbs to downtown Villieu

D. This option has no impact on the proposed plan.

E. The comparison is between the office buildings in the suburbs and those downtown, and not between thevarious office buildings downtown.

3.

This is definitely a strengthen-weaken question, and E is definitely the answer:

- A. This is a definite advantage as it would further improve the turnaround time.
- B. Cannot be a disadvantage; as Skybus is more fuel efficient than the large planes, it would be a hugeadvantage.
- C. This is only a disadvantage if the lost jobs generates enough bad publicity to affect the company negatively;this COULD lead to a strike and a shutdown of the airline industry etc but is highly unlikely given what an advantage this will be to the customers
- D. is absolutely irrelevant. We are trying to compare the large flights Northern Sky currently uses with Skybuses.The comparison is not with the other companies.
- E. CORRECT. looks irrelevant - why would we care about the other planes that are on the runway? - until yourealize that some of these planes may be Northern Air's own planes, which COULD be a disadvantage as it increases turnaround time.



4.

FACT: Corn planted this closely will produce lower yields per plant.

Result: the new machine will allow corn growers to double their profits

We need to find an option that will adequately explain why despite the yield per acreage going down, the farmers are able to generate a profit.

A. CORRECT. By telling us that the machine will minimize the need for costly weed control and irrigation, this option tells us why the farmers might make a profit despite lowered yields.

B. Taller plants does not necessarily mean more yield. Also we already know that the yield was less than before, making this option irrelevant.

C. This actually casts doubts on increased profit by indicating that the expense for the farmer might actually go up.

D. Same as B. we already know that the yield was less than before. This makes the option irrelevant.

E. Same as C. By telling us that the number fallow years will increase, this tell us that the farmers may have to wait for longer than before to being cultivation.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

We need a strengthener not an inference.

Note: Remember that you don't need to prove the conclusion of the argument -- you just need to pick the statement that adds force to it.

i.e., the exact mathematical content of "double" =  $x2$  is not significant. In fact, the specific numbers in CR problems \*almost never\* matter; usually, the only thing that matters is relative comparisons -- for instance, quantity #1 is bigger than quantity #2, or quantity #1 is bigger than it was expected to be, etc.

In this passage, the only thing that matters is that the profits are higher than what could be explained by the plant yields. (i.e., there are twice as many plants per acre, but their yield will be depressed -- so the total output won't be twice as much per acre.)

the "2x" doesn't matter; what matters is that this figure is ~~more~~ <sup>20<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE</sup> than would be explained by plant yields alone. Therefore, you have to find some other factor, not having to do with plant yield, that would increase profits.

We need to logically complete this argument. We need to find a strengthener for the given conclusion that the new machine will allow corn growers to double their profits per acre.

What new information will help us believe more that the new machine will allow corn growers to double their profits per acre.

Given that

· The new machine for harvesting corn will allow rows to be planted only fifteen inches apart, instead of the usual thirty inches.

· Corn planted this closely will produce lower yields per plant.

Main Strengthener - What if the dense growth helps decrease cost in another way provided the new machine can harvest them?

Option A is in line with our strengthener. Hence this is the right answer.

Option D cannot be the correct answer because this information is already given in the passage. It provides no new information. Remember – a strengthener must bring in new information we cannot infer from the passage. We are already given that instead of 30 inches apart, now we have the gap between successive corn rows as only 15 inches. Which essentially means pretty much double the number of corn rows, and so, pretty much double the number of plants grown. So, option D is not new information.

5.

according to the problem, there are two requirements to grow algae:

- (1) enough sunlight
- (2) enough seawater

in the situation described in the passage, the total amount of sunlight is lower, but more algae actually grow. according to the conditions given above, the only way this could happen is if more seawater somehow gets in (since there is less sunlight, and that's the only other factor that's mentioned).

therefore, you are looking for a way in which more seawater will be admitted in the situation described.

A. CORRECT.

this requirement is satisfied only by choice A.

B. We already know that sea-water contains nutrients. That the seawater in Antarctic is richer in such nutrients is irrelevant as all the algae under discussion is from the Antarctic.

C. We already know that when there is moderate snow cover, the amount of algae that grows is more. Since the premise already defines the condition as "moderate snow fall" we do not have to assess whether the cover will thicken or not.

D. This simply restates the premise that seawater contains nutrients needed by algae to grow.

E. Once again, we already know that sea ice is covered by a moderate snow cover. This makes the option irrelevant.

6.

Premises: Garnet pays for testing of its employees' cholesterol levels. Garnet pays for treatment of high cholesterol.

Garnet does this because:

high cholesterol left untreated for many years leads to conditions that require very expensive treatment

Renco does not follow this procedure. This would have financial sense for Renco in the following case"

1) Renco's employees do not stick around for long enough and therefore untreated cholesterol may not necessarily translate into conditions that require very expensive treatment.

A. This option says "early treatment of high cholesterol does not entirely eliminate the possibility of a stroke later in life" However the passage does not specify the "conditions" high cholesterol leads to as stroke. There could be other expensive conditions that could be eliminated by early treatment of high cholesterol

B. Irrelevant. Since both Renco's and Garnet's employees are exposed to mass media, any effect due to such propagation will be apparent in both.

C. Does higher number of employees mean more employees with cholesterol? And if this were true, it would make more sense for Renco to invest in early treatment.

D. This is a tricky option. It means two things:

Renco's employees have same cholesterol levels as Garnet's employees OR Renco's employees have lower cholesterol levels than Garnet's employees.

Our aim here is to provide an argument strong enough that Renco would use to motivate why they are not financially interested by investing in present testing in treating the cholesterol problems of their employee.

If Renco's employees have lower cholesterol levels than Garnet's then it would serve the purpose. (as Renco would save money on testing employees with low cholesterol levels)

But, If Renco's employees have same cholesterol levels as Garnet's employees, then it doesn't provide strong support to Renco's thoughts.

E. CORRECT. By indicating that if Renco's employees do not stay for a long duration, this eliminates the risk that Renco may have to pay for treatment of conditions caused by high cholesterol left untreated for many years

7.

- A. Irrelevant as the passage already tells us that the cost of conversion is the same.
- B. This option actually discusses de-branching trees at the factory. This is not under discussion in the passage. We know that the trees are de branched at the logging site and the cost of converting the de branched trunks to wood chips is the same at the logging site as well as at the factory. Therefore even if it is more economical to debranch at the factory, the passage in no way supports or even discusses this.
- C. The passage does not support this statement as it clearly indicates “The cost of this conversion would be the same whether done at the logging site, where the trees are de branched, or at United's factory”.
- D. CORRECT. The passage only indicates that the cost of conversion will be the same and goes onto discuss “wood chips occupy less than half the volume of the branches from which they are made”. This clearly indicates that post conversion, the cost of transporting cargo would be much cheaper if wood chips were transported by doing the conversion into chips at the logging site rather than at the factory.
- E. This is completely irrelevant. Nothing in the passage makes such a claim.

8.

- A: The price of oil is unrelated to why rapid development of new fields will not result in higher oil exports.
- B. CORRECT. If the local demand for fuel grows, the new oil fields will cater to the home market and hence the oil export may not go up.
- C. Irrelevant. We do not care where the investment comes from. WE already know that new fields are being developed. The question is why won't this lead to higher export of oil?
- D. To an extent strengthens the argument that oil export may go up by indicating that new technologies can be used to harness oil.
- E. This would be all the more reason for the oil exports to rise.



9.

- A. Irrelevant as we are not discussing the skill of the workers. Also no connection is formed between the 100 new computers bought and the ability of the data-entry workers to use it.
- B. Irrelevant. Does Data entry have any relation with the production of the company? We do not know and donot have sufficient grounds to assume.
- C. This explains why company purchased the 100 new computer and to an extent strengthens the data entryworkers claim.
- D. The question at hand is, despite buying 100 new computers (which suggests there is work for the data entryemployees) why are employees being laid off? This would slightly strengthen the workers' argument by telling us that high wages could be a possible reason for the layoff.
- E. CORRECT. If this were true, it would mean that the existing staff of management and sales will perform the work that was being done by the data entry workers, therefore undermining the claim that the company is looking to replace the workers by hiring lower paid workers.

10.

Here 2 companies are compared. Both have same technology and same use.  
But only one company dominate the market. Why?

We need to find the reason why other company can't dominate the market?

- A. Even Gammatech has been in business for several years, both companies have similar technology. Also this option supports the reason that Aptron is not superior. Not correct.
- B. This simply tells us that the demand for the systems produced by both Gammatech and Aptron will increase. It does not tell us why Aptron will do better than Gammatech.
- C. This would be all the more reason for Gammatech's system to dominate Aptron's.
- D. computer technology is irrelevant to passage. We are only concerned with the systems these companies have built for faster network data transmission.
- E. CORRECT.

This option clearly states that the advantage of Aptron over Gammatech product. Customers will be more likely to switch to Aptron systems. This will in turn cause the conclusion to be valid. i.e Aptron's product is likely to dominate the market.



11.

A. CORRECT.

Here's a diagram for this argument:

(# of rds-equipped stations increased 250-->600)  
BUT  
(apprx same # of rds radios in Vland)  
THEREFORE  
(apprx same # of people receiving rds signals in Vland)

if you make this diagram, it should be clear that there's a logical leap between the latter two statements: the author is assuming a direct correlation between the # of rds-equipped radios and the # of people who actually receive rds signals with those radios.

in order to make this connection, you need to assume that nobody, or almost nobody\*\*, with an rds-equipped radio is now (in '96, that is) able to receive a signal but wasn't able to receive a signal back in '94. that's pretty much what A. says.

B. Irrelevant. As it does not directly discuss whether these people already had a RDS radio before the station was built, it does not fill the gap.

C. C is out of scope. It says that equipping a radio with the RDS feature does not decrease the range of the radio. But who cares? Even if it did, this would have been the case for 1994 as well as 1996. We need something that connects the data about radios and 94-96 with the claim that THE SAME NUMBER OF PEOPLE received the programming, even though no one bought new radios.

D. D is not an assumption - it is a fact. We are told that you cannot get this type of signal without the right equipment. An assumption must be something that is unstated.



E. Lets negate this:

The RDS radio stations in Verdland in 1996 all offered the same type of programming.  
This does not affect our conclusion in any way and hence is irrelevant.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option (A) basically says very few of the new stations broadcast to previously unserved areas. That is to say, almost all new radio stations broadcast to previously served areas. Negation would be many / almost all of the new stations broadcast to unserved areas. If that is the case (i.e. we negate / take away this option), we can no longer say for sure that the number of special program receiving people did not increase (it may have, in the previously unserved areas)

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Let's breakdown the question as follows:

Premises:

- Only radios with RDS feature can receive programs of Radio stations with RDS technology
- Between 1994 and 1996, the number of RDS radio stations in Verdland increased from 250 to 600.
- the number of RDS-equipped radios in Verdland was about the same in 1996 as in 1994

**Conclusion: The number of Verlanders receiving the special program information probably did not increase significantly.**

A. few if any of the RDS radio stations that began broadcasting in Verdland after 1994 broadcast to people with RDS-equipped radios living in areas not previously reached by RDS stations.

**Correct. This confirms that the new radio stations did not reach out to a large number of untapped listeners during this time.**

B. In 1996 most Verdlanders who lived within the listening area of an RDS station already had a radio equipped to receive RDS.

**Out of scope. This doesn't draw a parallel with the earlier situation -- in 1994, what number of Verdlanders in the listening area were equipped with RDS-enabled radios?**

C. Equipping a radio station with RDS technology does not decrease the station's listening area.

**Not an assumption.** If equipping a radio station with RDS decreased the station's listening area, there would be fewer listeners in 1996 than there were in 1994. However, this is not the assumption we're looking for, as the argument doesn't depend on it (an assumption HAS to be true). Negate this, and you'll see the argument will still hold.

D. In 1996 Verlanders who did not own radios equipped to receive RDS could not receive any programming from the RDS radio stations that began broadcasting in Verdland after 1994.

**There is a subtle premise shift here.** The conclusion limits its scope to "special programs" -- which can only be received by radios equipped with RDS, whereas this statement talks about not receiving ANY programming from RDS-enabled stations.

E. The RDS radio stations in Verdland in 1996 did not all offer the same type of programming.

**Irrelevant**

Even though new RDS radio stations have been set up, since the number of radios with RDS feature is same in 1996 as in 1994, the author is concluding that the same number of people are receiving RDS programs.

12.

A. Indicates that if more restaurants were opened, it would in fact help draw more patrons by making the restaurants less crowded.

B. Slightly strengthens the proposal as we already know that by opening new restaurants that are in the vicinity of a large number of other restaurants, Souper draws clients away from the other restaurants.

C. Brings in a possible other cause that could be the reason for the restaurant's success. Irrelevant to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposal at hand.

D. CORRECT. This indicates that by opening new restaurants in the vicinity of the other Souper restaurants, they will not attract any new client base.

E. Same as C.



13.

Conclusion: major eruptions cause the atmosphere to become cooler than it would be otherwise.  
We need to find an option that weakens this conclusion.

A. This indicates that the actual weather was cooler than it would have been which triggered the Pacific warming, strengthening the conclusion.

B. Irrelevant. We are concerned with the linkage between eruptions and temperature, not rains in India.

C. CORRECT.

By telling us that the conclusion did not apply to El Chichón, this weakens the conclusion by directly negating it.

D. To mask the general warming trend the atmosphere needs to become cooler than it normally is. By suggesting that the atmosphere cools down after an eruption this strengthens the argument that "major eruptions cause the atmosphere to become cooler than it would be otherwise"

E. Did just the sea surface temperature fall or did the overall temperature also decrease? While this does not strengthen the argument it definitely does not weaken it either

14.

A. Irrelevant. The comparison is between households with a built-clock in their microwave oven and householdthat have just the oven. The comparison is not between households with ovens and those without.

B. This information is irrelevant to the discussion. We are discussing the electricity consumption.

C. Additional information to the stimulus - not helpful in addressing the issue at hand. Even if the negation ofthis option were true, the conclusion will hold.

D. CORRECT. - stating that if an oven don't have a clock, the household will not install one is essential to the conclusion that houses without built in clocks in the microwave consume less electricity. The negation of this option would destroy the conclusion "Therefore, households whose microwave oven has no built-in clock use 45kilowatt-hours per year less, on average, than do comparable households whose microwave oven has one"

Negation:

Households whose microwave oven does not have a built-in clock are more likely to have a separate electricclock plugged in than households whose microwave oven has one.

E. Additional information to the stimulus - Not quite relevant. True or not, this option does not affect theconclusion.

15.

the argument rests on the premise that, once the leading airline raises its prices back up to 'normal' higherlevels, other airlines will jump right back into the fray.

A. IRRELEVANT. This is an exception. We are not discussing such countries here.

B. CORRECT. it states that other airlines are likely to continue to stay away, even after the big mean price- cutting airline raises its prices back up. (if their executives believe that 'big air' will simply lower its prices again ifthey try to wedge back into the market, then they'll stay out.)



C. IRRELEVANT. We already know what strategy the airlines plan to adopt.

D. IRRELEVANT. Because the passage and its conclusion aren't at all affected by what the other airlines do if they decide to stop serving some particular route. all that matters is that they decide to stop serving the route;the subsequent decisions are immaterial.

E. IRRELEVANT. As the argument doesn't turn on what happens during the low-fare period (it's most importantpremises concern what happens after prices are raised back)

16.

A. Irrelevant. The goal is being able to repaint while reduce maintenance time. We are not very concerned withthe appearances.

B. CORRECT. Indicates that faster removal of the sheet will allow faster reapplication, thereby bringing down the maintenance time.

C. This weakens the plan a little by telling us that special expertise is required to apply the film.

D. Irrelevant. This neither discusses the merits of paint or of the film.

E. While this definitely states a good reason for using the film, the goal is to carry out other maintenance taskswhile the film is being applied. This option does not tell us whether this goal will be achieved or not.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(E) - The plane has been taken out of service for maintenance. It is not flying. It has been taken out of service. During maintenance (again, during the time it is not flying) the film can speed up tasks because tasks can be done in parallel vs sequentially. Then do various speeds of flying have anything to do with the question? No.

17.

- A. This would mean, according to the passage, that the celebrities may not linger.
- B. Irrelevant. Does not indicate how installation of tall chairs will help nor does it affect the profits of the restaurant.
- C. CORRECT. the 'generalization about lingering' is the idea that people won't sit at tall tables for as long as at short tables. Yet, according to the passage, the customers at tall tables will probably be there to gawk at celebrities, so they will probably stay for a long time - the 'exception' mentioned in this answer choice.
- D. There is no mention of the cost of meals anywhere in the passage, so, nothing in the passage could possibly support any notion about differential meal prices. (In fact, strictly speaking, the passage doesn't even state that Hollywood Restaurant serves meals in the first place! For all we know, it's just a bar.)
- E. Irrelevant. talks about a plan that is much more drastic than the plan that is actually discussed in the passage. the plan discussed in the passage only mentions "replacing some of the tables" with tall tables. however, option (e) goes much further than this: it talks about the consequences of a plan in which enough tall tables are installed to accommodate everyone who wants a tall table. this is much more extreme than the plan given in the prompt, so it's irrelevant.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Pay close attention to the main question asked 'The argument is vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it gives reason to believe that it is likely that...'. Focus on two things when you look at options -

1. Argument is vulnerable to criticism from which option
2. Argument gives us reason to believe which option

Option C - The argument states that 'diners seated on stools typically do not stay as long as diners seated at standard-height tables'. It assumed that people at the Hollywood would leave quickly when at a tall table, like at other restaurants. But what if having a tall table means you can see the celebs. This might be a reason to stay. And thus there would not be a fast turn over. People might stay longer because they have a good view of a celeb whereas before, without a good view, people would just eat and leave. This could hurt the profits as tables wouldn't turn over as quickly.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Option (C) is the correct answer here. The actual question (bolded part) is needlessly convoluted, but that is a feature of CR questions on the GMAT for sure. The bolded part essentially means the argument says / assumes something, and this is not always correct, so the argument may not always be correct. What is this thing?

Coming to the question, the generalization about lingering is that patrons on high stools do not linger; they eat and leave. The argument has us believe that patrons will come to watch celebrities, so they will want to sit on high stools and sort of stay put there. This is opposite to the generalization about lingering. So only if that happens, then the profit piece will materialize. That being said, I personally am not super happy with this question. The reason being, there is none more part to profits - quick turnover of high stools. This is not an exception to the lingering behaviour, but directly in line with it. But still, we have to accept that Option (C) is the OA and move on with life.

Option (A) and Option (B) are irrelevant. Option (D), even if true, is not a problem. If high stool customers order lower value meals, it does not necessarily hamper the argument that more profit can be realized by turning over tables quicker. Option (E) cannot be the answer as the argument does not say any of this / assume this. So the argument cannot be criticized on the basis of this. The issue with option D is that there can be possibilities that turnover is more. More people coming in. Then even by ordering less expensive food, the profits can be high. It is not clear whether the quicker turnover will be enough to offset the cheaper meals.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

This is a twisted version of a "weaken" question, and that means that we must have a conclusion in here somewhere. And the conclusion is clearly stated at the end of the passage: "Therefore, if Hollywood replaced some of its seating with high tables and stools, its profits would increase."

So how did the author arrive at that conclusion? It's funny, the passage isn't really explicit in connecting the evidence to the conclusion. The supporting evidence is this:

- 1) "customers... would prefer tall tables with stools because such seating would afford a better view of the celebrities."
- 2) "diners seated on stools typically do not stay as long as diners seated at standard-height tables."

Hm, I kind of wanted something better than that, to be honest. I guess we're left to assume that this evidence would lead to higher profits because more customers would be attracted to the restaurant to watch celebrities, and because the diners wouldn't stay as long, so the restaurant could serve more people. But the passage isn't explicit about this. And that's part of what makes the question so tricky: the connection between the evidence and the conclusion is left partly to the reader's imagination.

And the question is funky, too. "The argument is vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it gives reason to believe that it is likely that..." So yes, this is a "weaken" question, sort of. But there's more to it than that. The argument "gives reason to believe" that something is likely -- and the "something" would weaken the conclusion that the tall tables will lead to higher profits. Tricky!

- C) the passage definitely gives us reason to believe that this is likely. After all, the passage indicates that celebrity-watching is the reason why customers come to the restaurant. And if (C) is true, then the restaurant wouldn't "turn tables" quickly, and profits would be hurt. Keep (C).
- E) Again, we have no reason to think that this is likely, and the impact on profits is a little bit murky, too. For (E) to be correct, we'd have to assume that this actually chases customers away somehow, and that isn't clear.  
So (E) can be eliminated, and (C) is the best answer.

18.

A. CORRECT.

IF the farmers were able to contact outside buyers via the phone, they would make more and therefore generate enough profits to pay for the phone. Now the phones themselves CREATE more money. That's a huge strengthen.

B. Remember, the issue is that the farmers CANNOT pay for the service. It doesn't matter whether or not these people don't have any phones. They can't AFFORD the fees that would make Calex a profit.



C. Comparing to fixed-line is useless. If people can't afford to pay for the service, how does Calex propose to make its profits?

D. Sure they do, but we already know that the farmers CANNOT AFFORD to pay the fees that would make Calex a profit.

E. These comparison answer choices are NEVER correct if the premise is not the same. We know nothing about Caladia's capital city.

19.

when you examine questions involving quantitative arguments - which this argument definitely is, even though it doesn't contain actual numbers - you should focus especially on the quantitative parts of the argument.

sure enough, in this problem, the issue is to be found in the numbers: the argument asserts that a record number of new startups must be founded. however, what's actually needed is a record number of new startup jobs. therefore, you need an assumption that solidifies the idea that, unless a record number of startups are founded, you won't get a record number of startup jobs, either.

A. Let's negate this

" Each year, new companies starting up do not create more new jobs overall than do previously established companies ". Since we know that

Option C does just that and is CORRECT.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Notice that the stem says 'record number of new companies' need to start up this year. Also, companies established upto and including last year (this latter group was the set of new companies that started up last year) will not create as many jobs this year as established companies created last year (the established companies last year obviously excluded the set of startups created only last year). Now, if this year a lesser number of startups are created, but they create let's say an incredibly high number of jobs per company on average. Then even with established companies creating as many new jobs, the record of new jobs created can still potentially be broken. So the argument / passage depends on the assumption that this is not going to happen - i.e., our answer is Option (C)

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Let's understand as follows:

With a record number of new companies starting up in Derderia and with previously established companies adding many jobs, a record number of new jobs were created last year in the Derderian economy. This year, previously established companies will not be adding as many new jobs overall as ~~such companies added~~ <sup>99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE</sup> last year. Therefore, unless a record number of companies start up this year, **Derderia will not break its record for new jobs created. (CONCLUSION)**

a) Each year, new companies starting up create more new jobs overall than do previously established companies.

If they do so, it is possible that Derderia will have more jobs created this year but our conclusion says otherwise.

b) Companies established last year will not add a greater number of jobs overall this year than they did last year.

This already stated in the stimulus

c) This year, the new companies starting up will not provide substantially more jobs per company than did new companies last year.

Correct. Let's Negate this. New Companies will provide substantially more jobs per company than did new companies last year. So There is a chance that the new jobs this year will break the last year's record. If we look at the stimulus it reaches the conclusion that total number of jobs created will be less than last year based on the lesser number of jobs created by established companies. So the missing piece is the new start ups will not hire massively to set a new record.

d) This year, the overall number of jobs created by previously established companies will be less than the overall number of jobs lost at those companies.

Unrelated. we are not talking about the net jobs and whether the net jobs (created-lost) is positive or negative

e) The number of jobs created in the Derderian economy last year was substantially larger than the number of jobs lost last year.

Unrelated.

20.

Let's first find out which of the two bold-face statements (if any) form the conclusion.

the first bold-face is followed immediately by "therefore, xxxx", so we know at once that it is not the main conclusion of the argument (since it's being used to justify something else).

The second bold-face on the other hand, is used to establish a position by indicating what maybe the RESULT of the action taken by the Pro-Tect company.

Note:

Cause: Pro-Tect Insurance Company's total payout on car-theft claims has been larger than the company can afford to sustain. Pro-Tect cannot reduce the number of car-theft policies it carries, so it cannot protect itself against continued large payouts that way

Effect: Therefore, Pro-Tect has decided to

offer a discount to holders of car-theft policies whose cars have antitheft devices. Many policyholders will respond to the discount by installing such devices, since the amount of the discount will within two years typically more than cover the cost of installation.

Result: Thus, because cars with antitheft devices are rarely stolen, Pro-Tect's plan is likely to reduce its annual payouts.

Now let's look at the options that indicate the second bold-face to be the conclusion.

- A) indicates both the bold-faces are conclusions. INCORRECT.
- B) CORRECT. Aptly suggests that bold-face 1 is the problem and bold-face the conclusion to that problem
- C) Indicates boldface 1 to be the conclusion.
- D) the second bold-face is not a prediction but the conclusion. The prediction in the para is "Many policyholders will respond to the discount by installing such devices, since the amount of the discount will within two years typically more than cover the cost of installation"



- E) indicates that neither of the bold-faces form the conclusion. We know this to be incorrect.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

BF2 is not starting with 'Because'. It is starting with 'Thus'. Also, even if it started with 'Because' it could still have been a conclusion. Starting with 'Because' is simply a stylistic choice - I can say a sentence like this 'Jonathan is the best soccer player because he has scored the most number of goals this season' (I am arriving at a conclusion here) OR like this 'Because Jonathan has scored the most number of goals this season, he is the best soccer player' (I have reached the same conclusion, I have only stylistically started with 'Because').

Coming to the question, let's start with a small digression that will help open up your thinking in a tiny way (not relevant to this question at all). What do you think is the crux of how the insurance industry operates? It is based on the broad idea that premiums are deterministic cash inflows, whereas claim fulfillments are probabilistic cash outflows (they have an expected value) which are further offset by things like co-pays and deductibles. Every insurance company is hoping, very simplistically, that the known amount of cash that will come in during a time period is greater than the expected value of the cash that will go out during the period.

BF1 is a problem - the insurance company cannot reduce the number of claims and each claim is a stochastic cash outlay. So it will pay out a lot. How does it solve this problem? The solution reached has been to promote the use of anti-theft devices in cars. This solution / response to the problem is what the argument is assessing. BF2 gives the final conclusion the assessment has reached (it has concluded the solution is indeed good)

21)

- A) -Weakens: This provides additional evidence that supports the ideas may have been stolen
- B) CORRECT-Strengthens. : This provides evidence that similar characters and plot twists are simply a part of the genre rather than specific to the film THIEVES
- C) -Not relevant: It does not matter what types of movies this studio normally produces
- D) -Weakens: This provides some connection between two projects, leaving open the possibility that certain ideas could have been exchanged (i.e. stolen)
- E) -Not relevant. The production time for each film does not relate to the origination of plot lines or characters.

22)

A. CORRECT

Herbicides kill weeds -> kills insects -> kills birds. This directly suggests that the herbicides are responsible for the demise of the birds and thus weakens the conclusion that "something other than herbicide use must be responsible for the population decrease"

- B. This simply tells us that carefully kept records revalidate the decline in the number of partridges. This neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion but reaffirms a fact we already know.
- C. Not relevant. This does not tell us whether herbicides are responsible for the death of the partridges or not.
- D. Not relevant. This choice does not relate to the partridge. Moreover, it offers no additional information concerning why these populations are in decline.

E. slightly weakens: I agree that this choice does confirm a premise from the argument - that the birds actually contain little pesticide residue - but it does not add any new information to suggest that the pesticides are nevertheless responsible for the demise of the birds.



The distinction between answer choices A and E is clear. Whereas E simply confirms a fact that is already stated in the argument (no new information to weaken the conclusion), A adds new, and relevant, information to support that the pesticides are in fact responsible for the demise of the partridge.

23)

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

With any BF question, start with the conclusion, if possible: "the strategy to maximize overall profit from a new product is to charge less than the greatest possible price."

Now let's look at the argument WITHOUT worrying about the BF:

- "A product that represents a clear technological advance over competing products can generally command a high price." - If your company comes up with a technologically advanced product, you can charge a high price.
- "Because technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed and companies want to make large profits while they still can, many companies charge the maximum possible price for such a product." - You can charge a high price because your product has a technological advantage over competing products. You assume that whatever technological advantage you have will soon be surpassed. Until that happens, you want to charge as much as possible to *immediately* maximize your profits.
- "But large profits on the new product will give competitors a strong incentive to quickly match the new product's capabilities." - If you charge the maximum possible price to maximize your profits, competing companies will see how much money you are making and say, "Wow, we should do something like that too!" By maximizing your own profits, you are giving competing companies an incentive to quickly "catch up" and make a product with similar capabilities.
- This implies that if, instead, you DON'T try to maximize profits and DON'T charge the highest possible price, competing companies will have less incentive to copy you. That will allow you to enjoy your technological advantage for a longer period of time and, according to the author, maximize your profits in the long run.

So most companies tend to try to maximize profits immediately by charging the highest possible price. According to the author, they would make more money in the long run by charging *less* than the greatest possible price.

Once you understand the argument, you can look back at the BF portions:



Because technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed and companies want to make large profits while they still can...

This is the reason why companies tend to charge the highest possible price. In other words, this explains the appeal of a certain strategy (the strategy of charging the highest possible price). But the author does NOT endorse that strategy. The author argues that companies should charge LESS than the greatest possible price.

Looking at choice (D), the first BF portion is "a consideration raised in support of a strategy", but it is not a strategy that the argument *endorses*. (D) must be eliminated.

Choice (B) accurately describes the first BF portion as "a consideration raised to explain the appeal of a certain strategy"--not the strategy endorsed by the author, but the strategy that many companies employ (charging the highest possible price).

But large profits on the new product will give competitors a strong incentive to quickly match the new product's capabilities.

This explains how the strategy that many companies employ (charging the highest possible price) could backfire. So the first BF explains the *appeal* of the highest-price strategy, and the second BF portion explains why adopting that strategy might be a bad idea. In other words, the second BF portion "is a consideration raised to call into question the wisdom of adopting that strategy." Again, choice (B) is spot on.

As for choice (D), the "consideration" is the first BF portion. The second BF portion does not *support* the first BF portion, so (D) doesn't work.

(B) is the best answer.

The second part of (C) is definitely wrong. The second BF portion is not meant to CAST DOUBT on the idea that 1) technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed or that 2) companies want to make large profits while they still can. The author doesn't doubt the validity of those two things themselves. Rather, the author doubts the wisdom of the *strategy* that can be explained by those two things.

The author is not trying to make us doubt the claims made in the first BF. Instead, the author argues that, in spite of those things, an alternative strategy would maximize overall profits.

Let us consider what answer option (E) states about each bold face part.

About the first bold face: ...is a consideration raised to show that adopting a certain strategy is unlikely to achieve the intended effect.

Now, the first bold face part (that technological advances are quickly surpassed) is a statement that provides a reason for why companies charge the maximum possible price for a technologically superior products. While the rest of the argument does oppose this strategy, the first bold face portion plays no role in this opposition. As per option (E), however, the first bold face portion shows that this strategy is unlikely to be effective, which is not true.

About the second bold face: ...to explain the appeal of that strategy.

"that strategy" here refers to the strategy referred to in the first part of option (E) ie; the strategy that is unlikely to be effective ie; charging maximum possible price for technologically superior products. As you can see, the second bold face portion actually is in opposition to that strategy, and does not explain the appeal (ie; be in favour of) that strategy. Hence this portion is also incorrect.

Note – The best way to approach critical reasoning questions is to evaluate the words on the page without adding in extra assumptions.

When looking at (B), just ask yourself: does the first BF raise a consideration about the appeal of "a certain strategy?"

Yup! It discusses a point in favor of the strategy of charging "the maximum possible price" for certain products.

The second part of (B) now talks about "**that** strategy." Because we've now locked in on the "maximum possible price" strategy, we know that the second part of (B) is ALSO talking about the same strategy.

So, does the second BF raise a consideration that "call[s] into question the wisdom" of adopting the "maximum possible price" strategy?

Yes, it does! It shows why the "maximum possible price" strategy might not maximize overall profit.

Overall, there are no rules dictating that a BF can apply to only a main conclusion. Instead, just take each answer choice at face value and evaluate whether it captures the role of each piece in the passage.



24)

- A) Irrelevant. How does it matter if it's widely used
- B) Irrelevant. Doesn't matter what the current process is.

C) doesn't help; it merely confirms what we already know.

specifically:

it tells us that "recently discovered samples of the vaccine dating from 1960 still show traces of the virus." in other words, choice (c) tells us only that the virus was/is present in some 1960-era vaccines.

the problem is that we already know this: the passage tells us, after all, that "in 1960 some polio vaccine was contaminated with the virus".

(c) adds absolutely nothing new beyond this already-established fact.

D) Small percentage is not very helpful. Could be .0000001%.

E) CORRECT.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option (C) simply shows that the vaccine was definitely contaminated with SV40, and this we already know. This doesn't help with the hypothesis (the contamination of the vaccine cause mesothelioma later on in people).

Option (D) again is irrelevant / does not strengthen the hypothesis. Option (D) is simply showing that things other than asbestos may be causing mesothelioma. It doesn't strengthen the hypothesis in question in any way.

Option (E) is the answer. If in a place where the polio vaccine was not contaminated, mesothelioma tissue samples do not show SV40, then that strengthens the hypothesis that in places where such tissue samples do show SV40 and where we know the polio vaccine was contaminated, this contamination may have been the way SV40 got into the human body. This doesn't prove it, but it strengthens that hypothesis

25)

Hypothesis: High level of pollutants in public water, which people consume, is causing the voluminous cases of the new disease.

We need to find a weakener for the hypothesis.

A) if the people who got afflicted consumed the contaminated public water, there is a reason for suspicion.

Strengthens.

B) The disease exists wherever people are consuming the similar type of pollutants through water. Strengthens.

C) CORRECT. This casts a doubt on the hypothesis. If the disease started before the pollutants were even in the picture, there's got to be an alternate cause for the outbreak. Weakens.

D) As per common belief, private supplies are usually better or less worse than the public supplies. So, the private water sources contained less quantities of the contaminant. So, reduced cause is resulting in reduced effect. In other words, less pollutants are causing less number of cases. Strengthens with some trivial assumptions.

E) All the other major factors except contaminated water are constant, making the contaminated water a prime suspect for the disease in Harborville. This strengthens the hypothesis a great deal.

26)

Conclusion: The radio station plans to play songs that were popular 15-20 years ago. WHY?

Premise: They think that this will attract an audience of 35-45 year-olds and that this population will appeal to advertisers. What would weaken the above premise?

- A) Strengthens to an extent. Indicates that the audience will be attracted to the music that they heard in their teens.
- B) Strengthens by citing an example where this strategy worked.
- C) CORRECT. says that this population tends to listen to the radio for news rather than music. They are thus unlikely to be attracted by this music and increase their listening of this radio station. Weakens.
- D) says that this population has a high income and is likely to make decisions about household purchases. This makes this population an attractive and appealing target for advertisers. Strengthens.
- E) Slightly Strengthens by indicating that since there is no other radio channel catering to this demand, the plan may work as expected.

27)

A. CORRECT. is very clearly correct because the information establishes links between siblings for both types of migraine, with actual numbers to demonstrate a stronger hereditary link for classical migraines.

B: Out of scope

C: Can be true , can be false. Does not distinguish between classic and common migraine

D looks tempting because it invokes the genetic connection, but notice that it arrives at a conclusion opposite of what you would expect.

E. irrelevant.



28) C is CORRECT.

if a question starts with

"Which of the following, if true..."

then the correct answer will ALWAYS be OUTSIDE THE CURRENT SCOPE of the argument!

in these problems, you will have to make common sense assumptions, and you will have to interpret statements and their consequences in the most probable way. if you try to solve these types of problems with formal rules

and logic, you will not be able to solve any of them.

note the prompt:

...provide a reason for persisting with the government official's plan despite the objection?

--> this means that we have to show that the objection is invalid.

if choice (c) is true, then the most probable interpretation is that truckers will not take advantage of this option for the same reason they aren't taking advantage of it now -- because the private parking lots are too far away. in this case, since the private parking lots already exist and the truckers aren't using them for the reason stated here, we can throw away the objection.

29)

A. This is irrelevant. We do not care about commercial fish . Our concern is the porpoise alone.

B. CORRECT

negating it , we have

“ When disoriented, harbor porpoises are significantly more likely to be killed by other boats.”

This would destroy the conclusion that “The alarms, therefore, are saving the lives of harbor porpoises in those waters.”

C. Although this might strengthen the use of alarms, its not an assumption. This is simply a fact stated in support of the plan i.e the premise.

D. Irrelevant. Even if the harbor porpoises were not the largest in number at the time the alarm was installed, it does not affect the conclusion.

E. We talking about the safety of the porpoises and not the costs involved. This is irrelevant.

30)

A. Offers slight support to the plan by indicating that the employees will not be inconvenienced.

B. Strengthens the plan by indicating time wasted in commuting will be saved.

C. If this were true, it would still remain true if the employees were to move to the adjacent building. Virtual offices do not have any effect on the autonomy of the employees as per the passage.

D. Strengthens the plan of working virtually by indicating that employees will not require too much ramp uptime.

E. CORRECT. This suggests an obvious disadvantage to employees working out of home and suggests that the plan may not as productive as working out of an office.



31)

We need to find an appropriate conclusion given the facts at hand.

A. The passage does not indicate that the symptoms related to some other kind of poisoning.

B. Once again, the passage does not mention this to be true or provide any evidence to read this conclusion.

C. CORRECT. This is all the passage tells us. From “ Recent examination of Taylor's bones, however, revealed levels of arsenic comparable to those found in the bones of Taylor's contemporaries. These levels are much lower than the levels of arsenic that remain in the bones of arsenic poisoning victims who live for more than a day after ingesting a lethal dose of the poison” all we know is that Taylor did not die of arsenic poisoning. But we do not know anything beyond this.

D. Same as B.

E. Same as B. passage says “ arsenic poisoning victims who live for more than a day after ingesting a lethal dose of the poison” .

It could be one day, it could be 10. We do not know.

32)

A. CORRECT

WHENEVER you have this problem type, IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT YOU FIND THE CONCLUSION OF THE PASSAGE FIRST.

depending on how good you are at such things, you may want to make a diagram of the passage; if you're sufficiently good at locating conclusions, though, you may have no need to make a diagram.

the conclusion of this passage is "the cold probably did cause the population declines, though indirectly".if you don't see why, post back and we'll explain.

once you figure out that's the conclusion, there are only two answer choices left in play: (a) and (b), the only two choices that actually say that's the conclusion (the "hypothesis proposed by the paleontologist").

note that "a generalization" and "an explanation" are not going to represent conclusions. a "judgment" could be a conclusion, but not in the case of choice (d), because there it's followed immediately by "...in support of X".

Also (d) is backwards.

(d) states that bold-face 1 supports bold-face 2, when in fact the argument is written in such a way that bold-face 2 supports bold-face 1.

between (a) and (b), you don't have to think that hard. choice (a) says that the second boldface is for the conclusion, while choice (b) says the second boldface is against the conclusion. since the former is true - the second boldface is the rationale behind the paleontologist's hypothesis - you go with (a).

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Is the paleontologist sure about what he/she is saying in BF1? No - so it is a hypothesis / judgement of some kind. Option (A), Option (B) and Option (D) remain.



Now BF2 is definitely not something the paleontologist opposes. Option (B) is eliminated.

Now if we look at the two answer choices remaining, it all goes down to whether BF1 is the conclusion or BF2 is the conclusion. If you read the two BFs again, BF2 is explaining BF1, not the other way round. Option (D) is eliminated.

Option (A) is the correct answer

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Break down the argument:

1. About 2.8 million years ago, many species that lived near the ocean floor suffered substantial population declines. - It's a factual statement that tells us something that happened a long time ago.
2. These declines coincided with the onset of an ice age. - This is also factual. However, this fact happened at the same time as the one in the first statement.
3. The notion that cold killed those bottom-dwelling creatures outright is misguided, however; - Now, this is Paleo's opinion. Saying that something is misguided is not a fact, it's an opinion that tells us that Paleo doesn't agree that cold killed those bottom dwelling creatures.
4. temperatures near the ocean floor would have changed very little. - This is a reason to back up the opinion of Paleo. Since the temperatures changed very little, this temperature change should not have led to the death of bottom dwelling creatures.
5. **Nevertheless, the cold probably did cause the population declines, though indirectly.** - This is our first Boldface statement or BF1. This is a causative statement where the Paleo links cold to population decline, with a keyword "indirectly". So, in a previous statement, the Paleo opined that cold did not lead to death of bottom dwelling creatures and provided a reason for the same. In this statement, Paleo introduces his own theory of how cold might have affected bottom dwelling creatures. **So, this statement could be called an opinion or conclusion or judgement or hypothesis of the Paleo.**
6. Many bottom-dwellers depended for food on plankton, small organisms that lived close to the surface and sank to the bottom when they died. - This is most probably a fact because what bottom creatures eat is not a matter of opinion, they eat what they eat. However, the presence of "many" could make it an opinion since different people would define "many" differently. This statement, along with the next statement (BF2) provides support to the opinion of the Paleo (BF1). This statement says that bottom dwelling creatures depended on Plankton for food.
7. **Most probably, the plankton suffered a severe population decline as a result of sharply lower temperatures at the surface, depriving many bottom-dwellers of food.** - This is BF2. This says that Plankton suffered a severe population decline. Read this statement with the preceding statement, which said Plankton was food for bottom dwelling creatures. So, combining these statements, we find that the food of bottom dwelling creatures declined severely. This could now explain

BF1 (indirect cause of decline).

Now, let's look at the options:

A. The first introduces the hypothesis proposed by the paleontologist; the second is a judgment offered in spelling out that hypothesis. - As we understand, BF1 can be termed a hypothesis of the Paleontologist. We know BF2 supports BF1. So, the roles of both BF1 and BF2 roughly match with our understanding. Let's keep this option in the fray.

B. The first introduces the hypothesis proposed by the paleontologist; the second is a position that the paleontologist opposes. - Here, the explanation of BF2 is easily wrong. Paleo doesn't oppose BF2 in any way. Thus, this is incorrect.

C. The first is an explanation challenged by the paleontologist; the second is an explanation proposed by the paleontologist. - Here, BF1 is not challenged by Paleo; instead, BF1 is proposed by Paleo. So, Incorrect.

D. The first is a judgment advanced in support of a conclusion reached by the paleontologist; the second is that conclusion. - In our analysis we found that BF2 supports BF1 and this option says just the opposite. However, I would advise you to eliminate this option only after reading BF1 and BF2 again. But do eliminate this because BF1 is no way to explain BF2. So, this is also incorrect.

E. The first is a generalization put forward by the paleontologist; the second presents certain exceptional cases in which that generalization does not hold. - BF2 doesn't present any exceptional circumstances. Therefore, this is also incorrect.

So, after going through the options, we find that option A is the correct choice.

33)

Key: Centennial Commercial, a real estate developer, is considering a plan to **convert several unoccupied office buildings** it owns in Cenopolis into hotels in order to **maximize its revenues** from these properties.

Now, this plan would only work if we can be sure that converting office buildings to hotels will indeed maximise the revenue. Let's see which option addresses that.



A. This is irrelevant. We are only concerned with maximizing revenues.

B. CORRECT. What if the demand for office space were to exceed hotel revenues in the next few years? The plan would then fail.

C. Irrelevant. We are interested in “maximizing its revenues from these properties” and do not care for other travel services.

D. Irrelevant. We are only discussing Cenopolis.

E. Irrelevant. The question is will converting office buildings to hotels increase revenue for the developer than if he were to continue to let them exist as office buildings.

34)

This argument very clearly makes the assumption that if more money is spent on safety precautions, the number of accidents will correspondingly decrease.

A. Irrelevant to the safety of the employees.

B. CORRECT. If this were true, irrespective of the money spent on safety precautions, untrained workers might end up injuring themselves.

C. Same as A.

D. This would encourage the employees to be safer, strengthening the conclusion.

E. This would strengthen the argument that the number of accidents may reduce (due to the use of automated machines)

35)

The argument concludes that even if the public were to ask for inappropriate medicines "But since physicians have the final say as to whether to prescribe a medication for a patient, inappropriate prescriptions would not become more common"

IS there an option that tells us that this may not be the case?

- A. Even if this were true, it does not indicate whether inappropriate prescriptions would become more common or not.
- B. Even if this were true, physicians have the final say as to whether to prescribe a medication, according to the passage.
- C. Same as above.
- D. The argument says talks of general public not having the specialized knowledge to evaluate such advertisements. It does not discuss the physician's knowledge.
- E. CORRECT. This indicates a possible scenario when despite having the final say on prescribing medication, the physicians may give into the patient's demand.

36)

basically, the short version of this argument is "Southern Airways has a higher accident rate overall; therefore, my flight on Southern Airways must be more dangerous." What could weaken this connection?

- A. Irrelevant. Since we are not told whether no-stop flights in anyway increase the incidence of accidents, this is not relevant to the argument.
- B. CORRECT. This provides a logical reason for why Southern Airways has more number of accidents while also indicating that the **Pederton to Dacenta** is not affected by this issue.
- C. Are these models more safe or more dangerous? The option does not say.
- D. Irrelevant. We know cost to be a non-issue.
- E. choice (e) is irrelevant, since the issue at hand has nothing to do with absolute safety (i.e., as represented by the actual accident rates); the issue deals only with relative safety (= which airline is safer than which other one, regardless of the absolute size of the numbers).



#### Top 1% exert replies to student queries (can skip)

The argument is that Southern Airways (SA) is problematic compared to Air Dacentaria (AD); so I will take AD and not SA to fly between Pederton (P) and Dacenta (D). Option (B) says all of SA's flights operate out of a very dangerous airport (this explains the poorer safety performance), but the flight between P and D does not operate out of this airport. So it weakens the idea that even this particular flight would have a higher probability of problems.

Coming to the elimination of Option (E) - it doesn't matter what the proportion of flights that have accidents is. Even if that proportion is very small (and we don't know what constitutes a 'small' or 'large' proportion, and we also don't know how that proportion is different for SA and AD), what is an objective fact is that SA has more frequent and more severe accidents as compared to AD (even if the proportion of accidents is a small fraction of the total number of flights of SA). What this means is that, on a balance of probabilities, if I fly SA, the probability of me getting into a bigger problem is higher. So nothing weakens the argument.

Here is some math for this. Say for SA and AD 4% and 2% (still 'small' proportions for both) of their flights get into accidents. Because SA's accidents are more severe, say 100 lives are lost on average per accident. Say 50 lives are lost per accident of AD. What is the *expected number of lives lost* per flight of SA?  $0.04 \times 100 = 4$ . What is the *expected number of lives lost* per flight of AD?  $0.02 \times 50 = 1$ . So yeah, SA is still more problematic, and the argument stands

37)

- A. Irrelevant. The premise tells us that speeding decreases safety for any vehicle. We have no reason to think that speeding is an issue only during long-distance driving.
- B. Irrelevant. The argument already states that “commercial truck and bus drivers were using these devices to drive faster than the posted speed limit without fear of arrest”. Also “In many places” does not mean all.
- C. CORRECT. This indicates that proposed plan worked for commercial vehicles, indicating that it may also work for non-commercial vehicles.
- D. Irrelevant. “Greater threat” is a relative phrase. Even if this were true, Banning radar detectors in non-commercial vehicles may still “increase” safety.
- E. Irrelevant. This is no way supports the conclusion that banning such detectors in non commercial vehicles will increase safety.

38)

- A. CORRECT. The addition of this information to the argument would weaken the argument more than would any other option.
- B. The more serious nature of the oil spills caused by tankers strengthens the argument.
- C. Careful management controlling the environmental impact of offshore operations supports the argument rather than weakens it.
- D. While offshore operations may cause other environmental damage, this point is not relevant to the argument, which concerns just oil spills.
- E. Importing oil on tankers may be an attractive economic alternative but this point is unrelated to oil spills.



39)

The argument summary: By banning imported steel, smaller steel companies will be able to take away (compete) more business from larger steel companies as this business will no longer go to foreign companies.

Which would weaken this conclusion?

A. Irrelevant. Unless we were told that the quality of steel produced by mini-mills is lower than that of steel produced by foreign mills, this option is irrelevant.

B. This does not tell us whether the ban on imported steel will direct business to the mini-mills. We want to assess how small mills can take away business from larger mills. This neither weakens nor strengthens the argument.

C. Will imposing a ban on imported steel cause other countries to ban export of steel from the US?

We do not have sufficient information to assume this and even if it were true, since the argument states that mini-mills will take more business from the big American steel mills, this does not directly affect our argument.

D. This actually strengthens the conclusion by indicating that the smaller companies will be able to compete better

E. states that the small mills are making "specialized types of steel that are not produced by the big American steel mills". The small mills cannot take away the big steel mills' business when they are not producing the type of steel that the big steel mills produce. They are not legitimate competitors of the big mills. Correct.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option E is the correct answer here.

Let's analyse the passage,

1st sentence: Imposing quotas will not help... This is a fact.

2nd sentence: Mini mills will flourish... Again fact

3rd sentence: This is the conclusion that we have to weaken.

So,

Big mills won't be helped. Small mills will flourish. Therefore, small mills will take big mills' business.

What do you think is the assumption here?

Straight away the assumption is that the small mills and big mills are operating in the same market segment.

Option E says that they are not. Businesses are different altogether. So, this option weakens out conclusion.



40)

An assumption that supports a conclusion, though unstated, is NECESSARILY TRUE. In other words, the conclusion must directly depend on the information from the assumption. In this argument, the conclusion states that drivers who equip their vehicles with radar detectors are more likely to exceed the speed limit regularly than are drivers who do not. The only factual basis (i.e. premise) for this conclusion is that 33% of vehicles ticketed for exceeding the speed limit were equipped with radar detectors, while only 3% of drivers on Maryland highways equip their vehicles with radar detectors.

The only information provided is about the percentage of vehicles equipped with radar and the percentage of ticketed vehicles equipped with radar; the conclusion, however, makes a sweeping generalization about the regular driving behavior of individuals with radar-equipped vehicles. When the GMAT creates such a "jump" or "gap" in the logic of an argument, the assumption will often "fill in" the missing information.

In order for the conclusion to be valid, it must be true that these ticketed drivers exceed the speed limit on a regular basis. This is satisfied by option B.

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Please note that in all of the following explanations, I have assumed 1 driver drives only 1 car, so have used driver and car interchangeably

The most important word in the stem of the question is 'regularly'. Picture a set of cars on Maryland's highways - this is the total number of cars. Out of this 3% (passage trying to get across that this is a small number) of cars have radars. Now picture a smaller subset of cars that have been ticketed. Out of this smaller subset, 33% (passage trying to get across that this is an inordinately large number) have radars.

Based on this information, the passage jumps to a conclusion - that cars with radars tend to speed more regularly than do cars without radars.

Let's get some math out of the way first.



Let total number of cars be  $100x$  ( $x$  is some positive number)

Then total number of radar cars is  $3x$

Let total number of ticketed cars is  $100y$  ( $y$  is some positive number)

From the information provided, we know

$33y \leq 3x$  (i.e. even if all radar cars are within the ticketed subset, they still have to be less than or equal to the total number of radar cars)

or,  $y \leq x/11$

or  $100y \leq 9.09x$

So we see the total number of ticketed cars has to be less than or equal to around 9% of all cars. This immediately eliminates Option (C), as  $100y$  does not HAVE to be  $> 3x$

Now going back to the question of regularity, notice the question says radar cars regularly overspeed, not that they regularly get tickets more. Think of the subset of cars that has received tickets - it consists of both radar and non-radar cars. 33% of this subset is cars with radars and 67% is cars without. We also don't know what the percentage of radar cars with tickets compared to all radar cars is, or what the percentage of non-radar cars with tickets compared to all non-radar cars is. Point being - we cannot really say radar cars get more tickets than non-radar cars. So we have to focus on and prove (as that is what the question asks) that radar cars regularly overspeed as compared to non-radar cars. Now think what would help us draw this conclusion?

Look at Option (B). If the ticketed drivers keep overspeeding regularly, it is possible for us to prove that radar drivers speed more regularly than do non-radar drivers. Let's take two edge cases to see how:

We saw the max size of this subset is  $9.09x$  or 9.09% of the total car population. Let's say the maximum subset of tickets possible were given out - this will help us maximize the number of non-radar cars getting tickets, as 33% of this subset is fixed for radar cars.  $33\% \text{ of } 9.09x = \sim 3x$  and  $67\% \text{ of } 9.09x = \sim 6x$ . Total number of non-radar cars is  $97x$ , so from this analysis, we see that radar drivers  $\sim 3x$  out of  $3x$  sped more regularly than did non-radar drivers ( $\sim 6x$  out of  $97x$ )

Now let's take the edge case of the smallest ticketed subset possible - because cars can only be whole numbers, and we know there are at least 33% radar cars in this subset, it follows that the minimum number of radar cars that got ticketed was 1 and the total number of ticketed cars was 3. For any positive whole number  $x$ ,  $1/3x$  is a larger percentage than  $2/97x$ . This again proves that if cars in the ticketed subset sped over the limit regularly, then radar cars sped more regularly than non-radar cars

Finally - Option (D) may arouse confusion. It says 'many', so if we say all the ticketed cars who sped regularly / got ticket multiple times were non-radar cars, it is in line with Option (D), but is opposite to what we want to prove.

41)

- A. Irrelevant. Does not discuss whether replacement of standard keyboards with the EFCO keyboard will result in an immediate reduction of typing costs
- B. This strengthens the conclusion considerably.
- C. Irrelevant. Does not discuss whether replacement of standard keyboards with the EFCO keyboard will result in an immediate reduction of typing costs
- D. CORRECT. This explains why the use of EFCO might actually cause the typing cost to raise thereby weakening the argument as the overheads in training the employees is considerably higher for EFCO.
- E. This simply indicates that the ramp up time is the same for a novice irrespective of the keyboard being used. Does not tell us whether EFCO will reduce costs.

42)

The argument very clearly assumes that the newly thin people will continue to consume the same number of calories that the people whose weight is normally at that level do. Thereby they are unable to burn as many calories as the people whose weight is normally at that level and regain their original weight.

A. CORRECT. Negating this we find "Large number of very overweight people who have dieted down to a new weight tend to continue to consume substantially fewer calories than do people whose normal weight is at that level." this would make our assumptions untrue and would allow the very overweight people to maintain their new weight.



B. Negation of B

the metabolism of people who are usually not overweight are not able to vary than the metabolism of people who have been very overweight.

Since the argument has already established that the metabolic rates of the usually overweight don't much vary with dieting, the real force of negating B is the metabolic rates of those who are not usually overweight don't much vary with dieting. But this doesn't weaken the conclusion that the usually overweight will regain weight. It doesn't say anything whatsoever about the usually overweight.

C. Negation "The amount of calories that a person usually burns in a day is not determined more by the amount that is consumed that day than by the current weight of the individual."

This simply tells us that the amount of calories burned depends on the current weight of the individual i.e. the metabolism or equally on the amount eaten as well as the calorie intake.

However, the premise already tells us that the metabolism of overweight individual that has lost weight through dieting is lower than that of an individual who is normally at that weight.

D. Irrelevant. Whether such a chemical exists or not, it will in no way affect the conclusion which discusses people who have lost weight primarily through dieting.

E. Irrelevant. The conclusion talks about people who are overweight and have lost weight, not people with normal weight.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Option (A), when negated, gives that a lot of formerly obese people continue to consume fewer calories daily than do non-obese people. If this is indeed true, then the conclusion of the argument, that the former group will definitely gain back weight, breaks. So the argument makes an assumption that very few formerly obese people will consume fewer calories consistently (only then the argument will hold).

Option (C) is irrelevant - the argument says formerly obese people will burn fewer calories than will non-obese people, even at a lower weight (because their metabolism is unchanged). Then the argument says that the rate of burning depends on the metabolism of a person, not on their current weight or on the amount of calories consumed.

Option (D) - Even if researchers have determined this, we don't know if chemical agents can or cannot be used to accelerate the metabolic rate of individuals. But even if say they can be used, how is that an assumption for the given argument? The given argument doesn't say anything about whether formerly obese people are using / have used such agents to lose the weight, increase the metabolic rate etc. So this is definitely not an assumption of the argument

43)

- A. Out of scope as we are trying to determine if amino acid that is one of the sweetener's principal constituents caused the effect. The consumption habits of consumers is not in question here.
- B. Out of scope. This simply defines the amino acid in the conclusion. It does not tell us whether consumption of it in large amounts can have detrimental cognitive effects.
- C. Out of Scope. The safety food regulations is not our concern here. We are simply trying to establish what caused lower cognitive abilities.
- D. CORRECT. This tells us that all cognitive conditions were similar prior to test.

Note: If you EVER see a CR problem about an experiment designed to test some hypothesis, you should FIRST consider experimental control. i.e., the groups being studied should be absolutely identical in EVERY relevant way, except the variable whose effect is being tested.

in this case, since we're testing the effect of the sweetener, the groups should be relevant in every way except amount of sweetener consumed.

- \* prior cognitive ability is obviously relevant.
- \* other relevant aspects should also be equalized. for instance, the two groups should take the same battery of cognitive tests.
- \* variables that are irrelevant to the experiment (such as the hair color of the subjects) don't have to be equalized.

E. Second experiment is out of scope.



44)

This is extremely simple. We are told for certain that the amino acid in the sweetener lowers cognitive abilities. We are asked to find an option that explains how.

B is the clear choice here and the rest are irrelevant.

45)

- A. We already know that the government has declared huge budget deficits. This is simply restating the premise.
- B. This does not weaken how decreasing the deficit will prevent future currency declines.
- C. This is irrelevant. It neither connects prediction of slower economic growth nor budget deficits with the decrease in currency.

D is CORRECT.

specifically, the recent decline was triggered by predictions of slower economic growth, but the author is claiming that there must also be a sizable budget deficit -- in addition to such predictions -- in order to cause declines in the value of the dollar. in other words, the author is saying, "Without a sizable budget deficit, predictions of slow economic growth will not cause the dollar to decline."

so, then, (d) weakens this argument rather directly.

- E. This admits a large budget deficit to be one of the reasons for currency decline.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The argument says the announcement triggered the decline in the value of the currency, but the decline was caused by a budget deficit. So if we correct for the budget deficit, we correct for the currency decline.

However, if we find evidence that even if budget deficit is not present, currency has declined (especially correlated with announcements of poor economic condition), then we weaken the argument that budget deficit is the cause of the currency devaluation.

Option (D) is the answer



46.

This is extremely straight forward to solve.

"Neither **rising standard of living** nor **balanced trade**, by itself, establishes a country's ability to compete "  
"Both are required simultaneously "

We need to look for an option than takes into consideration both these factors. Only option A  
**"balance its trade while its standard of living rises"** does so.

CORRECT Option A.

47.

the entire argument can be summed up as follows:

top managers use intuition more than do midlevel or lower-level managers

-->

intuition is MORE EFFECTIVE

there's a huge, glaring hole there: the argument has connected "top managers use intuition more" with "it's a more effective way of decision making". these 2 specifics are entirely different from one another, and NEED to be bridged for the argument to hold up.

in fact, you should get into the habit of regarding ANY two specifics that are even remotely different (such as "drivers who speed" and "drivers who receive speeding tickets") as completely different things. under that criterion, it's a no-brainer to choose the assumption that bridges the gap.

A. Irrelevant. The passage already suggests that Methodical, step-by-step reasoning is employed by managers for decision making.

B. Irrelevant. "top managers used intuition significantly more than did most middle- or lower-level managers" indicates that both top level managers and middle level managers have the ability to use either intuitive reasoning or methodical, step-by-step reasoning in making decisions.

C. Irrelevant. Even if this were true, it wouldn't explain why "intuition is actually more effective than careful, methodical reasoning"

D. Irrelevant. The comparison is between the success of the methods used by top managers versus middle level and low level managers.

E. CORRECT. This explains why intuition is considered a more successful way of decision making than step-by-step reasoning by indicating that the managers who employ the former (Top managers) are more successful.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



What is the conclusion? Because top managers use intuition more, then intuition is a more effective way of making decisions.

If you negate Option (E), what happens? It says top managers are not more effective at making decisions than are middle- or lower-level managers. Then the process they use to make decisions is not more effective than the process the other lower managers use.

48.

The reason Asthma occurs → messenger molecules are activated unnecessarily, in response to harmless things like pollen or household dust rather than in response to noxious gases.

The medication must be able to distinguish between the two (As the messenger molecules in a normal person would.)

A. Irrelevant. We are not interested in how the messenger molecules are produced.

B. Irrelevant. Once again, We are not comparing one person's rate with another. We are interested in the functioning of these molecules.

C. Irrelevant. The question is will it be effective when available?

D. CORRECT. This perfectly outlines why such a medication to prevent asthma will not work as the medication will not be able to understand the difference between a false attack and a real one.

E. Irrelevant. We are discussing cure and not prevention.

49.

A. The responsiveness of venture capitalists is a point in favour of the argument, not against it.

B. This statement about the relative importance of strategic planning and the personality of the entrepreneur does not weaken the argument because it does not address the importance of these factors in relation to financial backing.

C. The argument concerns only successful start-up companies, so high failure rates are irrelevant.

D. The argument deals with the success rates of start-up companies based in their sources of funding. A comparison of start-up companies in general with ongoing businesses has no bearing on the argument.

E. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies evidence that weakens the argument.

50.

This passage actually starts off with the conclusion: "When people evade income taxes by not declaring taxable income, a vicious cycle results."

The rest of the passage explains *how* this vicious cycle occurs:

- "Tax evasion forces lawmakers to raise income tax rates." - When people evade taxes, the government loses tax revenue. In order to compensate for the lost revenue, lawmakers are forced to raise income tax rates.
- Raising income taxes "causes the tax burden on non-evading taxpayers to become heavier." - The people who evade taxes are not contributing any money. Meanwhile, the people who DO pay their taxes will have to pay even more as tax rates are raised. In other words, non-evading taxpayers have to pay even more to make up for the amount that the evaders SHOULD be paying.
- "This, in turn, encourages even more taxpayers to evade income taxes by hiding taxable income." - As tax rates are raised, those who actually pay taxes will have to pay even more. The increasing financial burden causes more and more people to hide taxable income (in order to reduce the amount of taxes they have to pay).

If even more taxpayers decide to evade income taxes, the lawmakers will have to increase tax rates even further to compensate for lost tax revenue. But that will cause even MORE taxpayers to evade income taxes... and so on and so on. This is what the author means by, "a vicious cycle results."

But this vicious cycle could NOT result unless one of the following were true. In other words, if the vicious cycle could still occur *regardless* of whether an answer choice is true, then that answer choice should be eliminated:

(A) An increase in tax rates tends to function as an incentive for taxpayers to try to increase their pretax incomes.

Choice (A) suggests that people will try to increase their pretax incomes to make up for increased tax rates. That way, their post-tax incomes will be about the same, despite the increase in tax rates. This is one way for people to deal with increased taxes aside from evading their taxes!

But if (A) were not true, it would support the idea that more people will evade taxes as tax rates are increased. Instead of trying to raise their pre-tax incomes, most people will be faced with lower post-tax incomes. That would give more people incentive to evade taxes, thus feeding into the cycle described above.

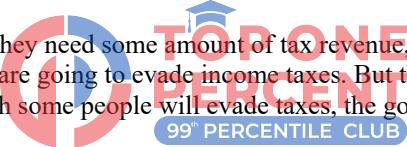
So we don't NEED choice (A) to be true in order to have a vicious cycle. In fact, if (A) were true, it would work *against* the argument by describing something that could help break the vicious cycle. Eliminate (A).

(B) Some methods for detecting tax evaders, and thus recovering some tax revenue lost through evasion, bring in more than they cost, but their success rate varies from year to year.

This would actually work against the argument by suggesting that the government might be able to recover some tax revenue without raising taxes. If (B) were true, then it might be possible to slow or even break the vicious cycle.

We don't need choice (B) to be true in order to have a vicious cycle, so eliminate (B).

(C) When lawmakers establish income tax rates in order to generate a certain level of revenue, they do not allow adequately for revenue that will be lost through evasion.

Let's think about what would happen if lawmakers DID allow adequately for revenue that will be lost through evasion.  
In other words, the lawmakers decide that ~~they~~ need some amount of tax revenue, and they set the tax rates accordingly. In doing so, they ASSUME that some people are going to evade income taxes. But that's okay because the lawmakers accounted for this in their calculations. So even though ~~some people will evade taxes, the government is still getting all of the tax revenue that it expected to get.~~  99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUB

In that case, there is no need for additional tax revenue and, thus, no need to increase tax rates! That means that the vicious cycle would be avoided. The vicious cycle described above could not happen unless choice (C) were true, so (C) looks good.

(D) No one who routinely hides some taxable income can be induced by a lowering of tax rates to stop hiding such income unless fines for evaders are raised at the same time.

Maybe some people WOULD stop evading taxes if tax rates were lowered, regardless of whether fines are raised. But if the government needs more tax revenue, tax rates will go UP, and the cycle will continue.

Choice (D) suggests that lawmakers might be able to *break* the cycle by raising fines and lowering tax rates, but the vicious cycle could occur even if (D) were not true. Thus, (D) should be eliminated.

(E) Taxpayers do not differ from each other with respect to the rate of taxation that will cause them to evade taxes.

According to the passage, whenever taxes are increased, some amount of people (not everyone) will say, "Enough is enough! I'm going to hide some of my income to evade taxes!" When taxes are raised again, another group will say the same thing... and so on and so on.

The argument implies that the amount of people who evade taxes will increase *gradually* as taxes are increased. Choice (E) suggests that, once a certain tax level is surpassed, almost everyone will evade taxes! If this were true, there would be no "cycle". Instead, for any given tax rate, either 1) most taxpayers WILL evade taxes or 2) most taxpayers will NOT evade taxes.

Choice (E) would have to be *false* in order to have a vicious cycle, so eliminate (E).

(C) is the best answer.

51.

- A. STRENGTHENS the conclusion about raising profitability. Here's why they're only going to send out half as many issues. therefore, unless the cost of postage doubles, they're actually going to spend less money on postage than they did before. choice (a) says that postage will cost only 1/3 more - far less than double. therefore, choice (a) actually implies that the total cost of postage will go down. this is exactly the opposite of what you want
- B. Strengthens the argument. This would mean that the magazine's plan to retain its subscribers and thereby its profits, will work as expected as this is what the subscribers want.
- C. Irrelevant. We need to analyse whether the current plan will cause a decline in the magazine's profits. This option, while suggesting to some extent the lack of need for such a plan, does NOT tell us why the plan may fail.
- D. CORRECT.  
if u look at the stimulus:  
quality + quantity + rate are all same.. so we can assume that production cost is relatively unchanged.  
D says "advertisers will pay same rate per issue as they were paying earlier"  
so with the cost as constant , since there is a 50% decrease in the number of magazines being printed and thereby a drop of 50% in ad revenue, profits should obviously decrease.
- E. Irrelevant. States a fact we already know to be true.

52.

- A. By indicating that the competing manufacturers had a perfect safety record, this actually finds a flaw in the company's decision.
- B. CORRECT. This would provide the most logical explanation for why the company would go with the same manufacturer as the "excellent quality" of the plane actually helped avert deaths.
- C. While this might indicate that the flights might be safer now since these guidelines are applicable to all manufacturers it does not tell back up the company's decision to go with the same manufacturer.
- D. This option does not help us evaluate Everett's decision in any way.
- E. Irrelevant. We are not discussing the employees. Job trends do not affect our argument in any way.

53.

To make this argument very basic:

Premise: The price of raw cotton has fallen.

Conclusion: The cost of cotton clothing will fall.

What is the author assuming? That the cost of cotton clothing is ONLY influenced by the price of raw cotton. That seems like a weak assumption, since many other costs could go into the conversion of raw cotton into cotton clothing.

A. CORRECT.

To weaken the argument, attack the assumption that only the cost of raw cotton influences the price of cotton clothing. (A) does this nicely, illustrating that there are other possible factors that go into the final cost of cotton clothing, such as the cost of processing the cotton.

B. Irrelevant. We need an option that tells us that the price of wool may not fall despite depressing cotton prices.

C. Irrelevant. While this allows us to eliminate one factor that could affect the final cost of cotton clothing, it still does not tell us why it would weaken the argument.

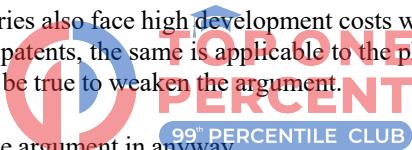
D. Strengthens the argument by stating that the clothing price decline is soon to follow.

E. the harvesting cost is just one component of the wholesale cost. Since we already know what is happening with the wholesale cost, any information about an individual component of that cost is irrelevant.

54.

The argument states that since other industries also face high development costs which they are able to recover under the current 20 years of protection provided by patents, the same is applicable to the pharmaceutical industry.

We need to find a reason why this may not be true to weaken the argument.



A. Irrelevant. This does not help weaken the argument in anyway.

B. CORRECT. Since the drug cannot be marketed for as long as 10 years after the patent is granted, this means that the patent period is effectively half as long as it's supposed to be, clearly strengthening the pharmaceutical industry's argument for an extension of the patent period.

C. Irrelevant. Does not strengthen the pharmaceutical company's argument in anyway. In fact it weakens the argument to an extent.

D. Irrelevant to strengthening the pharmaceutical company's argument. By stating that alternate drugs can be brought to the market, this reduces the need for an extension, to an extent.

E. Irrelevant. We are discussing the pharmaceutical industry only.

55.

CORRECT option: A

Paraphrasing:

Government will fund the farmers who will produce only on 75% of their land to boost the cotton prices.

Fact:

- 1) cotton production is very high so cotton prices falling.
- 2) Government will provide support payment to farmers who take 25% of their land off production.

For the program not to be a net burden on the budget, Government needs to get something which nullifies the effect of direct support payment.

Option A explains this by stating that tax offsets the money given towards direct support payment. None of the other options explain how the government would benefit through the support scheme.

56.

Conclusion: Therefore, space flights carrying astronauts must continue.

Here assumption is that astronauts are essential to repairing satellites. Any factor that introduces information that defeats the assumption wins.

A. This tells us that a malfunction could destroy the satellite – information that provides some additional support to the argument

B. Since satellites are judged to be indispensable, this statement suggests that their repair continues to be necessary – this somewhat strengthens the argument.

C. Irrelevant. Does not discuss the use of astronauts for repairing satellites



D. Irrelevant. Same as Above

E. CORRECT. This information challenges the assumption in the argument that there is no good alternative to repairing the satellites.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

D is just saying that the added equipment increases the fuel requirement. So what? How does this weaken the conclusion? Does this mean that astronauts should not go into space? It doesn't. Maybe this method is cheaper than sending a new satellite into space. Or maybe the cost of the extra fuel is more than compensated by the benefit provided by repairing the satellites. Since we don't have this information, D is not a weakener.

E is the correct answer. It says that repairing satellites is costlier than less practical than sending new satellites into space. This clearly weakens the conclusion that space flights carrying astronauts must continue.

57

The passage presents a problem-delays at airports-and proposes a solution-allocating more slots to commercial airlines.

A. CORRECT. states that the major causes of the delays lie elsewhere, thereby casting doubt on the effectiveness of the proposed solution, and is thus the best answer.

B. describes another part of the problem, but says nothing about who uses the additional airplanes.

C. The passage says “more of the takeoff and landing slots” although this option indicates that over 60% of the slots are reserved for commercial airlines, it does not state that this number is in fact sufficient to combat the problem.

D. gives one example where allocation was in fact successful strengthening the solution to an extent.

E. gives additional fact about the scope of the problem rather than throwing light on the effectiveness of the solution.

58.

- A. Irrelevant. The passage already states that hiring new officers will lead to increased arrests. The passage does not indicate whether this leads to a lowered crime rate or not.
- B. This restates what we already know - hiring new officers will lead to increased arrests. Rather than weakening the conclusion this strengthens it a bit.
- C. Irrelevant. The officers' salary is completely out of scope. We are discussing hiring new officers.
- D. Since this conclusion says the cost of BOTH arrests as well as convictions cannot be borne by my middletown, lowered conviction rate does not help weaken the conclusion.
- E. CORRECT. By stating that hiring new officers will have a deterrent effect on crime, this option indicates that the crime rate may go down without resulting in convictions and arrests.

59.

Fact: Bank depositors in the United States are all financially protected against bank failure because the government insures all individuals' bank deposits

Premise: Since depositors do not lose any money if the banks fail, they do not care about the soundness of the investment the bank makes.

Conclusion: If the government did not insure the depositors' money, the depositors would take more care in understanding the bank policies, thereby making the banks more secure.

This conclusion is clearly based on the assumption that "the depositors would take more care in understanding the bank policies". We need to find an option that indicates this may not be true.

- A. Strengthens the argument.
- B. CORRECT. By telling us that the depositors tend to shy away from banks altogether, instead of investing in "more secure" banks, this option clearly weakens the conclusion by stating that the economist's plan will backfire.
- C. Irrelevant. The passage already assumes this to be true.
- D. Irrelevant. By stating that "very few individuals' deposits exceed this limit" this option does not affect the conclusion.
- E. Irrelevant. The assessment of bank security is irrelevant to the argument.



#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

What is the economist's conclusion? That 'Insurance is partly responsible for bank failure'.

What is option E saying? That 'The security of a bank against failure depends on the percentage of its assets that are loaned out and also on how much risk its loans involve.' How is this affecting the economist's conclusion? It is absolutely not. We already know that there might be other reasons for bank failure. But are we concerned with them? No. We are only concerned with the conclusion of the economist. Since this is not affecting the economist's conclusion, this is incorrect.

B is absolutely correct.

60.

This is an inference problem.

Statement:

Large national budget deficits → DO NOT CAUSE → large trade deficits.

This indicates that there is no CORRELATION between the two.

One does not result in the other. The possible inference is reducing one deficit may not cause a reduction in the other.

However please note that a country may have a large trade deficits as well as large budget deficits. The only thing the passage tells is that one is NOT caused by the other.

- A. Nothing in the passage allows us to assume large national budget deficits tend to restrict foreign trade.
- B. The passage states that reliable comparisons have been developed.
- C. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies an inference than can be drawn from the given information.
- D. The passage gives no indication as to whether either type of deficit correlates in any way with the population size of a country.
- E. Though there is no general correlation between the two kinds of deficits, it cannot be inferred that there are no countries in which both kinds of deficits are large.

61.

A. suggests that exercise during working hours has undesirable consequences



B. CORRECT.

Even supposing that increasing the frequency of exercise leads to less sick time being taken, starting a company-supported fitness program might not produce significantly lowered absentee rates if employees who are frequently absent would not cooperate with such a program. Choice B says that such cooperation is unlikely and is the best answer choice.

- C. concerns exercise done after work by employees participating in a fitness program, but provides no indication of the effect, if any, of that exercise on sick time taken.
- D. indicates that such exercise fails to produce an added benefit, but none of these bears on sick time taken.
- E. suggests that exercise during working hours has undesirable consequences

62.

Court ruled that companies can reject applicant if there's a 90% chance applicant would suffer heart attack from that job.

Justification for the ruling: protected both employees and employers.

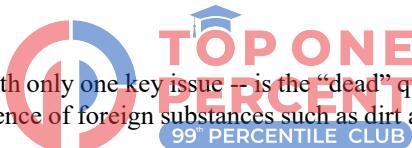
Assumptions: the employees and the employers both need protecting. The ruling actually does protect both from something bad.

Question: we could not use this ruling if something else were true. What is that thing? (Note that the question says "the ruling... could not be effective" not just "might not be as effective" - so the ruling could never be justified if the correct answer were true.)

- A. Is it always true that the best interests of employees and employers aren't the same? Not according to this choice - it's often true. So sometimes the best interests are actually the same. In those cases, the ruling could still be effective. Because the question asked us to find a circumstance that meant the ruling could not (ever) be effective, this one doesn't work.
- B. CORRECT. If this were true, and there was no way of assessing the risk, the ruling could NEVER be effective.
- C. Irrelevant. We are not discussing job risks but the predisposed condition in an employee to suffer a heart attack at the time of hiring.
- D. to an extent justifies the ruling by indicating that its in the best interest of both the employees and employers.
- E. Even if this were true, since such a ruling MAY only cause the number of applicants to decline and not stop altogether, such a ruling may still be effective.

63.

this argument is presented quite simply, with only one key issue -- is the "dead" quality of guitar strings produced by lots of playing, or by the presence of foreign substances such as dirt and oil?



According to researcher dirt and oil **rather than** changes in material are responsible for "dead" Guitar strings.

We need to evaluate i.e. using some extra info, we either support or weaken the researcher position.

- A. IRRELEVANT. Knowing that Metal alloys are used to make the strings used by the classical guitarists does not affect researcher's position as it does not tell us whether it is fault of these alloys or dirt and oil that the strings go dead.
- B. IRRELEVANT. That classical guitarists can make their strings go dead faster than folk guitarists does not affect researcher position.
- C. IRRELEVANT. Whether identical length strings go dead faster at different rates depending of the various brand is not relevant to identifying whether it is the fault of the metal or oil and dirt
- D. IRRELEVANT. We already know that the quality of sound produced is different from the passage. "become less responsive and bright in tone"
- E. CORRECT. will contribute to resolving this issue, because it will shed light on whether foreign substances cause this problem.

64.

- A. CORRECT. If this were not true, then the effect on the exporting industries would not have been so severe, and the ban would not have even been necessary. If this is untrue, then products that would be imported would be more expensive, and the domestic products would be cheaper. Those industries using the product in manufacturing would use the domestic products and the fledgling industries wouldn't be fledgling, they'd be the supplier for other industries already.
- B. This is not supported. The passage talks about several export-dependent industries, but that does not mean these particular products were intended for export.
- C. This is not supported. The stem passage about several export-dependent industries, but that does not mean these particular products were intended for export.
- D. Way beyond anything stated in the passage. No one said anything about the products expense becoming higher. The only thing stated was that the country created ban on those imports used by other industries exporting their end product which used the now-banned product in manufacturing.
- E. Not supported by the passage. We are not informed about the quantity of the imports.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

It has been given that after the Government banned the import of these products, the cost of these products to various export dependent countries went up.

Why do you think that was? What changed? *Country Z was no longer importing these products*

What was the impact of this change? *The cost of these products to various export dependent countries went up.*

What can we infer from this? Maybe importing these products was cheaper than manufacturing them inside the country? Before the import ban, these export dependent industries were using the imported products, which were cheaper. But due to the import ban, these industries were forced to use the products manufactured inside the country, which were expensive compared to the imported products.

A is therefore correct!

65.

the basic understanding of this argument is “preventive treatment (by treating hypertension) of heart attack doesn't save much money; therefore, it has no economic justification.”

to weaken such an argument, we would need to find an economic justification (since that's the only thing in which the argument is interested) to treat hypertension.

- A. CORRECT. By indicating that there maybe “Other economic losses” this option justifies the need for treating hypertension.
- B. IRRELEVANT. Cost of preventative treatment is constant. This does not help us decide if preventive treatments is economically viable or not.
- C. IRRELEVANT. The moral stance on healthcare is not relevant to the argument.
- D. Strengthens the conclusion by stating that preventative treatment includes diagnosis, and diagnosis are expensive. Therefore, shows another reason why preventive treatment is too expensive.
- E. Irrelevant. This is complete generalization. We are discussing hypertension and heart disease in particular.

66.

- A. Not enough information about chemically stable insecticides to make a sound inference. We are not told how these “chemically stable” insecticides behave.
- B. CORRECT. This statement properly identifies an action that could extend the effectiveness of pesticide use. By periodically changing the pesticides, the pests resistant to one kind of pesticide can be killed off using another. This would continue with pests being killed in cycles as the pesticides are changed.
- C. Gradually increasing the amount of the pesticides being used will not help the situation since the pests are already resistant to it.
- D. Continued use of pesticide is assumed to be a part of the argument. Since pesticides are not required for fallow (empty) fields, this option is irrelevant.
- E. Breeding higher-yielding varieties of crops does nothing to extend the effectiveness of the use of pesticides.

67.

In Inference question, we can't bring any outside information. Correct answer is the one which we can deduce from the passage above.

- A. Incorrect. The passage does not talk about what type of projects involved in the Transnational cooperation or who can handle those projects.
- B. Incorrect. We know that it is a collaborative agreement without any further details on the agreement
- C. CORRECT.  
first, the word “renaissance” (rebirth) implies that transnational cooperation is now on the rise, after previously having a lower level. so that takes care of the “lower in the past” part of the correct answer.  
second, the renaissance is described as “modest”. the only way this description would be reasonable is if transnational cooperation has not re-achieved its previous levels; there's the “higher in the past” part.
- D. Irrelevant.
- E. Irrelevant.

68.

- A. Knowing how seriously the parent corporation would be hurt by revenue losses from the boycott is relevant.
- B. If consumers cannot easily get gas elsewhere, the boycott is likely to fail, so this question is relevant.
- C. If other miners' union have won similar contracts, then the union's proposal is reasonable. This question is irrelevant.
- D. If other unions have succeeded (or failed) with a similar plan, that information is relevant to the likely success (or failure) of this plan.
- E. CORRECT. This question is the only one that does not clearly bear upon the plan; an answer to it is the one least directly relevant to the boycott decision.

## **Assumptions Latest Questions**

### **Answer Key**

1. D
2. D
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. A
8. E
9. C
10. A
11. C
12. D
13. A
14. A
15. D
16. C
17. D
18. A
19. C
20. E
21. E
22. E
23. A
24. C
25. E
26. C
27. E
28. D
29. D
30. B
31. A
32. C
33. A
34. B
35. E
36. D
37. C
38. A
39. E
40. E



## Solutions

1. We know the following:

- a) Parents are reluctant to subject children to the pain of injections
- b) adults, who are at risk of serious complications from influenza, are commonly vaccinated
- c) A new influenza vaccine, administered painlessly in a nasal spray, is effective for children

From the above the author concludes that since nasal spray can be used effectively only on children and since children do not develop any serious complications from influenza, the widespread use of nasal spray vaccine does not have any serious health benefit.

This conclusion will hold true ONLY IF we can be sure that adults do not contract influenza from children. Only then will there be **no significant health benefit** in using the nasal spray.

A. Irrelevant. We know that this vaccine is effective only on children. Therefore even if this weren't true, it would not make any difference to the conclusion.

B. Irrelevant. Once again, assumptions about the working of the vaccine is irrelevant to the conclusion.

C. Irrelevant. We are discussing the benefits of using nasal spray vaccine. The price of the injectable vaccine does not concern us.

D. CORRECT. Lets try the negation of this. Adults contract influenza primarily from children than have influenza. IF the negation were true, then the conclusion would become incorrect as there would then be a huge benefit to using nasal sprays for kids.

E. We already know this to be true in the passage. "A new influenza vaccine, administered painlessly in a nasal spray, is effective for children." Therefore this becomes a fact and not an assumption.



### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Premise 1: injectable vaccines are painful so Parents do not vaccine the child. However, Adults who have serious complications are commonly vaccinated.

Premise 2: A new influenza vaccine is painless and can be used to vaccine children.

Conclusion: As children rarely develop serious complication, there is no health benefit for this new vaccination.

The conclusion is quite strong in that There is NO health benefit for this medicine. It means it doesn't help at all but the stated reason is only for children (they seldom develop serious complications) but what about adults?

As this is an assumption question , we need to fill a gap between premise and conclusion.

Now the options:-

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

A. Any person who has received the injectable vaccine can safely receive the nasal-spray vaccine as well.

**Incorrect: Irrelevant. Conclusion is regarding health benefits. Argument doesn't compare the safety of any of the vaccines.**

B. The new vaccine uses the same mechanism to ward off influenza as injectable vaccines do.

**Incorrect: Irrelevant. Argument is about the health benefits of the vaccine not the mechanism by which it achieves that.**

C. The injectable vaccine is affordable for all adults.

**Incorrect: Irrelevant. Argument is about the health benefits of the vaccine not its cost**

D. Adults do not contract influenza primarily from children who have influenza.

**Correct: Lets negate it. If Adults do contract influenza primarily from children who have influenza, then we need to vaccinate the children otherwise Adults will contract. So there are health benefits for this vaccine.**

**As described above. If this option is not true, then Argument is not true. Hence it is the necessary assumption.**

E. The nasal spray vaccine is not effective when administered to adults.

**Incorrect: Out of scope. Argument doesn't compare the effectiveness of any vaccine. If we take this option as true, It weakens the conclusion because if it is most effective then there will be benefits of this medicine.**

2.

Goal This Year: To reduce the number of truckloads of refuse(garbage) to be incinerated to half of last year's number. Which of the options are essential to achieve this goal?

Before we begin, lets say 1 ton of ash was generated per truckload of refuse(Garbage) last year.

A. This does not matter. As long sufficient refuse has been separated for recycling to ensure the amount of ash generated is half of last year, it does not matter if some materials that could be recycled are incinerated.

B. The cost of the process is irrelevant to the conclusion.

C. Please note, we only need to separate enough refuse for recycling to reduce the number of truckloads of refuse to be incinerated to half of last year's number. So if 60% percent of the refuse collected last year was recyclable and only 55% of the refuse collected this year can be recycled, our goal can still be reached.

D. CORRECT. The amount of refuse that will be recycled is being decided based on the amount of ash generated last year. Once the separation has been made, if the non-recyclable refuse produces 2 tons of ash per truckload(say) then our goal will not be met despite recycling

last year 1 truck load of residue generated 1 ton of ash. This year (after u pick out recyclable waste), 1 truck-load generates 2 or 3 or even more tons of residue ash, then the city will not achieve its objective.

E. As long as we are able to separate out enough refuse to recycle it, this will not affect the goal. It is possible to have waste in excess of last year and still achieve our goal.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Let's understand what the question is.

Last year, ALL the refuse collected by the City Services was incinerated which created a large quantity of residue ash. To reduce the quantity of the residue ash by half this year, the City Services has revamped its collection program. The City Services plan to separate enough refuse for recycling to reduce the NUMBER OF TRUCKLOADS OF REFUSE to be incinerated to half so that the amount of residue ash also reduces to half.

The question asks- What is the necessary assumption to reduce the amount of residue ash to half when the number of truckloads are also being reduced to half.

Let's first analyse Option A: **This year, no materials that city services could separate for recycling will be incinerated.**

Lets suppose Option A is carried out and no materials which were separated for recycling were incinerated. How can one guarantee that it will reduce the amount of residue ash to half?

Lets also negate Option A. We are aware that the City Services will reduce the number of Truckloads to half. So, even if some material that could have been separated for recycling gets incinerated- the reduction in number of truckloads will occur which may result in the amount of residue ash being reduced to half.

Thus Option A can be eliminated.

Let's analyse Option D which is the correct answer.

Now we already know that City Services will send half as many truckloads of refuse this year- but will it guarantee that the amount of residue ash also reduces to half this year?

If the refuse incinerated this year generates no more residual ash per truckload as did last year- the amount of residual ash will reduce to half as compared to last year.

Example: If last year, 1 truckload of refuse created 1 ton of residue ash; then 10 truckloads of refuse created 10 tons of residue ash.

This year, if the assumption in Option D holds true (1 truckload of refuse creates 1 ton of residue ash this year-just like last year) and the City Services reduce the number of truckloads to half- which now becomes 5 truckloads; then the refuse will create 5 tons of residue ash, which is half of what it was last year.

Let's also negate Option D.

If the refuse incinerated this year generates more residual ash per truckload than did last year- the amount of residual ash will not reduce to half as compared to last year.

Example: If last year, 1 truckload of refuse created 1 ton of residue ash; then 10 truckloads of refuse created 10 tons of residue ash.

This year, 1 truckload of refuse created 2 tons of residue ash and the truckloads are reduced by half- that is we have 5 truckloads, the amount of residue ash will remain the same- that is 10 tons of residue ash.

Hence Option D is the correct answer.

3.

Governor's Goal: to reduce crime rate

Governor's Plan: be harsher with the inmates by denying them access to college-level courses.

Argument Against the Plan: the people who took college level courses in prison committed fewer crimes once they were released from prison. So Governor's plan will backfire.

Assumption: it is clear that the argument assumes the prisoners committed fewer crimes BECAUSE they took college level courses in prison. This argument would crumble if we were told that the prisoners who are less likely to commit crimes are the ones who opt for the college-level courses.

A. Incorrect. If this were true, then the governor's plan for removing college-level courses would not have met with any resistance.

B. Irrelevant. The argument discusses whether inmates who have taken the courses are less likely to commit a crime than inmates who have not taken these courses. The comparison is not with the general population.

C. CORRECT. Let's negate this.

"The group of inmates who chose to take college-level courses are *already* less likely than other inmates to commit crimes after being released"

If the above is true, then implementing the governor's plan will not have any counter effect, as the prisoners taking up the college level courses that are being scrapped are *already* less likely to commit crimes.

Therefore, the necessary assumption we need to make for the argument to hold is that all prisoners have an equal tendency to commit a crime before they take on the college level courses.

D. Irrelevant, We are not discussing High school courses here.

E. Irrelevant to the argument.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The negation of option A would be: Not being able to take college-level courses while in prison is likely to deter some people from crimes that they might otherwise have committed. ... DOESN'T HELP BREAK THE CONCLUSION .. in fact, if the presence/absence of college courses will NOT DETER crime, then that is essentially saying that it has no effect. therefore, since there's no effect, this action will NOT be "counter to the governor's ultimate goal".

hence (a) is not only a wrong assumption; it actually undermines the argument!

NEGATION OF C: The group of inmates who chose to take college-level courses were already less likely than other inmates to commit crimes after being released. THIS BREAKS THE CONCLUSION

4.

Conclusion- the current average height of Tufe's Turfil sunflowers is undoubtedly at least partially attributable to changes in Tufe's environmental conditions

This means that the changes in the newly formed island's climate caused the sunflower plants to get shorter.

Assumption: Here we are assuming the sunflowers on Tufe's island are affected in comparison with the sunflowers on the mainland (kept as a standard for comparison).

What if the sunflowers on the mainland are in fact different from the original species (because of the weather conditions on the mainland) while the sunflowers on Tufe have grown to the normal height (and therefore are unaffected by the climate on Tufe island)?

A. Irrelevant. We are not discussing if the weather is beneficial. We want to know if it affects the natural growth of Turfil sunflowers.

B. Irrelevant. Once again, we are wondering about the height of sunflowers and not about the numbers.

C. CORRECT. Let's negate this.

"The mainland's environment **has changed** in ways that have resulted in Turfil sunflowers on the mainland growing to be 40 centimeters taller than they did two centuries ago".

This means the climate on the mainland changed too. How will the conclusion or evidence hold true in that case?

Mainland could have become wetter which made the plants on the main island grow more and not the ones on the island grow less.

D. Irrelevant. We want to know if the weather conditions were "partially" responsible or not.

E. Irrelevant. This does not tell us anything new. Even if this were the only difference, this option neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



Let's break down the question:

**Facts**

- Two centuries ago, Tufe Peninsula became separated from the mainland isolating on the newly formed Tufe Island a population of Turfil sunflowers

- This population's descendants grow to be, on average, 40 centimeters shorter than Turfil sunflowers found on the mainland  
- Tufe Island is significantly drier than Tufe Peninsula was

**Conclusion**

- So the current average height of Tufe's Turfil sunflower is undoubtedly at least partially attributable to changes in Tufe's environmental conditions. That means we have to choose an answer which proves that the difference in height is only due to the change in the island's environment.

Now let's look at the options

A - Eliminate - **Out of scope.**

B - Eliminate - **Out of scope.**

D - Eliminate - **More of a fact than an assumption.**

E - Eliminate - **More of a fact than an assumption.**

C - Correct - Is an assumption - It says that the mainland's environment has not changed so there is no change in the height of the Turfil sunflowers on the mainland. Hence the difference in the height is only due to the change in the island's environment.

This goes with the conclusion.

**Hence C should be the answer.**

5.

this is a good problem to which to apply the Negation Method for assumptions:

\* NEGATE the assumption

\* the argument should be DESTROYED

the argument assumes that not as many televisions are being made domestically in Borodia. (this is why they will have to import more.)

if we reverse (c), then the assemblers can put together TV's faster than before.

this means that FEWER of them will be able to make the SAME TOTAL NUMBER of televisions.

this severs the connection between the drop in the number of assemblers and the drop in the number of televisions produced, so the argument falls apart.

(c) is CORRECT.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

This passage is hard to follow, so let's pick it apart, starting with the conclusion: "Updated trade statistics will probably indicate that the number of televisions Borodia imports annually from Vernland has increased." Now let's think about how the author arrived at that conclusion.

- "The average hourly wage of television assemblers in Vernland has long been significantly lower than that in neighboring Borodia." - So we have people assembling televisions in these two places, and the assemblers in Borodia have, for a long time, earned more money per hour doing so.
- Three years ago, Borodia dropped all tariffs on Vernlandian televisions. That means that Borodia can import televisions from Vernland without paying any tariffs (taxes on imports).
- Ever since the tariffs were eliminated, the number of total televisions sold each year in Borodia has not changed. In other words, removing the tariffs did not cause an INCREASE in the number of televisions sold annually in Borodia.
- Ever since the tariffs were eliminated, the number of television ASSEMBLERS in Borodia has decreased.

The author sees a supply and demand problem. The number of televisions demanded in Borodia (i.e. the number sold annually) has not changed. However, the number of assemblers has decreased. According to the author, if the number of assemblers decreases, then the SUPPLY of televisions produced in Borodia would also decrease. Thus, Borodia would have to get televisions from somewhere else (i.e. Vernland) to meet the unchanging demand. Thus, the author concludes that Borodia has probably started to import more televisions from Vernland.

Is this logic sound? If the number of assemblers in Borodia decreases, does the supply of televisions produced in Borodia necessarily decrease? Which of the following is an assumption on which the author's argument depends?

A. The number of television assemblers in Vernland has increased by at least as much as the number of television assemblers in Borodia has decreased.

The problem with (A) is that we don't know the rates at which Vernlandian assemblers and Borodian assemblers can assemble televisions. What if Vernlandians assemble televisions three times as quickly as Borodians? In that case, we would only need, for example, 100 Vernlandians to replace the output of 300 Borodians. Furthermore, what if Vernlandia already has an excess supply of televisions available for sale? In that case, Vernland would not need to significantly ramp up production in order to meet the demand from Borodia. The author's argument does not rely on this assumption, so eliminate (A).

B. Televisions assembled in Vernland have features that televisions assembled in Borodia do not have.

The author's argument rests on the idea that there is excess television demand in Borodia. If Vernlandian televisions had the SAME features as Borodian televisions, then surely Borodia would be willing to import the Vernlandian televisions to meet that demand. If Vernlandian televisions did NOT have the same features as the ones made in Borodia, that might weaken the author's argument. However, as is, choice (B) is not a required assumption.

C. The average number of hours it takes a Borodian television assembler to assemble a television has not decreased significantly during the past three years.

The author's argument is based on the idea that Borodia's television supply has decreased because the number of Borodian assemblers has decreased. But what if the Borodian assemblers have simply become more efficient? What if there are new

methods or technologies that allow Borodian assemblers to make televisions twice as quickly as they did three years ago? In that case, Borodia would need half as many assemblers to meet the existing demand.

In order for the author's supply-demand argument to hold, we have to assume that the productivity of Borodian assemblers has not significantly improved. Otherwise, the supply of televisions could remain the same despite a decrease in the number of assemblers. Thus, (C) is a required assumption.

D. The number of televisions assembled annually in Vernland has increased significantly during the past three years.

As described for choice (A), it is possible that Vernland has an excess supply of televisions that could be sold to Borodia. Alternatively, Vernland could simply decide to sell a higher proportion of the televisions it makes to Borodia and keep a smaller proportion in Vernland. Thus, Vernland could export more televisions to Borodia without significantly increasing the number of televisions it assembles annually. Thus, (D) is not a *required* assumption and can be eliminated.

E. The difference between the hourly wage of television assemblers in Vernland and the hourly wage of television assemblers in Borodia is likely to decrease in the next few years.

The author's argument has nothing to do with wages. Sure, you could speculate that if wages don't increase in Vernland then Vernlandian assemblers *might* move to Borodia, decreasing the need to import televisions from Vernland, but there is nothing in the passage to suggest that this will happen. Even if wages do not change, Vernlandian assemblers might go on making televisions and exporting them to Borodia. The author's reasoning does not rely on this assumption, so eliminate (E).

Choice (C) is the best answer.

6.

Fact 1: the quantity of rice produced per year is currently just large enough to satisfy domestic demand.

Fact 2: Teruvia's total rice acreage will not be expanded in the foreseeable future nor will rice yields per acre increase appreciably

Fact 3: Teruvia's population, however, will be increasing significantly for years to come



Conclusion: Teruvia will soon have to begin importing rice.

Now since the production of rice is not going to increase and the population will continue to rise, it only makes sense that Teruvia will soon run out of rice UNLESS as the population increases the people begin to consume less rice.

A. CORRECT. Negate this

"There is a pronounced trend of decreasing per capita demand for rice in Teruvia"

this would automatically destroy our conclusion and is therefore the assumption on which the argument depends.

B. Irrelevant. Since this is already the case, the amount of rice produced won't decrease and hence won't affect our conclusion.

C. Irrelevant. We know that the yield will remain constant.

D. We are concerned with the general population growth and not region wise growth.

E. Irrelevant. We are concerned with the production of rice only. The production and demand trends in other crops are irrelevant.

7.

Conclusion: If these trends in fuel production and usage continue, therefore, Sidurian reliance on foreign sources for fuel should decline soon.

Assumption: the only way the above conclusion can be true if the rate of fuel consumption is either less than or equal to the rate of fuel production in Siduria. If the fuel production increased as stated in the passage but the rate of consumption were to exceed the rate of production, Siduria will still have to import fuel.

The only option that addresses this is A. A is CORRECT.

8.

Conclusion: In this case, therefore, since none of the seven small companies can afford to convert their production lines to a new set of manufacturing specifications, only the three large companies will be able to remain in business.

Assumption: We are told clearly that none of the small companies can afford the cost of conversion and therefore WILL have to go out of business. This is a fact and cannot be disputed. Is there any other way these small companies could stay in business? What if either one or all the seven small companies were already following the standards the government plans to implement?

A. Irrelevant. If conclusion discusses the state of the companies once the products are regulated. What will happen to the large/small companies if the products are not regulated will not affect the conclusion in anyway.

B. Irrelevant. We already know the small companies are unable to absorb the cost of conversion. Whether this cost is greater for smaller companies is irrelevant to our conclusion.

C. Irrelevant. We are discussing the consequence of such a legislation and not if it'll be passed or not.

D. We are discussing costs and not complexity.

E. CORRECT. Let's negate this:

All/few of the seven small companies currently manufacture the product to a set of specifications that would match those the government would institute if the industry were to be regulated.

This means that for all/few companies there will be zero cost of conversion and they can continue to stay in business.

Without the assumption that none of the smaller companies currently follow government specification, the conclusion will not hold good.



9.

Conclusion: either Renston's schoolchildren have been exposed to greater quantities of the chemicals, or they are more sensitive to them than schoolchildren were ten years ago.

Let's consider a scenario the conclusion is FALSE i.e

where Renston's children are NOT exposed to greater quantities of the chemicals and are NOT more sensitiveto them than schoolchildren were ten years ago.

If this is the scenario, why would more children be sent to the school nurse today than before?

What if 10 years ago, children with allergic reactions were sent home rather than to the school nurse?

Let's consider an option that gives a reasonable explanation for the above:

A. We are discussing the number of children tha tare sent to the school nurse and not the number of nurses.

B. The nurses have reported an increase in number of students treated for chemical allergy only. Even if thesechildren were prone to other allergies it does not make any difference to the conclusion.

C. CORRECT. Let's negate this:

Children who have allergic reactions to the chemicals are more likely to be sent to a school nurse now than theywere ten years ago.

On negation, this choice clearly provides on alternative to why more children are being sent to the school nursewithout being over-sensitive to chemicals or being over exposed to them.

Hence, this assumption is essential for the conclusion.

D. Irrelevant. The negation of this option would still cause the conclusion to be true. This option is not an assumption but an extra fact to aid the conclusion.

E. the passage says "**proportion** of schoolchildren sent to them has increased" and therefore is independent ofthe proportion of the children in all of Renston's society.

For example, 10 years ago, the proportion of population to school children could have been 10:1, where totalpopulation = 200 and school children = 20.

Today, it can be 5:1 where total population = 100 and school children are still 20.



#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The author is assuming that more number of children reported by nurses is guarantee enough to conclude.

What if a child with even a single sneeze is being sent to the nurses whereas earlier only those children who had extremely severe allergies were sent.

So ,nurses might report more children but that won't mean more severity of the situation at all.

Negate C. It surely surely weakens the conclusion.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Conclusion: Either Renston's schoolchildren have been exposed to greater quantities of the chemicals, or they are more sensitive to them than schoolchildren were ten years ago. (there are no other causes)

(C) Negate: Children who have allergic reactions to the chemicals are **not** more likely to be sent to a school nurse now than they were ten years ago. Correct answer. If children are more likely to be sent to nurses now than 10 years ago, then more children will be sent now than previously, since some children who had allergic reactions 10 years ago and not been sent to nurses would today be sent. This could provide an alternate cause/explanation for why nurses report a greater proportion of children being sent to them. This option rules out this alternative explanation and hence is the correct answer.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The argument concludes by stating that the increase in proportion of school children sent to elementary school nurses for treatment of allergic reactions to chemicals might be either because the students have been exposed to greater quantities of the chemicals, or that they are more sensitive to chemicals than schoolchildren were ten years ago. The argument is hence, assuming that these are the **only 2 possible reasons** for the increased proportion. Thus, we need to find an answer choice that eliminates any alternative reasons. What would cause the conclusion to break down ? - Pointing out an alternative reason.

Possible alternatives : 1) What if the number of students has increased over the past ten years ? Then the proportion could be higher without children being more sensitive or being exposed to these chemicals on a greater scale. 2) What if earlier also the magnitude of the reaction was similar but children were not sent to schools then ( ten years ago) probably because it was felt that a treatment is not required, however over the period of ten years more children are being sent to nurses.

- (A) The number of school nurses employed by Renston's elementary schools has not decreased over the past ten years. - The number of nurses is irrelevant; the argument is talking about the proportion of reported cases here.
- (B) Children who are allergic to the chemicals are no more likely than other children to have allergies to other substances. - The argument talks about allergies to only chemicals and not other substances.
- (C) Children who have allergic reactions to the chemicals are not more likely to be sent to a school nurse now than they were ten years ago. - Yes, **negate this**: Children who have allergic reactions to the chemicals **ARE not** more likely to be sent to a school nurse now than they were ten years ago. This would naturally lead to an increased proportion of students being sent to nurses and this breaks down the conclusion that there can only be two possible reasons. Hence, 'negation of C' weakens the conclusion.
- (D) The chemicals are not commonly used as cleaners or pesticides in houses and apartment buildings in Renston. - This is irrelevant.
- (E) Children attending elementary school do not make up a larger proportion of Renston's population now than they did ten years ago. - The comparison and argument is limited to elementary school children and is nowhere related to the rest of the population.
- C is correct.

10.

A. CORRECT. Let's negate the option

Let's assume that every time a job has to be reworked, the company sends in more reliable and competent mechanics. Then the reason that rework is successful is because of the increased skill of the mechanic rather than complex nature of the job.

B. Irrelevant. We are discussing if complex jobs require rework due to the nature of the job or other external factors.  
This option is irrelevant to the conclusion.

C. We already know this statement to be untrue. Passage states:  
“Ace Repairs have to be reworked under the company’s warranty.”

D. The negation of this option would help negate the conclusion ONLY if the passage stated that the same mechanics who were penalized were sent for the rework. Since we do not know this to be true, this option is incorrect.

E. Irrelevant We are only discussing complex jobs that have required repair. Even though there exists a category of jobs which carries out first time jobs satisfactorily, it does not necessarily negate the fact that the other jobs failures need concentration and requires rework.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Basically, the question tells you many repair jobs have to be done twice, the second time is always better, *this must be because a higher level of concentration is elicited from the mechanics* the second time round ('elicited' here simply means the mechanics put in more concentration the second time around). We see there is an implied causality here - higher levels of concentration cause the second-time jobs to be better, or in other words, the second time jobs are better *because* there are higher levels of concentration.

Now, what can be an assumption that this argument (that establishes this causality) is making? The answer is that *there isn't any other reason for better quality of work on second time jobs*. This is exactly what Option (A) does (and none of the others do) - it mentions that there is no systematic difference between the mechanics that do first time jobs and those that do second time jobs. That is to say, Option (A) assumes that such a systematic difference is *not the reason* for better quality of work

11.

Conclusion- Derderia will not break its record for the new jobs created unless a record number of companies start up this year

Let us consider a situation where the above conclusion will not hold water:

let's say no. of companies started last year: 10No.

of jobs rolled out/company: 5

Total jobs last year: 50

No. of companies started this year: 6 (= less than 10)No.

of jobs rolled out/company: 20

Total jobs this year: 120 (= way more than 50)

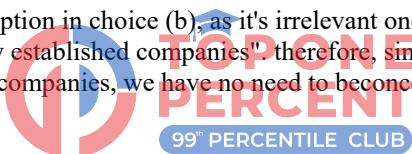
looks like we've broken the jobs record, without breaking the record for the number of companies started. so we don't need to have a record number of startup companies.

A. New startups may create more jobs. But this does not answer why the startups need to be more than the number last year. *What if a lesser number of startups began but added more jobs per startup than last year?* Also here is what negation of A tells us:

start up companies do not create more jobs than established companies. Even if the negation were true, the conclusion is STILL valid.

B. choice (b) deals only with companies established last year, whereas the stated premise deals with companies established at any time before this year. the companies dealt with in choice (b), then, are only a small subset of the companies dealt with in the stated premise.

however, we don't need to make the assumption in choice (b), as it's irrelevant one way or the other: the companies founded last year are merely a subset of "previously established companies" therefore, since the stated premise already gives us the overall result for ALL previously founded companies, we have no need to be concerned with the results of smaller components of that population (such as (b)).



C. CORRECT. Fits the above scenario perfectly

D. it's dead out-of-scope. Any consideration of jobs lost is irrelevant.

E. Same as D :)

12.

A. Irrelevant. Clearly, we are not concerned with the conditions that existed while the paintings were created but rather with the conditions required to save those paintings.

B. Weakens, This weakens the conclusion slightly and does not provide any information about what would happen if the paintings were the museums to relax their standards.

C. Irrelevant. The passage clearly discusses the cost involved in storing renaissance paintings alone and not other objects.

D. CORRECT. Let's negate this:

Other materials in Renaissance oil paintings other than the paint are vulnerable enough to relatively wide fluctuations in temperature and humidity to cause damage to the paintings.

This would destroy the conclusion that "museums could relax their standards and save money without endangering their Renaissance oil paintings" as it states that despite oil paint not being affected by temperature fluctuations (like the study proves) other materials in the painting maybe.

E. Irrelevant. This has nothing to do with evaluation whether museums could relax their standards and save money without endangering their Renaissance oil paintings.

13.

A. CORRECT. Conclusion states that "Clearly, therefore, insurance companies are making a greater profit on collision-damage insurance in Greatport than in Fairmont" If it costs more at Greatport to repair damages than it does at Fairmont, then despite there being a lower number of collisions at Greatport, the companies may not make greater profit.

B. Let's consider the negation of this:

There are more motorists in Greatport than in Fairmont.

We know the number of collisions in Greatport are fewer. Therefore if there were an increased number of motorists and all other factors remained constant between Greatport and Fairmont, then this would STRENGTHEN the conclusion rather than weaken it.

C. This actually weakens the conclusion as more people reporting the accident = more money the insurance company has to pay.

D. Irrelevant. The comparison is between G and F.

E. Irrelevant. This assumption neither weakens nor strengthens the conclusion.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Since post negation Option C can both strengthen and weaken the conclusion, this option cannot be the correct assumption choice. The correct option will only weaken the conclusion, post negation.

Also, reporting to the Insurance Company is different from claiming the Insurance (option C).

14.

This is a no brainer. But let's start by negating options.

A. CORRECT.

People in western Africa developed staple crops that they stopped cultivating once rice and yams were introduced.

This at once destroys the conclusion that by establishing when rice and yams were introduced in Africa we could determine when agricultural societies began.

B. Let's negate this

There are plants native to western Africa that, if domesticated, could serve as staple food crops.

Great. But do we know if these native plants were cultivated by the people in Western Africa? Since we do not know the answer to this, the conclusion could still be valid.

C. This is good information but neither strengthens or weakens the conclusion as we are specifically concerned with the Western African societies.

D. ok but how does it help with arriving at the conclusion? Irrelevant.

E. We already know this. But we also know that these are supplementary food and that no agricultural society can exist without staple crops.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

If we refer to the argument, it says that rice and yam were the first known staple crops that were grown in Africa. From this statement, the author makes a jump by saying that discovering when rice and yams were introduced into Western Africa would establish the earliest date at which agricultural societies would have arisen there. Now the first known/recoded evidence and earliest date could be two different things. So, the author is assuming that there were no other staple crops grown before the introduction of rice and yams, but how is he assuming that? What is the link he/she is making? Obviously, the author is making a link between the timing of the two events and, hence, suggesting that one could deduce the timing of one event (earliest date) from that of the other (introduction of rice and yams).

Now an important step in pre-thinking the correct assumption is thinking of scenarios in which the conclusion will not hold. Accordingly, what if one argued against the link by suggesting that there were crops that were grown before the introduction of rice and yams but of which there is no record (this is the part you have missed)?

If crops were grown before the introduction of rice and yams, can there be a situation where the crops were not included

along with rice and yam at the time the first record was captured? Such a situation is possible if the cultivation of those crops **was stopped before the first record was captured**. Under such circumstances, will the author's argument hold? The answer is NO! Therefore, it is to guard against such a consideration that option A is so constructed: People in western Africa did not develop staple crops **that they stopped cultivating once** rice and yams were introduced.

15.

year x: tax price went up by eight cents. Sales fell by 10% Year

before x: tax price constant. Sales fell by 1%

Conclusion: the reason for the sales to fall from 1% to 10% is the 8 cent increase in the tax price.A.

Irrelevant.

year before x : pre-tax price went up. Tax price constant. Sales fell by 1%

year x: pretax price same as previous year tax price went up by eight cents. Sales fell by 10%

year after x: pretax price increased slightly but not as much as year before x.

Clearly this does not provide any correlation between increased tax price and decrease in sales.

B. Lets negate this:

The one percent fall in cigarette sales in the year prior to the tax increase was not due to a smaller tax increase. We know that the sales have decreased by 10% this year.

Even if the sales in the previous year HAD NOT decreased due to a tax increase, the conclusion "he reason for the sales to fall from 1% to 10% is the 8-cent increase in the tax price." still holds. Incorrect.

C. But why did the sales fall to 10% DURING the year of tax increase? Option C does not discuss this at all andonly talks of years before and after-tax increases.

D. CORRECT.

Let's negate this:

For the year following the tax increase, the pretax price of a pack of cigarettes was eight or more cents lowerthan it had been the previous year.

This would mean that the increased tax price was cancelled out by the decrease in the pretax price. So the overall price of a pack of cigarettes was lower or the same as before. This would destroy any relation that existsbetween increased tax price and the decrease in sales (as the total price for the customer remained the same)



E. Even if the pretax price did not rise and was constant, the overall price would have gone up and this could besufficient reason for the decrease in sales.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Let's understand as follows:

a = the after-tax price of cigarettes

p = the pre-tax price of cigarettes

t = the tax

The after-tax price is equal to the pre-tax price plus the tax, so  $a = p + t$ .

For example, if the pre-tax price of a pack is \$4.75 ( $p = 4.75$ ) and the tax on each pack is \$0.25 ( $t = 0.25$ ), the after-tax price is \$5.00 ( $a = p + t = 4.75 + 0.25 = 5.00$ ).

If the tax ( $t$ ) increases by 8 cents (from 25 cents per pack to 33 cents per pack) and the pre-tax price ( $p$ ) remains unchanged, the after-tax price ( $a$ ) will go up by 8 cents ( $a = p + t = 4.75 + .33 = 5.08$ ).

But what if the pre-tax price ( $p$ ) decreases from \$4.75 to \$4.67? In that case, the after-tax price ( $a$ ) will remain unchanged, despite the tax increase ( $a = p + t = 4.67 + .33 = \$5.00$ ). What if the pre-tax price ( $p$ ) decreases from \$4.75 to \$4.50? In that case, the after-tax price ( $a$ ) will decrease from \$5.00 to \$4.83 ( $a = p + t = 4.50 + .33 = 4.83$ ).

Hopefully that helps you make sense of the passage and answer choice D!

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

There are just years, but we need to consider pre-tax for these two years as well. Since one per tax year is the post tax of another year, we get 3 different years.

Year 0 - Pretax price was \$4 and tax was say 50 cent. After tax price = \$4.50

Sales fell by 1%

Year 1 - Tax increased by 8 cent to 58 cents. After tax price = \$4.58 (presumably)

In year 1, sales decreased by 10%.

Conclusion: Volume of sales is strongly related to after tax price.

The data only tells us that the tax increased by 8 cents in one year in which sales fell 10%. But the conclusion is about the sales being related to the entire "after tax price".

To conclude that sales is related to after tax price, we need to assume that the after tax price did increase because of which sales dipped. In the year 0, the pretax price was \$3.92 and hence the after tax price was still \$4.50. Then can we say that sales depend on the after tax price? No.

This is given in option (D). Hence that is the answer.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Year 0 - Pretax price was \$4 and tax was say 50 cent. After tax price = \$4.50

Sales fell by 1%

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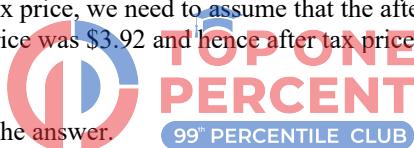
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This is given in option (D). Hence that is the answer.



(A) During the year following the tax increase, the pretax price of a pack of cigarettes did not increase by as much as it had during the year prior to the tax increase.

Even if the pretax price increased more this year, it just means that after tax price was higher this year and hence the sales decreased. We don't need to assume that pre tax price did not increase as much as it had in the previous year.

(B) The one percent fall in cigarette sales in the year prior to tax increase was due to a smaller tax increase.

1% change in sales is too little to comment on. It kind of implies stable sales only. We need to assume that the 1% fall was due to smaller increase in tax.

(C) The pretax price of a pack of cigarettes gradually decreased throughout the year before and the year after the tax increase.

We are assuming that the pretax price did not decrease.

(D) For the year following the tax increase, the pretax price of a pack of cigarettes were not eight or more cents lower than it had been the previous year.

Correct.

(E) As the after-tax price of a pack of cigarettes rises, the pretax price also rises.

We don't need to assume this. The pretax price could stay stable.

Answer (D)

16.

A. Irrelevant. The comparison is between jobs that require a degree and jobs that don't. Double. triple degreetholders and their income is not relevant here :)

B. the comparison is between now and four years later. Not several years ago and the present.

C. CORRECT.

If the negation of this were to be true then once the scarcity no longer exists the high paying jobs wont existeither and the average salary may not increase.

D. let's say the average salary for non-degree jobs will increase over the next 4 years.

this would actually STRENGTHEN the argument (!), because it would provide another reason that the averagesalary would increase.

this is the complete opposite of the effect you're looking for; reversing the assumption should destroy theargument.

E. Irrelevant. Where the degree was earned is irrelevant to the argument.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

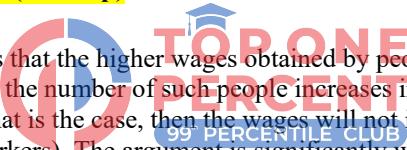
Option C-This is the correct one. Negating this sentence would mean that higher salary is because of scarce workforce and if that is the case, then with the increase in the number of people with college degree, the average would go down. This shatters the argument. Hence this has to be the ASSUMPTION.

While using negation technique, you should negate the main verb (adding or removing 'not' is part of negation).

Option D- It could remain constant but that does not impact the conclusion

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Very simple. The negation of Option (C) is that the higher wages obtained by people with college degrees is due to scarcity in their numbers. If this is the case, then as the number of such people increases in the next four years (as a percentage of the workforce), the scarcity will decrease. If that is the case, then the wages will not increase (because the higher wages were dependent on scarcity in the number of workers). The argument is significantly weakened, and hence Option (C) is the answer



17.

Conclusion: people who have suffered a serious stroke on the left side of the brain without suffering any such impairment must have their language centres in the right half.

A. This maybe. But we are only concerned with whether a stroke affects the linguistic capabilities of a person.

B. Irrelevant. Once again, we are concerned with people suffering from stroke and that affecting their linguistic capabilities.

C. Irrelevant to the conclusion. Negation

"Strokes do not tend to impair linguistic capabilities more severely than does any other cause of damage to language centres in the brain."

Does not affect the conclusion in any way.

D. CORRECT. Lets negate this:

If there are language centres on the left side of the brain, any serious stroke affecting that side of the brain damages does not damage any of them.

This would destroy the conclusion. It would now be possible for a person to have the language centre in the left half, suffer a stroke that affected the left half of the brain and still retain linguistic capabilities

E. Since we are discussing people who have suffered a stroke which has damaged the brain, this option does strengthen the conclusion to an extent.

However, It is NOT A NECESSARY assumption. The negation of the option would still cause the conclusion to hold.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

A. This statement holds no relevance to the conclusion made in the argument.

B. Here we are talking about the impairment caused by damage to language centers of the brain and we have derived a conclusion base on that only. Linguistic impairment caused by other reasons than damage to linguistic centers is not the concern.

C. We are not supposed to compare impairment caused by strokes or any other damage.

D. This is the assumption made in the argument. If we negate this statement and say that a serious stroke affecting the side of brain which consists the linguistic centre doesn't damage it then the whole conclusion would be wrong. So, it must be assumed that stroke would damage the part of brain. Hence, D is the answer.

E. The conclusion is about determining whether the linguistic centre is on left side or right side and not about whether only damages can determine the centre or not.

18.

A. CORRECT.

Lets negate A.

The quantities of dissolved salts deposited by rivers in the Earth's oceans have been unusually large during the past hundred years.

The conclusion says that by determining the increased salt levels in the ocean in the past 100 years and extrapolating it to how many centuries how such deposition would have caused the salt level in the ocean to rise to the current level, we can determine the age of the planet.

However, if there has been unusually large amounts of salt deposited in the last 100 years, this extrapolation would be inaccurate and the resulting age of the earth maybe far younger.

B. This is not relevant to the conclusion. We are concerned with how much salt these rivers deposit and not how much they contain. All rivers may have similar salt content, But have they deposited a constant amount in the ocean?

C. This would weaken the conclusion by indicating that there are other ways in which the salt levels of the ocean can increase.

D. This is irrelevant. We are discussing the effectiveness of the method at hand. Even if there were superior methods, our conclusion will remain unchanged.

E. To estimate the age of the oceans one will divide "ocean's current salt levels" **A** by "the resulting increase in salt levels in the oceans over the past hundred years" **a**.

If the biological activities are using up salt and have been doing so from the beginning at a constant rate then we have: If biological activities use some of the salt, both quantities **A** and **a** will decrease correspondingly and the calculation should lead to the same result.

Whether or not "the salts carried into the Earth's oceans by rivers are used up by biological activity in the oceans" will not change the reasoning.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



ANT:

(A)The quantities of dissolved salts deposited by rivers in the Earth's oceans have not been unusually large during the past hundred years.

**Always try to negate the main verb in such cases.**

Correct negation would be: The quantities of dissolved salts deposited by rivers in the Earth's oceans **have not been** unusually large during the past hundred years.

Option E;

**We are calculating this:**

Current salt level (at the end of this century) = 100, This century deposit by rivers 10. This century consumption = 1. **So, net increase = 10-1=9.** We will consider NET INCREASE of every century as 9 (The biological activity would have been there all along. Hence, consumption rate would also have been the same) At the beginning of this century, the salt content would be **100-9=91**. At the beginning of previous century --> **91-9=82...** This way, we can calculate maximum age of earth. So, if we know the salt level in the past hundred years, we can find out how long it took to reach the current level from the salt free level even if some salt is used by biological activity. So, it doesn't point to a flaw in the proposed method. It doesn't weaken the conclusion as we can still calculate the age of the ocean.

Or just the logical way: Negate A: Some of the salts carried into the Earth's oceans by rivers are used up by biological activity in the oceans.

In that case, this would be factored in the measurement done for the past 100 years and can be extrapolated over the thousands of years.

If oceans use salt for biological activities in this century, then it is fine to assume that they would have done so in the past century as well.

Note – "Maximum" need not be an estimation. For e.g. If ask what is your maximum score in the past 3 mock tests. You would give a definite value. There is no estimation here. 'Variance' is 'inconsistency', whereas 'accuracy' is 'being precise': they are opposite.

19.

- A. Irrelevant to the conclusion. The safety of the rangers is out of scope here. We are discussing the tranquilisers' effect on safety.
- B. Increasing fertility rates are once again, irrelevant. We want to know if the fertility rates are affected by the material in the tranquiliser.

C. CORRECT. Lets Negate this:

Any stress that female rhinoceroses may suffer as a result of being immobilized and handled has negative effect on their fertility.

This would give us an alternate reason for the fertility of the female rhinos decreasing on being immobilised. As you can see, with the negation, the conclusion "Probably, therefore, some substance in the tranquilizer inhibits fertility" instantly crumbles.

D. Since we are discussing fertility, we can safely ignore the male rhinos!

E. Since we do not have any information about the fertility rates in these mammals, this option does not help/harm the conclusion.



20.

The conclusion states that because the modern day analysis indicates low gold content and because the mining expeditions of the 16 century could not find any gold, the “methods used to determine the gold content of Frobisher’s samples must have been inaccurate”

A. This weakens the conclusion to an extent by indicating that there was more gold on the island in 16th century than presently.

B. This weakens the conclusion to an extent by indicating that since the same parts of the island were not mined, they perhaps missed the gold rich soil.

C. Different does not necessarily mean inaccurate or less effective.

D. Irrelevant. We are discussing Kodlunarn Island only.

E. lets negate this

Gold was added to the soil samples collected by Frobisher before the samples were examined.

This would destroy the conclusion that the technique used by Frobisher was inaccurate and infact indicate that while his technique was correct, the soil had been tampered with to indicate high gold content.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The argument concludes that methods used to determine gold content of Frobisher’s samples were inaccurate as modern analysis indicates low gold content. Here, it is assumed that the gold content did not change that is gold content didn’t get lower.

Option A weakens the conclusion by saying that the gold content is now lower. We have to find the assumption, not a weakener.

The answer to the question is Option E.



#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Two methods to determine gold content are used over a large span of time.

Method 1 in 1800: Concludes High Gold Content

Method 2 in 2000: Concludes Low Gold Content

So, as per conclusion of Method 2, Method 1 was inaccurate.

For two conclusions & methods to be comparable to one another, the sample should be the same.

But were the samples used for the 2 methods the same? Is it not possible that the gold content decreased over 2 centuries? If it is possible, then Method 1 can be accurate.

Option A says that the samples used for the 2 methods were different as one had high gold content & the other had lower gold content. That means both Method 1 & 2 were accurate.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(C) - Couple of things to note in this option. This option is comparing methods used by Frobisher vs methods used generally in the 16th century. This itself should tell you this option is irrelevant because in the argument, it is mentioned that Frobisher got a positive for gold, Elizabeth and modern testing both got a negative for gold. This option is comparing only with the 16th century, and doesn't reference modern testing result at all.

Even if we negate the statement -> the methods used to assess gold content of the soil were the same, the argument can still hold. If there was gold in Frobisher's soil so the method is accurate in detecting gold. And same method could have been used in 16th century and there might not have been gold in the soil, hence accurately detecting no gold in soil

21.

A. This maybe. But the goal was to decrease the hazardous waste by half. This option does not tell us anything about hazardous waste.

B. is irrelevant, as we have no information about how much waste is produced PER JET - not now, not then.

C. once again , this is irrelevant. The goal was to “reduce by half the total yearly amount of hazardous waste generated by its passenger-jet division”.

The other divisions are irrelevant to our argument.

D. We are discussing the waste output per pound *per worker*. The amount of time they spend working is irrelevant

E. CORRECT.

the production company's GOAL was to lower the TOTAL AMOUNT of hazardous waste produced.  
the EVIDENCE is stated in terms of the amount PER WORKER, not the total amount.

Lets negate this option

“The number of production workers assigned to the passenger-jet division was significantly less in 1994 than it was last year”

This tells us why the amount of waste per worker may have gone down despite the amount of hazardous waste being produced having remained the same or increased. This would cause the conclusion to crumble.

22.

This one is pretty simple. Lets try our favourite method of negation here:

A. Irrelevant. This does not answer whether cannabinoids help stimulate the appetite or not.

B. The passage does not require us to assume that cannabinoids are the ONLY substance that stimulate the appetite.  
Even if there were other substance that do so, the passage goes on to tell us that blocking cannabinoids caused the appetite to decrease. This option does not give us any reason why this may have happened.

**99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUB**

C. Irrelevant. This was true both before and after the mice were injected with a chemical that blocked cannabinoids.

D. Irrelevant. Does it help stimulate appetite? That's all we care to know.

E. CORRECT.

Lets negate  
this.

“The chemical that blocks cannabinoids from stimulating their brain receptors independently inhibits the appetite”  
This clearly suggests that the loss of appetite was caused due to factors other than absence of cannabinoids.

This destroys the conclusion.

23.

Lets assume that before 1992 there were 100,000 catchable lobsters in the sea.  
Of 100,000 catchable lobsters, lets assume all 100,000 were legally harvested.

In 1996,

we know that the number of legally harvested lobsters were 91,000.

Therefore the passage states that that 9000 of the remaining lobsters (assuming there are still 100,000 catchable lobsters) were caught by illegal activities.

A. CORRECT.

lets negate this

The illegal lobster harvesting was so extensive that the population of catchable lobsters in Belukia's territorial waters had sharply declined by 1996.

This tells us that the catchable population is no longer 100,000.

Lets assume its come down to 95,000. So going by this assumption, the number of lobsters illegally harvested comes to  $95,000 - 91,000 = 4000$ . This destroys the conclusion.

B. Maybe. But do we know if it has increased to 9000 tons?

C. Irrelevant. We already know this to be true from the passage.

D. Since the annual legal catch was 9000 tons less than the pre 1992, we already know this statement to be true.

E. This one may seem tempting. But we know that there "no reduction in the level of legal lobster fishing activity". Thus this option does not affect our conclusion.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Say, before 1992, 20,000 lobsters were harvested (completely legally) every year.

In 1992, illegal harvesting started. So, 20,000 went down to 18,000.

In 1996, fishing activity was the same (so same number of fishing boats for same hrs were used etc), legal catch was 9000 below 1992 levels i.e. legal catch was 11,000.

Conclusion: Hence, illegal activity harvested 9000 tons that year. (to make up the initial 20,000 number)

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

(A) The illegal lobster harvesting was not so extensive that the population of catchable lobsters in Belukia's territorial waters had sharply declined by 1996.

This says that the number of catchable lobsters stayed the same by 1996. So the available population of lobsters which can be caught (perhaps living above certain water level) has stayed the same. We need this to be true for our conclusion to hold.

Note what happens when we negate it - the illegal harvesting WAS so extensive that the population of catchable lobsters sharply declined by 1996.

If the harvesting is so extensive that the lobsters are unable to breed at the required pace to maintain the population, the number of lobsters that would be caught would be less than 20,000. Hence, illegal activity would not have harvested 9000 tons that year.

(B) The average annual lobster catch, in tons, of an outlaw fishing boat has increased steadily since 1992.

We need to make no assumption about one outlaw fishing boat. Perhaps many new outlaw fishing boats join every year.

(C) Outlaw fishing boats do not, as a group, harvest more lobsters than do licensed lobster-fishing boats.

Again, no such information is given. We don't know the comparative numbers and our conclusion does not depend on them.

(D) The annual legal lobster harvest in Belukia in 1996 was not significantly less than 9,000 tons.

Again, we don't know the comparative numbers and our conclusion does not depend on them.

(E) A significant proportion of Belukia's operators of licensed lobster-fishing boats went out of business between 1992 and 1996.

Not given. Perhaps the annual harvest of each boat reduced by some percentage but nobody went out of business.

Answer (A)

24.

conclusion: Since the hotel taxes were lowered and yet the govt collected the same amount of money from the hotels, it follows that more number of tourists stayed in Midville that year.

A. Irrelevant. While the tourists maybe aware of lowered hotel rates, the option does not tell us that more tourists came in because of it.

B. The prices in other cities is irrelevant.

C. CORRECT. Lets negate this:

"The average length of a tourist's stay in Midville hotels was longer last year than it had been the year before." This tells us why the despite the number of tourists having remained the same or lesser than previous year, the hotels could have made more money thereby destroying the conclusion.

D. Irrelevant. The argument states that lowered taxes led to more number of tourists staying at Midville. We are not discussing Midville's marketing strategy here.

E. Tempting but please note that we are discussing lowered tax on hotel accommodation here. The price on themeals is irrelevant.

25.

This is pretty straightforward.

Premise: one candidate produced a half-hour-long advertisement. During the half hour the advertisement was aired, a substantial portion of the viewing public tuned into the advertisement.

Conclusion: many more people are interested in watching lengthy televised political messages than was previously thought.

A. we are not interested in the effect the advertisement had on the people. Our only concern is do people want to watch the long advertisement or not. If we negate this statement "The candidate's ratings did not improve significantly as a result of the half-hour-long political advertisement" the conclusion can still be valid. Maybe people did tune in to watch the campaign but did not like what they saw.

B. Irrelevant. We are concerned with the length of the political message.

C. That's good. But do they want to do so in the form of lengthy televised political message? That's the crux of our argument that this option does not address.

D. Irrelevant. We already know a good amount of the population tuned in to watch the ad.

E. CORRECT.

Lets negate this:

Most of the viewers who tuned in to the candidate's half-hour-long advertisement last year changed channels after the first few minutes.

This would immediately destroy the conclusion that more people are interested in watching lengthy political messages.

26.

This one is quite easy. Once again, lets refer back to our old friend-negation

A. This actually weakens the conclusion stating that the nerve damage caused by other chemicals would be different from that caused by EB, indicating that we would be able to distinguish the reason for the nerve damage.

B. Irrelevant. Does EB cause nerve damage or do the new chemicals being used also cause it? This option does not help us confirm either of the questions.

C. CORRECT. Lets negate this.

If ethylene dibromide causes nerve damage, it takes two years or longer for that damage to become detectable.

If this were true then we know that EB was NOT wrongly blamed and also that new chemicals do not cause nerve damage. This would collapse the conclusion.

D. we are talking about people who were “newly diagnosed”

E. strengthens the argument to an extent. But we will still have to assume that these plants do not have any external factors that could cause nerve damage.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option A - This option is **out of scope** because different kinds of nerve damages are not discussed. Also, if the assumption was that the new chemicals cause a different kind of nerve damage then it **might** weaken the conclusion in way ('either ethylene dibromide was wrongly blamed or else the new chemicals also cause nerve damage') because it would mean that the **new chemicals did not cause this nerve damage**

27.

This problem may seem tough only due the way its been worded.

The summary, simple put is this: There are some people who are allergic to sulphites. Several wine makers do not add sulphites as preservatives to their wines.

Conclusion: therefore people suffering from allergic reactions can drink wine from such makers to avoid allergic reactions.

A. We are only concerned with sulphites and the allergy induced by them. We are not discussing any other “potentially allergic” substances.

B. We clearly know that people are allergic to sulphites that are added to preserve wine. That makes this option irrelevant.

C. This information is irrelevant. We are concerned with people allergic to sulphites can drink the wine to which sulphites are not added.

D. Again, we are discussing allergic reactions to sulphites in particular. Not relevant to the conclusion.

E. CORRECT. Lets negate this.

Sulphites are naturally present in the wines produced by these wine makers in amounts large enough to produce an allergic reaction in someone who drinks these wines.

This clearly destroys the conclusion that such wines can be consumed by people with allergic reaction to sulphites. Therefore option E is a critical assumption we need to make to arrive at this conclusion.

28.

A. Irrelevant. The comparison is between households with a built-clock in their microwave oven and household that have just the oven. The comparison is not between households with ovens and those without.

B. This information is irrelevant to the discussion. We are discussing the electricity consumption.

C. Additional information to the stimulus - not helpful in addressing the issue at hand. Even if the negation of this option were true, the conclusion will hold.

D. CORRECT. - stating that if an oven don't have a clock, the household will not install one is essential to the conclusion that houses without built in clocks in the microwave consume less electricity. The negation of this option would destroy the conclusion "Therefore, households whose microwave oven has no built-in clock use 45 kilowatt-hours per year less, on average, than do comparable households whose microwave oven has one"

Negation: Households whose microwave oven does not have a built-in clock are more likely to have a separate electric clock plugged in than households whose microwave oven has one.

E. Additional information to the stimulus - Not quite relevant. True or not, this option does not affect the conclusion.

29.

The conclusion is : "Therefore, by selling the helium, the government can not only pay off that debt but reduce its overall debt as well"

Also its important to note that currently the govt can make 25% more money by selling helium than the current debt incurred due to it

Lets see which options support this conclusion.

A. This maybe. But does it mean that by selling the helium the govt will be able to pay off debts? We are not told.

B. Whether it is a significant portion of the total debt is irrelevant. We know that by selling of helium, the government can reduce its helium debts as well as a portion (whatever that maybe) of its total debts

C. This is completely out of scope.



D. CORRECT.

Lets negate:

Attempts to sell the government's helium will depress the market price of helium by more than 25 percent. This would mean that the prices of helium would fall by the 25% margin and not allow the government to recover the debts it has incurred in purchasing and storing helium.

E. For the conclusion to fall apart, the loss incurred should be 25% more than the money spent in acquiring and storing helium. This seems highly unlikely and moreover is an assumption that's outside the passage.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Notice, conclusion is that selling helium will reduce the overall debt of the government.

In B, we are given that 25% of the total debt the government has accumulated in Stockpiling helium is not an insignificant portion.

Negate it, 25% of the total debt the government has accumulated in Stockpiling helium is an insignificant portion. So, what is insignificant here?? Is it 1% or 30% or what? We don't know. May be its 30%. So, selling it may reduce that 30% amount. We are nowhere given the conclusion that the larger portion of the overall debt is reduced. So, whether its insignificant or significant, the debt is obviously going to reduce. hence, this statement doesn't shatter the conclusion. Hence, incorrect.

Now, option D : Attempts to sell the government's helium will not depress the market Price of helium by more than 25 percent.

Negate it : Attempts to sell the government's helium will depress the market Price of helium by more than 25 percent. Now, since we are saying that the market price will be reduced by more than 25%, so it casts doubt whether we will be able to pay the debt. We are given that it is currently at 25% higher than its actual price. So, if the price is reduced by 25%, we may actually get the lower amount of money that would lead to not able to pay the helium price as well. Hence, the conclusion is shattered.

lets say Helium bought at 100, Current price = 125, after selling reduced price = 93.75, which is less than the original price. I hope its clear now.

30

Premise: a technology for preventing leaks of oil pipelines is being installed

Conclusion: as long as the above technology is effective, there will be no leaks and hence no danger to the fish.

Assumption: Are the leaks the only thing that may endanger the fish population when oil pipeline is constructed?

A. The conclusion talks of the dangers of constructing oil pipelines only. This is out of scope.

B. CORRECT.

Negation: Other than the possibility of a leak, there is a realistic pollution threat posed to the lake by the pipeline's construction.

This would mean that even if the anti leak technology was successful it would still destroy the fish population thereby causing the conclusion to fall apart.

C. This is already stated in the conclusion "provided the technology is effective" so we know that the conclusion is subject to the condition that the anti leak technology is successful. This neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion.

D. Irrelevant. We are not concerned about other damages.

E. The passage discusses fish population in general and this is not specific to a certain species.



31.

This is quite like [Question 15](#).

Summary:

Coponia plans to increase the tax by 9 cents. This would in turn cause a 10 percentage point increase in the price of cigarettes.

A 10 percentage point increase in price has always caused the sales to Dip by 4%.

Conclusion: therefore, rising the tax by 9 cents on a 90 cent packet of cigarettes will also cause the sales to decrease by 4%.

Note: it is essential that the overall price of the cigarettes increase to cause a decrease in sales. What if the cigarette companies decide to cut down their profit margin and absorb the extra 9 cent costs on the tax to prevent reduction in sales? In this case the overall price of the cigarettes will not rise and the sales will not fall. Therefore option A is correct.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

"TAX HIKE PER CAPITA SALES BY 4%" is not the CONCLUSION.

"The tax hike stands an excellent chance of reducing per capita sales of cigarettes by four percent" is the conclusion. Also, increase/decrease in per capita can be influenced by the change in the numerator as well as in the denominator.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Conclusion: The tax hike stands an excellent chance of reducing per capita sales of cigarettes by four percent.

Negation of B: Previous increases in cigarette prices in Coponia have generally NOT been due to increases in taxes on cigarettes.

"Previous increases" are irrelevant.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

A. Tobacco companies are unlikely to reduce their profit per pack of cigarettes to avoid an increase in the cost per pack to consumers in Coponia.

Negate: Tobacco companies are LIKELY to reduce their profit per pack of cigarettes to avoid an increase in the cost per pack to consumers in Coponia.

If tobacco companies will reduce their profit by not increasing the price of cigarettes, then smokers will not reduce their smoking and per capita sales of cigarettes will NOT fall by four percent.

Conclusion falls apart, so this is an assumption.

B. Previous increases in cigarette prices in Coponia have generally been due to increases in taxes on cigarettes.

Previous increases are irrelevant.

Negate: Previous sales have not been due to increase in taxes.

This doesn't imply that the conclusion will no longer be valid.

C. Any decrease in per capita sales of cigarettes in Coponia will result mainly from an increase in the number of people who quit smoking entirely.

Not addressing the conclusion

Negate: Decrease in per capita sales of cigarettes is not due to people quitting smoking entirely. This also doesn't imply that the conclusion will no longer be valid.

D. At present, the price of a pack of cigarettes in Coponia includes taxes that amount to less than ten percent of the total selling price.

Negate: Taxes are greater than 10% of total selling price

Even if the taxes > 10% before the tax hike, it doesn't imply that the conclusion will no longer be true. The conclusion is clear in that a 10 percent increase will lead to reduced per capita sales. It doesn't mention specific limits on the proportion of taxes v/s total selling price.

E. The number of people in Coponia who smoke cigarettes has remained relatively constant for the past several years.

Negate: The number of people in Coponia who smoke cigarettes has NOT remained relatively constant for the past several years.

Per capita sales of cigarettes may be different for each year.

Say last year per capita sales of cigarettes was 10 and this year per capita sales of cigarettes is 12. If this year cigarette prices are increased by ten-percentage-point then per capita sales of cigarettes will still fall by four percent. Conclusion is still intact, so rule out E.

32.

The main conclusion here is by offering a rigorous fitness program of jogging and weight lifting to all employees, and requiring employees who are out of shape to participate, the company will save doctor bills and longer hospital stays that less fit employees usually incur.

Therefore it's more profitable for the company to invest in a fitness program.

A. This is irrelevant to the conclusion. We know already that less fit people incur higher medical bills.

B. This weakens the conclusion by stating that somehow the people asked not to participate in the program incur higher medical bills. This is a complete contradiction of what's stated in the passage.

C.CORRECT.

Lets negate it:

The strenuous activities required of out-of-shape employees by the program would by themselves generate medical expenses greater than any reduction achieved by the program.

This means that the fitness activity for our of shape employees will cost the company a whole lot more in terms of medically bills and more importantly, would be "greater than any reduction achieved by the program"

This completely destroys the conclusion

D. We already know this to be true.

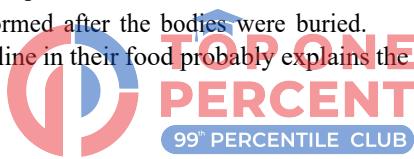
E. While this is a good thing, it says the lesser fit employees will be at work more than the more fit employees (not required to participate in the program) This does not directly explain why the health insurance cost for the company will go down.

33.

If this is solved based on the negation technique A is a clear choice

Negation of A :The tetracycline deposits formed after the bodies were buried.

This destroys the conclusion that "tetracycline in their food probably explains the low incidence of typhus among ancient Nubians"



34.

premise : few of Nubian skeletons show the usual evidence of typhus disease despite living in an area where typhus occurs.

premise : skeletons do show deposits of tetracycline, an antibiotic produced by a bacteria

premise : This bacterium can flourish on the dried grain used for making two staples of the Nubian diet, beer and bread.

conclusion : tetracycline in their food probably explains the low incidence of typhus.

A. Infectious diseases other than typhus to which the ancient Nubians were exposed are unaffected by tetracycline. OUT OF SCOPE we are only considering about typhus

B. Tetracycline is not rendered ineffective as an antibiotic by exposure to the processes involved in making bread and beer. If we negate this statement then the conclusion falls apart. If tetracycline is rendered ineffective then it would not prevent typhus and it could be the reason for low incidence. **Correct answer.**

C. Typhus cannot be transmitted by ingesting bread or beer contaminated with the infectious agents of this disease. We are dealing with tetracycline preventing typhus, thus transmission of typhus is irrelevant.

D. Bread and beer were the only items in the diet of the ancient Nubians which could have contained tetracycline. If we negate this statement : bread and beer were not the only item which contained tetracycline. This does not undermine the conclusion that tetracycline prevented typhus

E. Typhus is generally fatal out of scope

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The question asks for a necessary assumption; so that means if this particular assumption did not exist (if we negated it), the argument would literally fail to stand.

The answer here is Option (B) - if this assumption did not exist, it would mean that Tetracycline is rendered ineffective in the process of making bread and beer. If that were the case, then it is not possible to say Tetracycline in the food of the Nubians resulted in them not getting this disease.

You can check the other answer choices and you will see that if any of those assumptions did not exist, the argument could still stand.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

- B. Tetracycline is not rendered ineffective as an antibiotic by exposure to the process involved in making bread and beer. CORRECT! In the argument, the author is assuming that the tetracycline in their diets protected them from Typhus. The argument talks about "less amount of typhus" due to "presence of tetracycline". Since the diet mainly consisted of bread and beer, the tetracycline must be effective as an antibiotic in their diets.
- C. Typhus cannot be transmitted by ingesting bread or beer contaminated with the infectious agents of this disease. Even if the typhus is transmitted, this is no reason to find NO typhus on the skeleton.
- D. Bread and beer were the only items in the diet of the ancients Numbians which could have contained tetracycline. Even if there were more items, there is no effect on the argument which talks about "less amount of typhus" due to "presence of tetracycline "

35.

Since the number of shops and workshops in Brindon County have reduced, the passage states that the output of Brindon Bolt Barn will also reduce.

Lets see the negation of which option would destroy this conclusion/

- A. This is irrelevant. The passage tells us that the workshops were shut down in the recent months and the sales and revenue for next year will decrease.
- B. Although this tells us to some extent that the amount of work for the workshops in Brindon County is not very high, therefore sales may not be much, we do not know if the Brindon Bolts operates only in Brindon County or outside of it.
- C. We are concerned with the sales and revenue of Brindon Bolts Barn only.
- D. This is out of scope. We need information about its sales and revenue.



E. CORRECT. Lets negate this:

The Brindon Bolt Barn is a company that gets the great majority of its business from customers outside Brindon County. This means that although shops have shut in the Brindon county and its sales in the county maybe low, the overall sales of Brindon Bolt Barn will continue to be high as compared to last year.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Brindon Bolt Barn (BBB) supplies all fasteners used in Brindon County.

In recent months many of Brindon County's manufacturing firms have closed down, and no new ones have opened.

Conclusion: BBB will undoubtedly show a sharp decline in sales volume and revenue for this year as compared to last year.

In recent months many manufacturing units in Brindon County have closed down. So the conclusion says that BBB will show a sharp decline in sales.

But that may not be the case. What if other manufacturing units of Brindon County have started producing much more? What if BBB has a lot of business outside Brindon County where manufacturing units have not closed or in fact many new have opened?

So to conclude that BBB will see sharp decline in sales, we are assuming that other manufacturers have not kicked up the production and we are assuming that BBB's major customers are not outside Brindon County.

(A) Last year the Brindon Bolt Barn's sales volume and revenue were significantly higher than they had been the previous year.

The revenues could have been stable still now. We don't need to assume that last year saw an uptick.

(B) The workshops and manufacturing firms that have remained open have a smaller volume of work to do this year than they did last year.

We do not need to assume that the ones that have remained open have a smaller volume of work. They could have

maintained their volume of work. Still BBB could see a sharp decline in sales.

We are assuming that the work of the ones that have remained open has not increased greatly.

When we negate (B), we get:

(B) The workshops and manufacturing firms that have remained open do not have a smaller volume of work to do this year than they did last year.

Ok, they do not have smaller volume of work. They could have the same volume of work as last year. The conclusion is still possible. Many units have closed. So BBB can see a sharp decline in revenues.

(C) Soon the Brindon Bolt Barn will no longer be the only significant supplier of fasteners to Brindon County's workshops.

No such assumption.

(D) The Brindon Bolt Barn's operating expenses have not increased this year.

No such assumption about expenses. We are talking about revenues only.

(E) The Brindon Bolt Barn is not a company that gets the great majority of its business from customers outside Brindon County.

Correct. This is one of the assumptions we discussed above.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Option B. Even if the Brindon clientele (firms and workshops) have a smaller volume of work, Brindon Bolt Barn may still have client/customer elsewhere, in which case sales might not drop.

Negation of B: The workshops and manufacturing firms that have remained open **do not have a smaller** volume of work to do this year than they did last year. This means they can be **SAME or LARGER**. If they are **SAME**, the option does not weaken.

E. Correct: If Brindon Bolt Barn's loses its Brindon clientele AND has little other clientele to rely on, then it is safe to conclude that sales will decline due to the loss of Brindon's firms and workshops.

Negate E: The Brindon Bolt Barn is **not** a company that gets the **great majority of its business from customers outside Brindon County**. This clearly weakens the conclusion.

36.

Conclusion: Since average homework time is 30 minutes, there is no need to impose limits on the amount as it does not eat into much of children's free time.

A. Even if this weren't true, the theorist's argument is that the children will have sufficient time to complete their homework as well as engage in free time activities.(irrespective of what those activities are)

B. This argument isn't about the effectiveness of homework. Rather it's about whether a child can do homework as well as have time for other activities.

C. This would actually weaken the theorist's argument to an extent indicating that we need someone else other than teachers to decide the amount of homework (Exactly what he is arguing against)

D. CORRECT. Lets negate this:

In most schools, if not all, the homework assignments given are of a length that diverges widely from the average. This would mean that children may have to spend more than 30 minutes which might cut into their free time and thereby proving the point made by the editorials. This would destroy the conclusion.

E. The theorist does not state that free time activities are useless. This is out of scope.

37.

The crux of this argument is as below:

Public advocacy groups can directly pass on information to the public. This means that information services (the internet) present a more balanced picture of the complexities of political issues than any traditional news source presents

A. the argument does not discuss the reach of information services or newspapers. It simply says that through information services a more balanced picture can be given to the public.

B. This actually weakens the conclusion by stating that an unbiased view can also be obtained by sorting through several papers.

C. Correct. Lets negate this:

Information on political issues disseminated through information services comes almost entirely from advocacy groups that share a single bias.

This would mean that despite using information services the information will still be as (or more) biased than the ones got in the papers, defeating the purpose. This would effectively destroy the conclusion.

D. We already know this to be true.

E. Once again this weakens the conclusion by indicating that there is no need for an unbiased source.

38.

A. CORRECT.

Here's a diagram for this argument:

(# of rds-equipped stations increased 250-->600)

BUT

(apprx same # of rds radios in Vland)

THEREFORE

(apprx same # of people receiving rds signals in Vland)



if you make this diagram, it should be clear that there's a logical leap between the latter two statements: the author is assuming a direct correlation between the # of rds-equipped radios and the # of people who actually receive rds signals with those radios.

in order to make this connection, you need to assume that nobody, or almost nobody\*\*, with an rds-equipped radio is now (in '96, that is) able to receive a signal but wasn't able to receive a signal back in '94. that's pretty much what A. says.

B. Irrelevant. As it does not directly discuss whether these people already had a RDS radio before the station was built, it does not fill the gap.

C. C is out of scope. It says that equipping a radio with the RDS feature does not decrease the range of the radio. But who cares? Even if it did, this would have been the case for 1994 as well as 1996. We need something that connects the data about radios and 94-96 with the claim that THE SAME NUMBER OF PEOPLE received the programming, even though no one bought new radios.

D. D is not an assumption - it is a fact. We are told that you cannot get this type of signal without the right equipment. An assumption must be something that is unstated.

E. Lets negate this:

The RDS radio stations in Vermland in 1996 all offered the same type of programming.  
This does not affect our conclusion in any way and hence is irrelevant.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Option (A) basically says very few of the new stations broadcast to previously unserved areas. That is to say, almost all new radio stations broadcast to previously served areas. Negation would be many / almost all of the new stations broadcast to unserved areas. If that is the case (i.e. we negate / take away this option), we can no longer say for sure that the number of special program receiving people did not increase (it may have, in the previously unserved areas)

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Let's breakdown the question as follows:

Premises:

- Only radios with RDS feature can receive programs of Radio stations with RDS technology
- Between 1994 and 1996, the number of RDS radio stations in Verdland increased from 250 to 600.
- the number of RDS-equipped radios in Verdland was about the same in 1996 as in 1994

Conclusion: The number of Verlanders receiving the special program information probably did not increase significantly.

A. few if any of the RDS radio stations that began broadcasting in Verdland after 1994 broadcast to people with RDS-equipped radios living in areas not previously reached by RDS stations.

**Correct. This confirms that the new radio stations did not reach out to a large number of untapped listeners during this time.**

B. In 1996 most Verlanders who lived within the listening area of an RDS station already had a radio equipped to receive RDS.

**Out of scope. This doesn't draw a parallel with the earlier situation -- in 1994, what number of Verlanders in the listening area were equipped with RDS-enabled radios?**

C. Equipping a radio station with RDS technology does not decrease the station's listening area.

**Not an assumption. If equipping a radio station with RDS decreased the station's listening area, there would be fewer listeners in 1996 than there were in 1994. However, this is not the assumption we're looking for, as the argument doesn't depend on it (an assumption HAS to be true). Negate this, and you'll see the argument will still hold.**

D. In 1996 Verlanders who did not own radios equipped to receive RDS could not receive any programming from the RDS radio stations that began broadcasting in Verdland after 1994.

**There is a subtle premise shift here. The conclusion limits its scope to "special programs" -- which can only be received by radios equipped with RDS, whereas this statement talks about not receiving ANY programming from RDS-enabled stations.**

E. The RDS radio stations in Verdland in 1996 did not all offer the same type of programming.

**Irrelevant**



Even though new RDS radio stations have been set up, since the number of radios with RDS feature is same in 1996 as in 1994, the author is concluding that the same number of people are receiving RDS programs.

39.

A. Reverse this assumption:

The Sepphoris mosaics are composed exclusively of types of stones found naturally in the Sepphoris area. This is consistent with the conclusion. Note that the passage says the mosaics were "*created*" by travelling artisans which means that they could have used the locally available stones at Sepphoris to create the mosaics.

B.

reverse this assumption: let's say all the species are indigenous to some common region.

this doesn't destroy the argument; it's perfectly consistent with the idea of traveling artisans (who presumably would have come from that common region).

wrong answer.

C. reverse this

motifs that appear in the Sepphoris mosaics that also appear in the mosaics of some other Roman city

This actually strengthens the conclusion rather than destroying it.

D.

reverse this assumption: let's say that there are some animal figures that are not readily identifiable.

this has no effect whatsoever on the argument, which is concerned only with some of the animal figures (i.e., the ones that weren't native to the local area).

wrong answer.

E. CORRECT

reverse this assumption: let's say there was a common repertory of mosaic designs.

in this case, that repertory - since it was a common repertory - would have included animal figures from all over the place.

(at the very least, it would be quite unreasonable to expect a common repertory to have been restricted to animal figures from the sepphoris area in particular.)

this destroys the argument, because, were there such a repertory, then artists local to sepphoris would have followed it as well, creating the exotic designs despite their status as natives in the area.



#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

the negation of Option (E) is 'There *was* a common repertory of mosaic designs with which artisans who live in various parts of the Roman empire were familiar'. If so, this could indicate that the artisans in Sepphoris themselves drew the motifs based on this common 'template', and that the motifs were not created by traveling artisans as the argument posits. With the negation of this option, the argument doesn't stand anymore - so this option has to be a required assumption.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

B) Firstly, we are not concerned whether all species which are depicted are found in single region or not.

Secondly and importantly - Even if it belonged to a single native region then can be created by travelling artisans.

"There is no single region to which all the species depicted in the Sepphoris mosaics are native." – Use **negation**. If there is a single region, say City Y, to which all the species in the mosaics are native, can't these mosaics be built by travelling artisans? Even if that were so, these mosaics could still have been built by travelling artisans, possibly from City Y. So, again, the conclusion does not shatter.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

X A - talks about stones, irrelevant

X B - again talks about the "specific" location of the species, irrelevant

X C - even if the motifs from Sepphoris appeared in other regions so what, point is why they are in Sepphoris - irrelevant

X D - all of the animals may or may not be identifiable, we know that at least some of the identified ones were not local

E - even if it states a new fact not included in the original statement, if this assumption were not true, then the "travelling" artisan conclusion would be negated.

E it is.

40.

the first premise states, as fact, the following correlation:  
higher vitamin/minerals in bloodstream <--> better lung function

The loophole:

if smokers get higher levels of the vitamins/minerals into their bloodstreams, then based on the premise they will also have better lung function. The argument is therefore airtight, provided the smokers can get the vitamins and minerals into their bloodstreams to begin with (absorption)

That's the only missing link here - all that's mentioned in the argument is intake, which is an entirely separate matter from absorption into the bloodstream. We need to look for an option that can close this gap.

- A) Irrelevant. it speaks of vitamins and minerals in general, not the special vitamins and minerals mentioned in the passage.
- B) Strengthens the premise which we already know to be true
- C) Irrelevant as we are only discussing how lung capacity of a smoker can be improved. People suffering from vitamindeficiency (smokers or non-smokers) who have other health problems are not relevant here.
- D) irrelevant, as cessation of smoking doesn't affect the issue (the effect of the vitamins/minerals) at all.
- E) CORRECT because it takes care of the connection between intake and absorption, by establishing that the smokers' intakeof vitamins and minerals will actually make it into the bloodstream.

Lets negate this option:

Smoking introduces into the body chemicals that prevent the helpful vitamins and minerals from entering the bloodstream. This would destroy the conclusion by stating that despite smokers increasing their vitamin intake it will not help improve their lung function.



## **Boldface Latest Questions**

### **Answer Key**

- 41. B
- 42. E
- 43. D
- 44. C
- 45. D
- 46. D
- 47. B
- 48. B
- 49. B
- 50. B
- 51. B
- 52. C
- 53. B
- 54. A
- 55. A
- 56. E
- 57. D
- 58. D
- 59. B
- 60. A
- 61. A
- 62. E
- 63. D
- 64. E
- 65. D
- 66. C
- 67. D
- 68. C
- 69. A
- 70. C



## Solutions

41. Lets Rule out A and C as the first bold face line is definitely not an assumption.

Between B,D,E

D.

Now lets look at the conclusion of the argument: Consequently, the strategy to maximize overall profit from anew product is to charge less than the greatest possible price.

So we know the argument endorses charging less than the greatest possible price.This will allow us to effective rule out D which indicates just the opposite.

E.

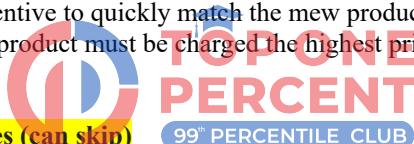
technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed is definitely not a consideration to show that a certainstrategy is unlikely to achieve the intended effect since the second bold face does this by questioning the wisdom of such a approach.

B.

CORRECT.

The first is a consideration raised to explain the appeal of a certain strategy ->Yes, it is since the first strategythat's being discussed (not what the argument finally endorses) is that a product that represents a clear technological advance over competing products can generally command a high price.

the second is a consideration raised to call into question the wisdom of adopting that strategy-> large profits onthe new product will give competitors a strong incentive to quickly match the mew product's capabilities questions the wisdom of the first strategy presented which is that a product must be charged the highest pricepossible if it technologically the most advanced in the market.



**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The strategy that BF1 gives a premise for / raises a consideration towards is that companies try to maximize prices upfront. BF2 gives a consideration as to why that strategy may not be prudent. The passage closes out by giving the actual strategy the author thinks is good.

Then Option (B) is the best one that encompasses all of the above. You can use various reasons to eliminate each of the other answer choices. For example, BF2 is definitely not a course of action as Option (A) suggests

42.

Lets first understand the conclusion of the City Official:

“However, this conclusion is almost certainly false” The *second boldface* forms the conclusion of the city official where he refutes the argument that “uninsured patients are not receiving proper medical care” I.e the *first boldface*

A.

Incorrect. States that the first boldface forms the conclusion.

B. Incorrect. Indicates that the first boldface is used to *support* the city official's conclusion when its actually used to counter the conclusion.

C. Incorrect.

We clearly know the first boldface to be the conclusion of the hospital critics. “Critics of the hospital *have concluded* that the **uninsured patients are not receiving proper medical care**.”

D. Same as C.

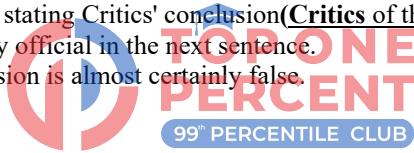
E. CORRECT. This properly states our summary above.

Note: if the argument quotes someone else in its introduction, it is extremely likely that the whole purpose of the argument is to take down that person's quote, or to rebut that person's argument.

that's exactly what happened here: the argument states what the critics have said, and then the argument's main conclusion exists solely to contradict what the critics said.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Critics' conclusion: the uninsured patients are not receiving proper medical care. The city hospital(rather city official) is **not stating a fact**. The city official is actually stating Critics' conclusion(Critics of the hospital have concluded...) The critics' conclusion(position) is opposed by the city official in the next sentence.  
The city Official's conclusion: this conclusion is almost certainly false.



43.

1) Lets look at BF 1

“Environmental organizations want to preserve the land surrounding the Wilgrinn Wilderness Area from residential development.”

This is the goal of the Environmental organizations.

2) Plan 1

“They plan to do this by purchasing that land from the farmers who own it. That plan is ill-conceived: if the farmers did sell their land, they would sell it to the highest bidder, and developers would outbid any other bidders”

This outlines why the plan to achieve the above goal will not work

3) BF2

“On the other hand, these farmers will never actually sell any of the land, provided that farming it remains viable.” This brings in further consideration used to support 4) I.e the conclusion stated below.

4) Plan 2

“And that is exactly why a more sensible preservation strategy would be to assist the farmers to modernize their farms to the extent needed to maintain viability”

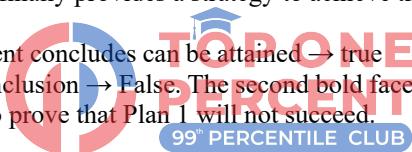
This gives us the plan that is finally endorsed by the argument.

Now lets consider the options:

A. the first presents a goal that the argument rejects as ill-conceived → false. The argument does not reject the *goal*; it only rejects the plan outlined to achieve the above goal.

B. The first presents a goal that the argument concludes cannot be attained → false. Once again, the goal is never stated to be unachievable. The argument, in fact, finally provides a strategy to achieve this goal.

C. The first presents a goal that the argument concludes can be attained → true  
the second is a judgment disputing that conclusion → False. The second bold face does not dispute that the goal cannot be achieved. It just provides another reason to prove that Plan 1 will not succeed.



D.

CORRECT.

The first presents a goal, strategies for achieving which are being evaluated in the argument → true. A goal is presented. Strategies for achieving the goals are evaluated and ultimately rejected.

The second is a judgment providing a basis for the argument's advocacy of a particular strategy → The argument ultimately promotes Plan 2). and BF2 provides the reason for which Plan 2) is promoted by the argument.

E. The first presents a goal that the argument endorses → true

the second presents a situation that the argument contends must be changed if that goal is to be met in the foreseeable future. → false

The argument provides a plan that will cause the goal to succeed without the farmers selling their land. I.e without changing the situation presented in BF 2.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Conclusion: “A more sensible preservation strategy would be to assist the farmers to modernize their farms to the extent needed to maintain viability.”

Boldface 1: Preservation of the Wilgrinn land (that's got to be **the goal** referred to by the answer choices). Reading on... The plan is ill-conceived (not the goal, but the plan—argument does not argue against the goal, but does argue against the plan for achieving the goal), so, the goal is preservation of the land (First Boldface) and that's also part of the main conclusion so **First Boldface is a goal with which the argument basically agrees** so A and B are not true.

Boldface 2: Doesn't really relate to the main conclusion, so... Return to the answer choices and consider second Boldface description in remaining choices. C and D are still possibilities, but... E implies that the argument suggests changing a situation in order to make attainment of the goal possible. But the argument suggests changing **the entire strategy** for attaining the goal, which is not the same thing, at all—so the second Boldface part of this choice doesn't fit. Also, the argument doesn't really endorse the goal so much as it endorses a particular strategy by which to attain the goal. So the first part of Choice E doesn't fit, either E is not correct, leaving us with C and D. Read Choice C in its entirety: (1) says the first Boldface presents a goal that the argument concludes can be attained. Not exactly—the argument actually concludes that a

**different strategy is needed to attain the goal**, not simply that the goal is attainable (so this part of this choice doesn't match the argument). (2) Says the second Boldface in the argument is a judgment disputing whether the goal can be attained. NO, definitely not—the second BF in the argument suggests a reason why one strategy won't succeed, but has nothing to do with whether the goal can be attained—the second part of this choice clearly doesn't match the argument, at all so C is incorrect. Now look at the remaining choice, to make sure it fits: (1) Goal, strategies for achieving under consideration—YES. (2) An opinion or judgment that serves as the basis supporting an alternative to the earlier plan, but with the same ultimate goal—preservation of Wilgrinn land—YES. So, the final answer is D.

44.

Here is the passage summary.

Although census records (that are remarkably complete, so there is no need to wonder about their thoroughness) indicate a steep population decline for 5 years in the last half of 1600, the author believes that an increase in tax amount, *for each of these 5 years*, may have acted as an incentive for the villages to purposely record low population. This is because “tax, which was assessed on villages, was computed by the central government using the annual census figures”

Lets look at BF1

“Village census records for the last half of the 1600’s are remarkably complete.” This is neither a conclusion nor an assumption. Rather it's a simple fact.

BF2:

“the reported declines did not happen”

This is the conclusion or in other words “the position the historian is trying to establish”

A. Eliminate. Indicates that BF2 is “ a consideration that has been used to argue against the position the historian seeks to establish” This is exactly the opposite of what BF2 is doing.

B. Same as above.

C. CORRECT. This is consistent with the analysis above. BF1 is context for the evidence “in five different years, villages overwhelmingly reported significant population declines.”

The passage then goes onto explain the reason for the supposed decline and finally states its position that “the reported declines did not happen”

D. Eliminate. We know that BF1 is not a position that the passage is trying to establish.

E. Eliminate. We know BF1 is not an assumption and BF2 in no way questions the fact stated by BF1.

45.

Let's analyse BF1

“aging by itself brings about a loss of creative capacity”

This is clearly challenged by the argument.

BF2

“Disproportionately large number of the scientists who produce highly creative work beyond the age of forty entered their field at an older age than is usual.”

This provides evidence that is used to challenge BF1. This challenge “the real reason why scientists over forty rarely produce highly creative work is not that they have simply aged but rather that they generally have spent too long in a given field” is the final position of the passage.

A. Eliminate.

BF2 is not an objection against a position but an observation in support of the position stated in the argument.

B. Eliminate

BF1 is not a support of a position that the argument opposes. IT is THE position the argument opposes.

Also BF2 does NOT support the position that BF1 establishes.

C. Eliminate

The first is an explanation that the argument challenges; → correct

the second is a finding that has been used in support of that explanation → wrong. The second BF is used against this explanation.

D. CORRECT. This is consistent with our analysis.

E. Eliminate

The first is an explanation that the argument defends → we know BF1 is the position the argument challenges.



46.

Traditional view: “It has traditionally been thought that the discoveries of Newton and Leibniz were independent

Historian's overall position : “A more cautious conclusion than this is called for, however.” This indicates that the traditional view might not be fully false.

BF2 goes on to explain why.

BF1 on the other hand supports the position that the traditional view is false

A. Eliminate:

The first provides evidence in support of the overall position that the historian defends → false.

This is because the historian does not state that the traditional view is false.

B. Same as above.

C. The first provides evidence in support of an intermediate conclusion that is drawn to provide support for the overall position that the historian defends;

The first bold face is an intermediate conclusion, yes. But it does not support the overall position, rather it weakens the overall position

D. CORRECT.

The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion that the historian criticizes → correct. The first BF supports the conclusion that the traditional view is false which the historian eventually criticises.

The second is evidence offered in support of the historian's own position → correct. This tells us why the traditional view may not be completely false.

E. the second (BF) is further information that substantiates that evidence → incorrect. We know that the second BF is used to substantiate the final position of the historian.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

First, the author (a historian) introduces a traditional viewpoint:

- "It has traditionally been thought that [Newton and Leibniz's discoveries of calculus] were independent."

Next, the historian explores the viewpoint of "several scholars," and explains how they arrived at this viewpoint:

- The scholars conclude that "it is virtually certain that the traditional view is false."
- The scholars support this conclusion with two pieces of evidence:

- 1) Leibniz read a book that "includes a presentation of Newton's calculus concepts and techniques"
- 2) **Leibniz' notes about Newton's book "were written before Leibniz' own development of calculus concepts and techniques."** (This is BF 1)

So far, we have a group of scholars who disagree with a traditional viewpoint. Specifically, the traditional view is that Newton and Leibniz discovered calculus independently. The scholars think they did NOT discover calculus independently, because Leibniz saw Newton's work before Leibniz wrote about calculus.

Now, the historian introduces ANOTHER viewpoint: his/her OWN thoughts on the matter.

- The historian concludes that "a more cautious conclusion than [the scholars' viewpoint] is called for."
- The author supports this conclusion by saying that "**Leibniz' notes are limited to early sections of Newton's book, sections that precede the ones in which Newton's calculus concepts and techniques are presented.**" (This is BF 2)

So, the author *disagrees* with the scholars -- he/she thinks that the scholars went too far, because there's no proof that Leibniz read enough of Newton's book to get to the juicy calculus information.

The author's viewpoint is the main conclusion of the passage.



So, which answer choice fits with analysis above?

(A) The first provides evidence in support of the overall position that the historian defends; the second is evidence that has been used to support an opposing position.

Nope, the first boldface is evidence to support the SCHOLARS' position, and the historian DISAGREES with that position. The second boldface supports the HISTORIAN'S viewpoint.

Eliminate (A).

(B) The first provides evidence in support of the overall position that the historian defends; the second is that position.

Same issue as (A) for the first boldface -- that one supports a position with which the historian DISAGREES. The second boldface is evidence in support of the historian's position, not the position itself.

(B) is out.

(C) The first provides evidence in support of an intermediate conclusion that is drawn to provide support for the overall position that the historian defends; the second provides evidence against that intermediate conclusion.

Hmm... the first boldface provides support for the scholars' conclusion, but does that conclusion "provide support for the overall position that the historian defends"?

No, it does not. Again, the historian DISAGREES with the scholars' conclusion when stating his/her position.

Cross out (C).

(D) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion that the historian criticizes; the second is evidence offered in support of the historian's own position.

This one looks alright! The first boldface supports the scholars' conclusion, which the historian argues against. The second is

evidence to support the historian's argument.

Keep (D), and let's look at (E):

(E) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion that the historian criticizes; the second is further information that substantiates that evidence.

The explanation of the first boldface is the same as in (D), so no issues there.

The problem is with the second boldface, which doesn't substantiate scholars' evidence at all. The second boldface supports an argument that GOES AGAINST the scholars' position.

(E) is out, and (D) is the correct answer.

47.

BF1:

the Greeks actually adopted alphabetic writing at least two centuries earlier.

Now the first thing to understand here is that BF1 is THE position that the argument seeks to establish.

BF2:

process they would surely have adopted whatever convention the Phoenicians were then using with respect to the direction of writing.

Since we also know the Phoenicians used to write either from left to right or from right to left before 8 B.C, this clearly supports BF1.

Lets look at the options.

Notice only option A and B indicate BF1 as the position the argument is trying to establish. So we can eliminate the other choices. Now between A and B



A. The first is the position that the argument seeks to establish → Correct.

the second reports a discovery that has been used to support a position that the argument opposes → Incorrect. We know that the second BF is used to support the position (BF1) of the argument and not oppose it.

B. CORRECT. One can arrive at this answer by the virtue of elimination. But here is a quick explanation

The first is the position that the argument seeks to establish → correct.

the second presents an assumption on which the argument relies → Correct.

A negation of BF2 would cause the entire argument to crumble:

"In the process they would surely NOT have adopted whatever convention the Phoenicians were then using with respect to the direction of writing"

48.

This one is almost similar to the previous one. The only difference is BF1. Lets analyze it:  
the text of these earliest surviving Greek inscriptions sometimes runs from right to left and sometimes from left to right.

The final position of the argument is still “ the Greeks actually adopted alphabetic writing at least two centuries earlier.”  
Therefore BF1 is used as evidence to support this position.

BF2 is still the assumption on which the position of the argument relies. (see Q47 for explanation) Therefore the only option that first our analysis is B.

B → Correct.

49.

Main conclusion of the Argument:

Filling our prisons with such individuals would have exactly the opposite of the desired effect, since it would limit our ability to incarcerate younger criminals, who commit a far greater proportion of serious crimes.

BF1

such a policy would reduce crime dramatically → this clearly refutes the main conclusion.

Lets look at our options.

Only option A and B indicate that BF1 is the conclusion that the argument seeks to refute. Eliminate the rest.

A.

The first is a conclusion that the argument as a whole seeks to refute → Correct  
the second is a claim that has been advanced in support of that conclusion → Incorrect. The second BF is the main conclusion of the argument.



**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

IC can support the main conclusion but main conclusion cannot support IC. IC can also be a counter conclusion as it is here.

50.

Conclusion of the main expert:

The expert therefore recommends that **the watch commander's approval should no longer be required(BF1)** since the officers' time spent obtaining approval is largely wasted.

Conclusion of the editorial:

**This recommendation should be rejected as dangerous. (BF2)**

Clearly the conclusion of the editorial refutes the conclusion of the main expert

A. The first is a recommendation made by the editorial → incorrect

B. CORRECT.

The first is a proposal against which the editorial is directed → correct.

the second is a judgment reached by the editorial concerning that proposal → Correct

C. The first provides evidence in support of a recommendation that the editorial supports → incorrect.

D. The first is a position that the editorial challenges → correct.

the second is a judgment that was made in support of that challenged position → incorrect

the second is a judgement in opposition of the challenged position.

E. The first is a recommendation that the editorial questions → correct.

the second provides evidence against that recommendation → incorrect. The second BF is not evidence against BF1 but the main conclusion itself

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

If you look closely, you'll find the word "however" just after the second bold-face, which acts as a contradiction between the 2 bold faces. If we look at the options :

- A - First bold-face is not a recommendation made by the editorial. It is made by the expert. Incorrect!
- B - Look okay!
- C - First bold-face is not evidence. Incorrect!
- D - Second bold-face does not support the challenged position. It challenges it. Incorrect!
- E - Second bold-face does not provide any evidence. It is the judgement made by the editorial.

Answer is B



51.

A. The first presents an obstacle to achieving a certain goal → incorrect. There are no goals being discussed here. The business consultant is simply talking about the pros and cons of using titles within an organization.

B. CORRECT

The first is a consideration that has led to the adoption of a certain strategy → correct.

The strategy here is shunning the use of titles.

the second presents a reason against adopting that strategy → by suggesting “use of a title can facilitate an executive’s dealings with external businesses” this provides a reason to not shun the usage of titles.

C. The first describes a concern that the consultant dismisses as insignificant → Incorrect. The consultant does not dismiss BF1 or BF2 but finds a solution that takes both into consideration.

D. The second BF in no way offers support for BF1.

E. The first is a belief against which evidence is offered → incorrect. The consultant does not state BF1 is untrue. BF2 is an entirely different consideration that is affected by the strategy adapted to deal with BF1

52.

See [Question 45](#).

The options are slightly different.

Given that we know the argument challenges BF1 and BF2 provides evidence to support the reason for challenging BF1, C is the correct option.



53.

Common view:

Highlands' deforestation was caused by human activity, especially agriculture.

Ecologist's conclusion:

the deforestation was more likely the result of natural processes than of human activity

A. The first is evidence that has been used in support of a position that the ecologist rejects → false.  
BF1 is used to eventually support the ecologist's conclusion that agriculture did not lead to deforestation.

B. CORRECT.

This states that BF1 in conjunction with BF2 allows the ecologist to reject the common view.

C. The first is a position that the ecologist rejects → incorrect.

D. Same as above.

E. The first is a position for which the ecologist argues → the first BF is not a position but simply a fact to support the ecologist's position.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

A. The first is evidence that has been used in support of a position that the ecologist rejects; the second is a finding that the ecologist uses to counter that evidence. **The ecologist rejects the common view about the Highlands' deforestation. The first claim supports main claim. After all, "however" indicates a change in direction.**

B. The first is evidence that, in light of the evidence provided in the second, serves as grounds for the ecologist's rejection of a certain position. **OK - First and second bold support main claim, "rejection of a certain position."**

C. The first is a position that the ecologist rejects; the second is evidence that has been used in support of that position. **First bold face is not the position that the ecologist rejects.**



D. The first is a position that the ecologist rejects; the second provides evidence in support of that rejection. **First bold face is not the position that the ecologist rejects.**

E. The first is a position for which the ecologist argues; the second provides evidence to support that position. **The first is not the ecologist's argument.**

54.

BF1:

Several of a certain bank's top executives have recently been purchasing shares in their own bank. This simply describes a situation(circumstance) that is explained in the paragraph.

BF2.

On balance, therefore, it is likely that the executives of the bank are following this example

This is clearly the conclusion. Pay careful attention to this option. Once we realise this is the conclusion, we can find the right answer based on elimination.

Option A and C indicate BF2 is the main conclusion of the argument.

A. CORRECT

The first describes the circumstance the explanation of which is the issue that the argument addresses → correct.  
the second states the main conclusion of the argument → correct.

C. The first provides evidence to defend the position that the argument seeks to establish against opposing positions → incorrect.

This seems to imply that BF1 is evidence to defend the position of the argument. If this were true then the position of the argument should have been that since the executives are buying shares, there is nothing wrong with the bank. We clearly know that this is not true. The final position of the argument is that the executives are buying out shares to calm the worries of the people.

55.

The argument accepts the point of the critics but at the same time introduces a prediction that could overcomethe reason why Critics are objecting to the plan.

Main conclusion:

Nevertheless, implementing the plan will probably not reduce the money going to Aroca's schools.

Bf1:

three percent of current retail sales falls short of the amount raised for schools by property taxes.This is the reason for critiquing the plan.

BF2:

retail sales in Aroca City are bound to increase substantially. This is the outcome incase the author's prediction comes true.

Prediction:

Several large retailers have selected Aroca City as the site for huge new stores, and these are certain to draw large numbers of shoppers from neighboring municipalities, where sales are taxed at rates of six percent andmore.

A.

CORRECT.

first is an objection that has been raised against a certain plan → true.

the second is a prediction that, if accurate, undermines the force of that objection → true.

Incase the retail sales increase substantially it would mean that the author's prediction has come true and wouldundermine the critics' objection

B. There are no alternate plans discussed. The plan is the same. The argument simply discusses whether it willbe effective or not.



C. the second is the main reason cited by the argument for its endorsement of the criticism → false. The second , in fact, provides a reason against criticism.

D. The first is a claim that the argument seeks to refute → incorrect. The argument accepts the critics' point as correct but offers further considerations to weaken it.

E. BF1 is accepted fully and is not subject to any conditions (reservations). Also BF2 presents an prediction forthe future and not a claim that is free from conditions that BF1 was subjected to.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The plan the government has (sales tax at 3%) is likely to fail. BF1 expresses this plan. But the argument also concludes that 6% (where sales tax is likely to head in the future in the city) will be enough to keep funding public schools at the same level as now. BF2 does express this conclusion. So let's hold on to Option (A).

BF2 does not provide any evidence. Option (B) is ruled out. BF1 is not the plan the argument says is the best available. Option (C) is ruled out. There is only one consequence of any of the plans mentioned (the effect on the level of funding in public schools in the city); so one of the many consequences are not at issue here. Option (D) is ruled out. The argument does not seek to defend the plan stated in BF1. Option (E) is ruled out.

Option (A) is the answer.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub****Understanding the passage:**

The passage speaks about Delta Products Inc. which recently switched from fossil fuel based old technologies to electricity based new ones. One could wonder whether their total fossil fuel usage lessened or not for a given constant output by using the new technology, but it did clearly lessen the usage since the fossil fuel to be burned to make enough electricity to run the new system is less than the fossil fuel burned to run the old system.

**Conclusion:**

For a given level of output, Delta's operation now causes less fossil fuel to be consumed than it did formerly.

**Prethinking:****First boldface:**

**Delta products, Inc., has recently switched at least partly from older technologies using fossil fuels to new technologies powered by electricity.**

Role: Provides context in line with the conclusion. Hence, we can say that it supports the conclusion.

Relationship to the other boldface: In the same direction

**Second boldface:**

**since the amount of fossil fuel used to generate the electricity needed to power the new technologies is less than the amount needed to power the older technologies, provided that the level of output is held constant.**

Role: Provides reasoning to support the conclusion.

Relationship to the other boldface: In the same direction.

**Option Analysis**

(A) The first identifies the content of the conclusion of the argument; the second provides support for that conclusion.

The first BF does not give the content of the conclusion of the argument. It only sets a context. Therefore it is meaningless to say the second provides support to "that" conclusion, even though it does provide support to the actual main conclusion.

(B) The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second identifies the content of that conclusion.

The first does provide support for the conclusion of the argument. But the second boldface contains another point to support the conclusion. It does not contain the conclusion itself. "The content of the conclusion" is more or less the same thing as the conclusion. It can be expressed this way when the conclusion needs to be inferred from the passage.

(C) The first states the position that the argument opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument.

The first BF does not state anything that is opposed in the argument. The second BF only supports the conclusion; it does not state the conclusion.

(D) Each provides evidence that calls the conclusion of the argument into question.

This option tells us that both BFs bring evidence that puts the conclusion in doubt. This means that the boldfaced statements oppose the conclusion, which is incorrect.

(E) Each provides support for the conclusion of the argument.

Both statements do support the conclusion; hence there is no reason to invalidate this answer. Providing context that does not oppose the conclusion, like BF1, also counts as providing support. Therefore E is the correct answer.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

The "content of the conclusion" is the same as the conclusion. For example, the content of an essay is what the essay contains. It is essentially the essay itself.

Then why do we say "content of the conclusion" and not simply "conclusion"?

Consider this:

Delta products, Inc., has recently switched at least partly from older technologies using fossil fuels to new technologies powered by electricity. **For a given level of output, Delta's operation now causes less fossil fuel to be consumed than it did formerly** because the amount of fossil fuel used to generate the electricity needed to power the new technologies is less than the amount needed to power the older technologies, provided that the level of output is held constant.

What is the bold portion here? It is the conclusion of the argument. This clause gives the author's opinion and is the reason he wrote the argument.

Now consider our original argument:

Delta products, Inc., has recently switched at least partly from older technologies using fossil fuels to new technologies powered by electricity. The question has been raised whether it can be concluded that **for a given level of output, Delta's operation now causes less fossil fuel to be consumed than it did formerly**. The answer, clearly, is yes, since the amount of fossil fuel used to generate the electricity needed to power the new technologies is less than the amount needed to power the older technologies, provided that the level of output is held constant.

What is the conclusion here?

The answer, clearly, is yes.

This clause gives you the author's opinion. But what is he saying yes to? If I ask you what the author's opinion is, will you say "he feels yes"?

No, you will say, "He feels that for a given level of output, Delta's operation now causes less fossil fuel to be consumed than it did formerly." This is what he is trying to tell you.

So the part in bold is the content of the conclusion but due to the way it is structured, we cannot call it the conclusion because the author doesn't himself say it.

Consider a dialogue:

A: Do you think **Anna will succeed**?

B: Yes

B's conclusion is that Anna will succeed. Hence the portion in bold is the content of B's conclusion even if B doesn't say it in as many words.



57.

Conclusion: Therefore, if the attrition problem cannot be successfully addressed, Hatchnut should discontinue the sponsorship program.

A. The first describes a practice that the argument seeks to justify → false. This is the opposite of what the conclusion states.

B. The first describes a practice that the argument seeks to explain → false. The first BF describes a practice the argument evaluates and eventually rejects.

C. The first introduces a practice that the argument seeks to evaluate → correct.

the second provides grounds for holding that the practice cannot achieve its objective → incorrect. The second does not give us any reason for why practice cannot succeed. It simply informs us of alternate means to achieve the same goal (of international exposure and finding worthy candidates for a management position)

D. CORRECT.

E. The first is THE policy the argument is evaluating and not simply a consideration.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

When dealing with boldfaced questions, start by COMPLETELY IGNORING the boldface and finding the conclusion: "Hatchnut should discontinue the sponsorship program." Now, let's make sure we understand the author's logic, and THEN we can see how the boldfaced portions fit in with that logic:

- Hatchnut is a large corporation in a small country and wants its managers to have international experience.
- In order to give its managers international experience, **Hatchnut sponsors management education abroad for its management trainees each year**.
- In addition to giving its managers international experience, Hatchnut also uses trainee performance during the program as a criterion in deciding among candidates for management positions. So the program has two purposes: to provide international experience and to differentiate candidates for management positions.
- The author explains a problem with the current program: many of the management trainees who graduate from the program leave Hatchnut to join competing firms soon after completing the program.
- According to the author, **both of the desired purposes could be achieved in other ways**. Therefore, if the current attrition problem cannot be successfully addressed, Hatchnut should discontinue the sponsorship program. In other words, if there are other ways to accomplish the goals of the program and the current program has a problem that cannot be addressed, Hatchnut should discontinue the current program.

Now let's see which option best describes the roles of the boldfaced portions:

A. The first describes a practice that the argument seeks to justify; the second states a judgment that is used in support of a justification for that practice.

The first BF portion does describe a company practice, but the argument seeks to EVALUATE this practice, not to JUSTIFY it. Furthermore, rather than justifying the practice, the second BF portion suggests that the practice is not needed. (A) can be eliminated.

B. The first describes a practice that the argument seeks to explain; the second presents part of the argument's explanation of that practice.

The argument seeks to EVALUATE the practice rather than EXPLAIN it. Furthermore, the second BF portion does not serve to explain the practice, so (B) can be eliminated.

C. The first introduces a practice that the argument seeks to evaluate; the second provides grounds for holding that the practice cannot achieve its objective.

The first BF portion does introduce a company practice that the argument seeks to evaluate, but the second simply states that there are other ways to achieve the goals of that practice. The second does not necessarily imply that the current practice

cannot achieve its objective, so (C) is off the mark.

D. The first introduces a policy that the argument seeks to evaluate; the second provides grounds for holding that the policy is not needed.

The first BF portion does introduce a company policy that the argument seeks to evaluate, and the second states that there are other ways to achieve the goals of that policy. If there are other ways to achieve the goals of that policy, then one could argue that the policy is not needed. Choice (D) looks good.

E. The first introduces a consideration supporting a policy that the argument seeks to evaluate; the second provides evidence for concluding that the policy should be abandoned.

The first BF portion is the policy itself, not a consideration supporting the policy. The second is evidence for concluding that the policy COULD be abandoned (because there are other ways to achieve the policy's goals), but it is not necessarily evidence for concluding that the policy SHOULD be abandoned. Eliminate (E).

Choice (D) is the best answer.

58.

BF1:

top executives evidently have faith in the bank's financial soundness

This is an intermediate conclusion that supports the "conclusion" those worrisome rumors must be false" which is the position opposed by the argument.

BF2

They might well be overoptimistic

This is the main conclusion supported by the argument.



A. The first summarizes the evidence used in the reasoning called into question by the argument → incorrect BF1 is the reasoning called into question by the argument and not just evidence used to support the reasoning. The second states the counterevidence on which the argument relies → incorrect. The second BF is the main conclusion.

B. The first summarizes the evidence used in the reasoning called into question by the argument → same as A the second is an intermediate conclusion supported by the evidence → second is the main conclusion and not intermediate.

C. The first is an intermediate conclusion that forms part of the reasoning called into question by the argument → correct the second is evidence that undermines the support for this intermediate conclusion → incorrect. Second is the main conclusion that opposes the conclusion "those worrisome rumors must be false"

D. CORRECT

The first is an intermediate conclusion that forms part of the reasoning called into question by the argument → correct. The second is the main conclusion of the argument → correct

E. The first is an intermediate conclusion that forms part of the reasoning called into question by the argument → correct the second states a further conclusion supported by this intermediate conclusion → false. BF1 in no way supports BF2

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

BF1 is 100% not a fact, and if you memorize 'always' and 'never' rules, you will continue to make such mistakes. Literally as the argument itself posits, there can be multiple reasons why execs will buy shares in their own company (and not all of those reasons have to do with showing faith in the company). So the eventuality that they *may have* bought shares to show faith *cannot, under any circumstance*, be a fact.

The other retail investors seem to have taken what they are seeing (execs are buying shares) to arrive at a conclusion - they are showing faith in the company. SO BF1 becomes an intermediate conclusion. The reasoning retail investors have done is that since execs are buying shares, this must mean they are showing faith (IC) and this must therefore mean that the bank is in good financial health. This reasoning is being called into question by the argument. Option (A) and Option (B) have been ruled out at this stage. BF2 is not any form of evidence whatsoever. Option (C) is eliminated. BF2 is an opinion the author is giving based on a further premise (there may be another reason why execs are buying shares). BF2 is not supported by BF1

in any way. Option (E) is eliminated. I would mark Option (D). BF2 does seem like the main conclusion - retail investors are being wrong in their reasoning.

Note – 'Since **top executives evidently have faith in the bank's financial soundness**, those worrisome rumors must be false.' The bolded portion along with the rest of the portion in the sentence forms an intermediate conclusion. The highlighted portion is the actual intermediate conclusion. But, since the other 4 options are completely wrong, we can pick option D.

59.

The boldface basically indicates that selling water with extra oxygen would not improve physical performance.

- A. irrelevant. We are not discussing the use of water.
- B. CORRECT. If this were true then the main conclusion of the argument “water would be useless in improving physical performance” would still remain true
- C. irrelevant. Does not prove the ineffectiveness of SuperOxy.
- D. This indicates that water with extra oxygen maybe useful. This is exactly the opposite of what boldface indicates.
- E. That maybe. This is irrelevant as long as oxygen is still a factor.



60.

This is very similar to [Question 51](#)

BF1: Some corporations shun the use of executive titles.

This explains the strategy that has been adapted by certain companies. The passage goes on to explain why this strategy has been adapted.

BF2: use of a title can facilitate an executive's dealings with external businesses.

This tells us the down-side of adapting BF1 as a strategy

Main conclusion: Clearly, corporations should adopt the compromise of encouraging their executives to use their corporate titles externally but not internally

A. The first describes a strategy that has been adopted to avoid a certain problem → correct. the second presents a drawback to that strategy → correct.

B. The first describes a strategy that has been adopted to avoid a certain problem → correct.  
the second is a consideration raised to call into question the effectiveness of that strategy as a means of achieving that goal  
→ incorrect. We are not discussing a goal here. The second BF is simply another fact that could cause BF to be ineffective

C. The first describes a strategy that has been adopted to avoid a certain problem → correct  
the second is a consideration the consultant raises in questioning the significance of that problem → incorrect.  
the consultant does not question the significance of the problem (the problem here is “use of titles indicating position in  
the corporation tends to inhibit  
communication up and down the corporate hierarchy”

D. The first is part of an explanation that the consultant offers for a certain phenomenon → incorrect. BF1 is a strategy that the consultant evaluates

E. The first describes a policy for which the consultant seeks to provide a justification → incorrect. The consultant does not justify the strategy of shunning titles but finds a middle ground.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

BF1 is a strategy that has been adopted to avoid a certain problem. What is this problem? The problem is one of potential inhibition of communication up and down the corporate hierarchy. Put another way, the goal of this strategy to enable more open communication up and down the corporate hierarchy.

Now read BF2. How presence / absence of titles affects a company's executives' dealings with external businesses, has absolutely no bearing on the goal of the strategy mentioned in BF1 (the 'achieving that goal' part of Option (B)).

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

What's going on in this passage, and how can we distinguish between A and C? Well, I always like to start these boldfaced questions by making sense of the structure of the passage. In this case, there's a clear conclusion in the passage, for whatever that's worth:

Thus, because cars with antitheft devices are rarely stolen, Pro-Tect's plan is likely to reduce its annual payouts.

The conclusion references Pro-Tect's plan. Great. So what, exactly, is Pro-Tect's plan?

### **Pro-Tect has decided to offer a discount to holders of car-theft policies whose cars have antitheft devices**

Hm, and that plan happens to be the second boldfaced statement. Cool, now we can compare the second half of (A) and (C). (A) is clear as a bell -- that second boldfaced statement is clearly "the strategy that was adopted" and, based on our glimpse of the conclusion, it is also the strategy "whose effectiveness the argument assesses." (C) isn't terrible, but I'd argue that if we think about the purpose of the passage, the second boldfaced statement is clearly the main strategy being assessed -- not really an "alternative strategy," as (C) suggests.

And what about the first boldfaced statement? Again, (A) is clear as a bell: the statement clearly "rules out a certain strategy for achieving a goal." (C) again isn't completely awful, but it's far less connected to the main point of the passage: it's hard to argue that (C) is a "consideration to support adopting a certain strategy," because it doesn't seem to support anything in particular -- it just rules out a different strategy.

Next,

The question asks us what roles the bolded portions play in the argument as a whole -- in other words, why did the author include each bolded piece? How do they serve the bigger picture of the argument?

(A) captures these roles much better than (B) does. Sure, the second boldface has the word "therefore," but does it act as a conclusion in the bigger picture of the argument? Not really -- it just outlines Pro-Tect's plan, which the author then assesses in his/her **actual** conclusion.

And is the first boldface a "judgment," as written in (B)? Not so much -- it's presented as a fact, not as a judgment. And thinking again about the bigger picture, the author includes the first boldface to indicate that Pro-Tect can't just reduce the number of policies. (A) fits way better -- the author includes the first boldface in order to "rules out a certain strategy for achieving a goal."

Note – The passage never *explicitly* states that Pro-Tect "has adopted" the policy of offering a discount. However, it does tell us that Pro-Tect "has decided to offer a discount." And since they have "decided" on this policy, we know they "have adopted" it.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The goal is: "protecting itself against continued large payouts"

Strategy 1: reduce the number of car-theft policies it carries

Strategy 2: offer a discount to holders of car-theft policies whose cars have antitheft devices

So (A) fits.

(C) is incorrect.

If statement 1 is viewed as a consideration to support adopting a certain strategy, what is this "certain strategy"? This consideration actually supports the "alternative strategy" only.

The "alternative strategy" of course is "offer a discount to holders of car-theft policies whose cars have antitheft devices". But (C) talks about two different strategies.

(C) also says "second adopts an alternative strategy"

Now which strategy is this? Second adopts "offers discount" only. It does not adopt an alternative strategy. It adopts the same strategy that first supports.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The first part of C talks about how the first boldface is used to support a '**certain strategy**'. The second part says that the second boldface decides to adopt an '**alternative strategy**'. This is incorrect because the two strategies are essentially the same (since only one strategy is being supported in the stem). the first bold face is not 'a consideration to support adopting a certain strategy for achieving the goal'. It simply talks about a strategy that cannot be adopted. Therefore, C does not make any sense.

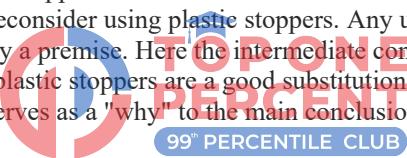
62.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

This is a pretty lengthy argument, but it is one argument that progressively advances toward the main conclusion. That eliminates answer choices A and B immediately, because there is nothing contradictory to the argument that is presented. The argument can be summarized as follows:

- P) Cork stoppers have problems that result in wasted inventory
- P) Bottlemaster plastic stoppers do not have these problems
- P) Bottlemaster plastic stoppers are slightly more expensive than traditional cork stoppers
- P) Cork prices are going to rise dramatically
- Intermediate Conclusion) Winemakers who use cork but wish to keep production costs low will have to reconsider plastic stoppers
- P) Public's negative association with plastic wine stoppers is declining
- Ultimate Conclusion) Bottlemaster plastic stoppers will gain an increased market share

Any conclusion must be supported with reasons in the argument, and the ultimate conclusion here is supported by the fact that the public is no longer so negative about plastic stoppers and winemakers who currently use cork stoppers but who wish to keep production costs low are going to need to reconsider using plastic stoppers. Any ultimate conclusion of an argument cannot serve as the "why" to something else - it is in no way a premise. Here the intermediate conclusion (as we just saw) is also a conclusion, because it is supported by the fact that the plastic stoppers are a good substitution for the cork stoppers, and cork stoppers are going to rise drastically. It then itself, however, serves as a "why" to the main conclusion, as we just saw, meaning that it cannot itself be the main conclusion.



That makes answer choice E the correct answer. Both C and D incorrectly cite the intermediate conclusion as the main conclusion.

The big key is in that non-bold portion between the two bolds: And **since** the wine-buying public's association of plastic stoppers with poor-quality wine is weakening,

Notice that word "since" - indicates that the second bolded portion depends on the first. This means that the first conclusion is a step toward arriving at the second....the first conclusion is used as a premise to reach the second, main conclusion.

In CR, conclusions have to be based on premises, so you can find conclusions by making sure that something else in the argument tries to explain "why" a certain statement is true. If there's no reason why, it's given as a premise. If there is a reason why, it's a conclusion (either "main" or "intermediate"). And if one conclusion explains why another is true, then that conclusion is being used as a stepping stone to reach the main conclusion (the one for which the other statements exist to explain "why" it's true).

63.

Main conclusion: Museums would be rash to relax those standards

- A. the second is the position taken by the argument → incorrect. The main conclusion is the position taken by the argument.
- B. The first is the position taken by the argument → incorrect. The main conclusion is the position taken by the argument.
- C. The first is a judgment that has been offered in support of the position that the argument calls into question → correct  
the second is a circumstance on which that judgment is, in part based → incorrect. The second BF is based on the judgement offered in BF and not the other way around.
- D. The first is a judgment that has been offered in support of the position that the argument calls into question → correct  
the second is that position → correct
- E. the second is the position taken by the argument → incorrect. The argument does not endorse relaxing standards

64.

BF1:

any new manufacturing job is created either within an existing company or by the start-up of a new company. This is stated as a fact on which the rest of the argument is based.

BF2:

there is no reason to think that the new companies starting up this year will create more jobs per company than did last year's startups.

This is used to support the main conclusion of the argument which is "the number of new jobs created this year will fall short of last year's record"

A. The first provides evidence in support of the main conclusion of the argument → incorrect. The first is simple a fact on which the argument is based. It neither helps nor opposes the conclusion/ the second is a that argument challenges → incorrect. The argument accepts the claim in BF2.

B. The first is a generalization that the argument seeks to establish → false. The argument already assumes this to be true and does not try and establish/evaluate this fact

C. The first is a generalization that the argument seeks to establish → same as above

D. The first is presented as obvious truth on which the argument is based → correct  
the second is a claim that has been advanced in support of a position that the argument opposes → incorrect.  
The second supports a position that the argument endorses.

E. CORRECT.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



A prediction does not necessarily have to be a conclusion / an intermediate conclusion.

I may simply wake up and say something like 'It may snow today'. This is a prediction and opinion, but is not based on anything. I haven't even drawn back my curtains to see outside.

I may say 'Every single April day in 2022 had snow. Today is April 12, 2023. *So it may snow today too*' The italicized part is based on premises. It is a prediction / opinion, but also a conclusion.

65.

BF1

Conclusion of the critics: money spent over the last decade in order to reduce emissions of carbon monoxide and of volatile organic compounds has been wasted.

Conclusion of the passage: This evidence (offered by the critics) is far from adequate.

BF2:

over the last decade a substantial number of new industrial facilities that emit these pollutants have been built. This is offered in support of the main conclusion of the passage.

A. The first identifies a claim that the reasoning seeks to show is false → correct  
the second is evidence that has been cited by others in support of that claim → incorrect.  
The second is cited against the claim made in BF1

B. The first identifies a claim that the reasoning seeks to show is false → correct  
the second is a position for which the reasoning seeks to provide support → incorrect. The second is the support provided for the position

C. The first is a position that the reasoning contends is inadequately supported by the evidence → correct  
the second is a position for which the reasoning seeks to provide support → incorrect. The second is the support provided for the position

D. CORRECT.

The first is a position that the reasoning contends is inadequately supported by the evidence → correct  
the second is evidence used to support the reasoning's contention → correct. This is evidence used to explain why the BF1 is false.



E. The first is a position that the reasoning contends is inadequately supported by the evidence → correct  
the second is evidence that has been used to support that position → false. The evidence has been used against that position

66.

A. The first is a finding whose accuracy is evaluated in the argument → incorrect. The accuracy of BF1 is not being debated in the argument. Rather the argument discusses the reason for such behaviour.

B. The first is a finding whose accuracy is evaluated in the argument → same as A

C. CORRECT

The first is a finding whose implications are at issue in the argument → correct.

This indicates that BF1 is a finding and the implications of this finding (I.e the reason for such behaviour) is being discussed in the argument.

the second is an intermediate conclusion that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument criticizes  
→ correct

D. The first is a claim that the argument disputes → incorrect. The argument does not dispute the claim. It only disputes the conclusions drawn from it.

the second is a narrower claim that the argument accepts → We know this is incorrect.

E. The first is a claim that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument accepts. The second is that conclusion. This is completely incorrect for various reasons

1) BF1 does not support a conclusion. It simply states a finding which is further used to draw a conclusion "that in the countries with higher rates of reported whiplash injuries, half of the reported cases are spurious" which the argument rejects.

2) BF2 is a conclusion that the argument rejects.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Let's look at the first boldface first. BF1 is not a claim, Option (D) and Option (E) eliminated. BF1 is a finding indeed, but the passage is not trying to evaluate whether it is accurate or not (the fact is being taken as is). Option (A) and Option (B) eliminated. Should take less than 10 secs to get to the answer.

Now let us look at what is going on:

We agree BF1 is a finding and the implications of it are being discussed in the passage. However, BF2 is not the final conclusion right. There is one more conclusion that the passage opposes - the passage says many people draw this conclusion which is wrong (the fact that in countries where whiplash injuries are reported at a higher rate / more frequently, half are spurious). BF2 is a conclusion and is something that is set up as a premise for this final conclusion - whiplash injuries cannot be objectively identified, but that doesn't mean most of the reported injuries are spurious in certain countries (the latter being the final conclusion)

67.

This is the same as the previous one except for BF2.

BF2:

these facts do not warrant a conclusion that has been drawn by some commentators:

This is the conclusion of the argument regarding the implication that "half of the reported cases are spurious". Lets analyze just the correct option.

D. CORRECT.

The first is a finding whose implications are at issue in the argument → correct

the second is the judgment reached by the argument concerning one alleged implication → correct. That "half of the reported cases are spurious" is one of the implications of BF1. And D is a judgement that refutes this implication.



68.

This is similar to [Question 50](#).

A. The first is a claim, the accuracy of which is disputed by the editorial-> incorrect. The editorial does not dispute BF1 but disputes the conclusion drawn from it.

B. The first is an observation that the editorial disputes → same as A.

C. CORRECT

The first is a finding that was used in support of a proposal that the editorial opposes → correct.

The second is a judgment that was based on that finding and in turn was used to support the proposal → correct. The second BF is a judgement based on BF1 that the argument eventually opposes.

D. The first is a finding introduced to support the main conclusion of the editorial → incorrect. The main conclusion of the editorial is “This recommendation should be rejected as dangerous”

E. The first is a conclusion, the evidence for which the editorial evaluates → incorrect. The first is an evidence that is used to draw the conclusion “that because the officers’ time spent obtaining approval is largely wasted, the watch commander’s approval no longer be required”

69.

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

#### Understanding the Passage



Let's start with something we should do first i.e. understanding the passage. Let's go through the passage line by line:

1. About 2.8 million years ago, many species that lived near the ocean floor suffered substantial population declines. - It's a factual statement that tells us something that happened a long time ago.

2. These declines coincided with the onset of an ice age. - This is also factual. However, this fact happened at the same time as the one in first statement.

3. The notion that cold killed those bottom-dwelling creatures outright is misguided, however; - Now, this is Paleo's opinion. Saying that something is misguided is not a fact, it's an opinion that tells us that Paleo doesn't agree that cold killed those bottom dwelling creatures.

4. temperatures near the ocean floor would have changed very little. - This is a reason to back up the opinion of Paleo. Since the temperatures changed very little, this temperature change should not have led to the death of bottom dwelling creatures.

5. Nevertheless, the cold probably did cause the population declines, though indirectly. - This is our first Bold Face statement or BF1. This is a causative statement where the Paleo links cold to population decline, with a keyword "indirectly". So, in previous statement, the Paleo opined that cold did not lead to death of bottom dwelling creatures and provided a reason for the same. In this statement, Paleo introduces his own theory of how cold might have effected bottom dwelling creatures. So, this statement could be called an opinion or conclusion or judgement or hypothesis of the Paleo.

6. Many bottom-dwellers depended for food on plankton, small organisms that lived close to the surface and sank to the bottom when they died. - This is most probably a fact because what bottom creatures eat is not a matter of opinion, they eat what they eat. However, the presence of "many" could make it an opinion since different people would define "many" differently. This statement, along with the next statement (BF2) provides support to the opinion of the Paleo (BF1). This statement says that bottom dwelling creatures depended on Plankton for food.

7. Most probably, the plankton suffered a severe population decline as a result of sharply lower temperatures at the surface, depriving many bottom-dwellers of food. - This is BF2. This says that Plankton suffered a sever population decline. Read this statement with the preceding statement, which said Plankton was food for bottom dwelling creatures. So, combining these statements, we find that the food of bottom dwelling creatures declined severely. This could now explain BF1 (indirect cause of decline).

Now, let's look at the options:

#### Option Analysis

- A. The first introduces the hypothesis proposed by the paleontologist; the second is a judgment offered in spelling out that hypothesis. - As we understand, BF1 can be termed as hypothesis of Paleontologist. We know BF2 supports BF1. So, the roles of both BF1 and BF2 roughly match with our understanding. Let's keep this option in the fray.
- B. The first introduces the hypothesis proposed by the paleontologist; the second is a position that the paleontologist opposes. - Here, the explanation of BF2 is easily wrong. Paleo doesn't oppose BF2 in any way. Thus, this is incorrect.
- C. The first is an explanation challenged by the paleontologist; the second is an explanation proposed by the paleontologist. - Here, BF1 is not challenged by the Paleo; instead, BF1 is proposed by Paleo. So, Incorrect.
- D. The first is a judgment advanced in support of a conclusion reached by the paleontologist; the second is that conclusion. - In our analysis we found that BF2 supports BF1 and this option says just the opposite. However, I would advise you to eliminate this option only after reading BF1 and BF2 again. But do eliminate this because BF1 is no way explain BF2. So, this is also incorrect.
- E. The first is a generalization put forward by the paleontologist; the second presents certain exceptional cases in which that generalization does not hold. - BF2 doesn't present any exceptional circumstances. Therefore, this is also incorrect.

So, after going through the options, we find that option A is the correct choice.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Is the paleontologist sure about what he/she is saying in BF1? No - so it is a hypothesis / judgement of some kind. Option (A), Option (B) and Option (D) remain.



Now BF2 is definitely not something the paleontologist opposes. Option (B) is eliminated.

Now if we look at the two answer choices remaining, it all boils down to whether BF1 is the conclusion or BF2 is the conclusion. If you read the two BFs again, BF2 is explaining BF1, not the other way round. Option (D) is eliminated.

Option (A) is the correct answer

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

BF-1 states a theory/hypothesis proposed by the author. We can eliminate C, D, E.

BF-2 provides an explanation for the hypothesis presented in BF-1.

Option A is the correct answer.

70.

This is a tough one - there are essentially two conclusions: the main point of view and a contrasting point of view.

S1 Plant scientists have used genetic engineering on seeds to produce crop plants that are highly resistant to insect damage.  
S2 Unfortunately, the seeds themselves are quite expensive, and the plants require more fertilizer and water to grow well than normal ones.

S3 Thus, for most farmers the savings on pesticides would not compensate for the higher seed costs and the cost of additional fertilizer.

S4 However, since consumer demand for grains, fruits, and vegetables grown without the use of pesticides continues to rise, the use of genetically engineered seeds of this kind is likely to become widespread.

The key thing to notice is, first, the two boldface statements are on opposite sides of the fence. Second, the first boldface is a fact that is used to support sentence 3. The second boldface goes against sentence 3 - it can't actually go against sentence 2, since S2 is a fact, but it does go against the main point of view given in S3.

I want a choice that is consistent with the above relationships.

A. The first is not context (or background) - it is a premise used to draw a conclusion. The second is not the main point of view but a contrasting point of view. (This one also implies the two are on the same side of the fence and they are not!)

B. The first part is fine, but the second is not. The argument does not deny that the second boldface will be part of the outcome - rather, it says that the contrasting viewpoint is likely to overcome the main point of view.

C. correct.

The first presents a development (S2) that the argument predicts will have a certain outcome (S3); the second acknowledges a consideration (S4) that weighs against that prediction (S3).



D. The author does not actually attempt to defend either conclusion - it just presents the two. This choice also says the two are on the same side of the fence when they're not.

E. This one says that S2 and S4 are on the same side of the fence.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The development is the production of these new GMO seeds and the fact that they cost more than normal ones and require more fertilizer. This is BF1, so it is introducing this development. The prediction (intermediate prediction so to say) is that for most farmers the cost won't add up to the benefits, and so the seeds will not be popular. Then BF2 comes in and raises an issue to be considered (the fact that people really like such agricultural produce; i.e. the demand will be high) and says that this will likely result in the seeds actually becoming popular (weighing against the intermediate prediction). So Option (C) is the answer

## Evaluate Latest Questions

### Answer Key

- 71. E
- 72. C
- 73. E
- 74. C
- 75. A
- 76. E
- 77. A
- 78. C
- 79. C
- 80. C
- 81. E
- 82. A
- 83. D
- 84. E
- 85. C
- 86. B
- 87. D
- 88. C
- 89. D
- 90. A
- 91. C
- 92. D
- 93. A
- 94. D



## Solutions

71.

'Evaluate the argument' question is a kind of strengthen/weaken question. You need to find the option which will strengthen or weaken the conclusion.

Conclusion: The objection provides no grounds for concern

(A) Irrelevant. Whether non prescription meds can interact with or block the action of prescription meds or not, the physician has the "final say" whether to prescribe the med or not. Even if the answer to this question is a yes/ no, it is immaterial because the doc finally decides. Hence this option doesn't help us evaluate the conclusion

(B) Irrelevant. Whether the ads are for recently developed meds or older meds doesn't help us evaluate the conclusion. We need to evaluate whether the objection is concerning or not.

(C) Mode of advertisements is irrelevant.

(D) Irrelevant. A yes/no answer to the question should give us opposing views – one should strengthen and other should weaken the conclusion.

If the physicians are more likely to pay attention to ads directed to general public than to advertising directed to physicians -> Not a cause for concern (Might strengthen the conclusion)

OR

If the physicians are not more likely to pay attention to ads directed to general public than to advertising directed to physicians -> Not a cause for concern (Doesn't weaken the conclusion)

Not opposing views. Hence, doesn't help us evaluate the conclusion.



If physicians are likely to succumb to pressure from patients to prescribe inappropriate

Medications -> Then, it is a cause for concern

If physicians are not likely to succumb to pressure from patients to prescribe inappropriate

Medications -> Then, it is not a cause for concern

72.

A. Irrelevant. What is applicable to other towns need not necessarily be applicable to Morganville.

B. Irrelevant. Even if they did not do all their shopping at Morganville, this does not help us answer whether opening Saveall will bankrupt the other smaller shops

C. CORRECT.

The answer to this will tell us whether stores are going bankrupt due to Saveall or due to other external factors.

D. The answer to this would tell us of the job opportunities Saveall may create. It would however tell us nothing about Saveall's effect on the smaller shops.

E. Irrelevant. Saveall's profits are not irrelevant here.

73.

The argument assumes that since Bergeron has submitted a detailed list of his current financial holdings to the election commission, it means that he is running for governor.

A. This is irrelevant. We are not concerned with who the richest candidate is. This does not shed further light on whether Bergeron is running for Governor or not.

B. There maybe other ways. But we already know that Bergeron has done so by submitting a detailed list of his current financial holdings. So the answer to this question will tell us nothing new.

C. Even if it did not come from the election commission that is not sufficient grounds for us to assume that thereport is untrue.

D. Irrelevant. His wealth is irrelevant to evaluate whether he is running for governor or not.

E. CORRECT. This will help us decide if Bergeron submitting a list of his financial holdings is false alarm. If Bergeron has done the same last year, then there is a chance that he might not stand for elections despite having fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

AB has been popular and talked about running for governor, but he has never run.

AB has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement for candidacy.

Conclusion: It is very likely that Bergeron will be a candidate for governor this year.

We know that AB has never run before. We have found out that he has fulfilled financial disclosure requirement for candidacy. (perhaps one of the necessary things for candidacy)

We are concluding that he must be running this year.

What will help us evaluate our conclusion? Many factors such as

- Did he fulfil other necessary requirements for candidacy ~~too~~ PER CENSING the candidacy form, submitting proof of edu qualification etc?
- Is the same financial disclosure required for something else too? e.g. to buy land in the state, does one need to disclose finances similarly? (he could have taken the step to fulfil the requirement for something else)
- Does he often fulfil financial disclosure requirements but not go ahead with the elections?

etc

Let's look at the options:

(A) Has anybody else who has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement for the upcoming election reported greater financial holdings than Bergeron?

Whether some other potential candidate has more financial holdings than him is irrelevant for whether he will run or not.

(B) Is submitting a list of holdings the only way to fulfill the election commission's financial disclosure requirements?

It doesn't matter whether there are other ways to fulfil the financial disclosure requirements. He has already fulfilled them in one possible way.

Our matter of concern is whether there are other requirements he must fulfil.

Try to answer the questions with a yes or a no.

Yes - submitting a list of holdings is the only way to fulfill the financial disclosure requirements

Ok. He has already submitted a list of holdings to fulfil these requirements. He has already satisfied this condition.

No - submitting a list of holdings is not the only way to fulfill the financial disclosure requirements. There are other way to do the same thing too.

Ok. He has used this way - submitting a list of holdings. It's alright if the same thing can be done in other ways too. He has already satisfied this condition.

In either case, we can't evaluate whether he is running for governor this year or not.

(C) Did the information recently obtained by the journalists come directly from the election commission?

Irrelevant. We have found the info and we must take that to be true. From where we found it is irrelevant.

(D) Have Bergeron's financial holdings increased in value in recent years?

Irrelevant.

(E) Had Bergeron also fulfilled the financial disclosure requirements for candidacy before any previous gubernatorial elections?

Correct. Does he routinely fulfil financial disclosure requirements for candidacy before elections but chicken out later? If yes, then it is not likely that he will run this time. If he has never filed before, it looks like he is serious this time.

Answer (E)

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The journalist says *because* Arnold has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement, he is likely to run for office.

Again, he is stated to have fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement, clearly. It does not matter what other ways, if any, exist; the way that he has done it by submitting a list of his financial holdings suffices to fulfill the requirement. Then evaluating what other ways exist, if any, to fulfill the requirement is absolutely moot.

However, because of the causality the journalist is attributing (as mentioned above), we should evaluate if in previous years he has performed the same / a similar action. If so, then his doing so this year is not a sufficient indicator that he will run for office (as he has filed his financial holdings list in the past and still not run for office)

Let's evaluate Option B. We already know that AB has fulfilled the election commission's financial disclosure requirements. Even if there are other ways to fulfill those requirements, it still seems as though AB has taken the first step towards running for governor. The answer to choice (B) might provide interesting information, but it would not help us evaluate the journalists' argument or conclusion. Eliminate (B).

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For Option E:

AB has taken a step that WOULD be necessary if he actually wanted to become a candidate. Based on that information, the journalist concludes that AB is very likely to be a candidate for governor this year.

But what if AB has taken this same step before other previous gubernatorial elections? We know that AB has never run before, so if the answer to (E) is "Yes," then AB has, in the past, completed this step without subsequently running for governor.

In other words, if the answer is "Yes," then AB has a history of completing this step without actually running for governor. So, taking that step would not be evidence that AB is actually going to run. Since the journalist's argument is based solely on that piece of evidence, this would hurt the argument.

If, however, this is the first time that AB has taken this step, then it is stronger evidence that AB will actually run. Hence E is correct!

74.

here's a simplified version:

magazine's got a conservative review, but then waited until they got a liberal review. they say they were being balanced.

they say that they DON'T have a bias in favor of liberal views.

we need to pick an answer choice that will DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THESE TWO POSSIBILITIES.

A. What other magazines do is immaterial. The option needs to help evaluate the position of the magazine in question.

B. Irrelevant. What do unsolicited reviews have to do with whether the magazine is liberal biased or not?

C. CORRECT. In case the first review was liberal and the magazine did not bother to find a second, more conservative review then we can conclude that the magazine is liberal biased.

D. This is irrelevant. We are strictly dealing with reviews here.

E. Irrelevant. The question isn't about readership. Rather we are evaluating the claim that the magazine is unbiased.

75.

A. CORRECT. If the answer to this question were yes, the plan would probably not achieve its aim of increasing market share. If the answer to this were no, the plan would have a good chance of succeeding.

B. Irrelevant. We do not have any information about the automaker's current advertising strategy and hence cannot determine the effectiveness of this option.

C. Irrelevant. Even if the answer to this were yes, it does not tell us whether the overall share of the automaker in the market will increase.



D. The passage already tells us that the discount will cut into profits. The automaker hopes his plan will yield profits in the long term

E. Irrelevant. The idea is to increase the market share. Not hold it constant or diminish it.

76.

We need to evaluate whether there has been a decline in television since the popularity of computers has increased viewing despite the survey which states otherwise.

The thing to keep in mind is, the passage states due to increased amount of FREE time spent on the computer, there isn't sufficient FREE time to watch TV.

The report however says that the persons in the survey spent an increasing amount of time in TOTAL on the computer and managed to watch the same amount of TV.

A. This is irrelevant. We are concerned with whether there has been a decline in the time spent viewing TV. Even if the answer to this option was "No" it would still mean that there was no change in the TV viewing pattern before and after computers.

B. Irrelevant. Once again we are concerned with decline in TV viewing due to increased use of Computer in FREE time.

C. Irrelevant. The content of TV viewing is irrelevant to us.

D. the report already states this to be true.

E. CORRECT.

A-ha! If the answer to this is yes, it would tell us that the people in the survey spent increasing amount of time on the computer at work. Since we wouldn't know if the use of computers has increased during people's free time, the report would become meaningless.

If the answer is no, then report would be accurate and would have found a surprising result indeed.

### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The assumption was that the variable *total free time* is constant. So if free time spent on computers increases, then free time spent watching television decreases. The survey finding was that *total time* (not free time) spent using computers did not decrease (in fact increased), even though no change was reported in the time spent watching TV (because this time anyway came out of free time). If people used a lot of time at work (non-free time) using computers, then it is easy to reconcile these findings - free time watching TV has remained the same, but *total time* with computers has also increased (because this total time consists of non-free time spent using computers + free time spent using computers)

### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Assumption - People lack sufficient free time to maintain current television-viewing levels while spending increasing amounts of free time on the computer.

Expectation - Growing popularity of computer-based activities was widely expected to result in a decline in television viewing

Survey results - A very large majority of respondents who report increasing time spent per week using computers report no change in time spent watching television

Conclusion: The assumption is false.

(So we are concluding that people have sufficient free time to maintain current tv viewing levels even if they increase time on computers)

What would be most useful to evaluate?

Our category of interest is "people who are spending increasing amounts of free time on the computer". We need to find whether their tv viewing habits are the same or changing.

(A) Whether a large majority of the survey respondents reported watching television regularly

Regularly or in spurts doesn't matter. We are talking about tv viewing time. Whether it is 2 hrs every day or 20 straight hrs on one day, it is irrelevant.

(B) Whether the amount of time spent watching television is declining among people who report that they rarely or never use computers

People who rarely use computers are out of scope of our argument. We are talking about people who are spending more time on computers.



(C) Whether the type of television programs a person watches tends to change as the amount of time spent per week using computers increases

Type of program watched is irrelevant.

(D) Whether a large majority of the computer owners in the survey reported spending increasing amounts of time per week using computers

What percentage of computer owners in the survey fall in our category of interest (those spending increasing amounts of time on computer) is irrelevant. We need to see how people in our category of interest are behaving. What percentage of them are watching less tv.

(E) Whether the survey respondents' reports of time spent using computers included time spent using computers at work

The survey says: "A very large majority of respondents who report increasing time spent per week using computers report no change in time spent watching television"

but the assumptions says "People lack sufficient free time to maintain current television-viewing levels while spending increasing amounts of free time on the computer"

Note that one important factor is not covered in the survey - "free time". The assumption is claimed to be false by the author on the basis of the survey. But the assumption says that people who are increasing "free time" on computers will reduce tv watching.

Whereas the survey talks about people who are increasing "time" on computers. So what we need to find is whether the people surveyed are talking about free time or including work time too. If they included work time too, we cannot prove our assumption to be false. If they are not including work time and talking about free time only, then the assumption does seem to be false.

Hence (E) is correct.

77.

A. CORRECT.

If the answer to this is yes, then it could mean that the sales will pick up in the coming months allowing National Motors to achieve its target. If the answer is no, then by extrapolation , the business analyst's prediction may come true.

B. Irrelevant. We already have a clear target of 800,000 to achieve.

C. Same as above. Despite pricing the target has been set.

D. Even if this were true, it does not help us decide whether Luxora can achieve the mentioned target.

E. We are evaluating the ability to meet the target and not the repercussions of not meeting it.

78.

A. Irrelevant. We are trying to evaluate the most cost effective way for new plants to deal with sulphur emissions.

B. Same as above. We are not interested in making a comparison between the old and the new plants.

C. CORRECT.

If the answer to this were yes, it would mean that cleaning equipment is not a good idea as filtering would save more money and vice-versa.

D. Irrelevant. We are trying to evaluate the most cost effective way for new plants to deal with sulphur emissions not what is best for the environment.

E. Same as B.



79.

A. Irrelevant. We are concerned with the effect of natural insecticides on monarch butterflies only and not other maize-eating insects.

B. Since the monarch butterflies are affected only by the pollens and these pollens contain enough insecticide to cause their death, this option is irrelevant.

C. CORRECT.

If the answer to this is no, then there is no risk from using genetically modified maize as no pollens will blow on the milkweed during the feeding season of the butterflies.

If the answer is yes, then the butterflies are indeed at risk.

D. Same as A.

E. The passage is concerned with the death of butterflies caused due to pollens with insecticides and not due to competition for food. Also, even if this were true we do not know if this competition is sufficient to threaten the existence of the butterflies.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The passage said the farmers were putting the caterpillars at risk because the caterpillars were eating the insecticide filled pollen from the genetically modified maize. If the caterpillars are NOT eating the pollen because they do not eat the milkweed leaves when the pollen is being released, then we can't say the farmers are putting the caterpillars at risk.

Knowing whether monarch butterfly caterpillars feed on leaves of the milkweed plant when the maize is releasing pollen would help us evaluate the argument. This is why (C) is the answer to this question.

Lets also analyse Option D:

D. Whether insects that feed on genetically modified maize plants are likely to be killed by insecticide from the plant's pollen.

Even if we know this, it does not address butterflies issue. Hence, eliminate.

80.

the manager states that the added cost of the new fancy packing materials will make up for no more damage claims.the assumption is that IF we use the advanced packaging, then there WILL BE no more damage claims.

A.

This doesn't matter. The comparison is not outside truesave. Irrespective of whether this was true or not it doesn't help evaluate the above.

B. Since Truesave only ships electronic products, this is irrelevant.

C. CORRECT.

If this were true, then despite using advanced packing, the items will still be returned. Thus the company will spend both on packing as well as replacing damaged goods.

If this were incorrect, then the manager's plan will work.

D. There maybe such cases. But how we are only concerned with products that are returned.

E. Since this does not tell us that the damage is caused by shipping companies, it is irrelevant.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The manager's plan is only viable if it saves the corporation money. The manager believes that better packaging will lead to less broken merchandise and thus less money on replacement. To determine if this plan will work, we have to determine whether there isn't a possibility that, if true, could foil his plan.

**A. Whether the products shipped by TrueSave are more vulnerable to incurring damage during shipping than are typical electronic products.**

The focus is on whether the packaging will prevent damaged products and thus replacements. Even if TrueSave packages are more vulnerable to incurring damage, better packaging could prevent damage.

**B. Whether electronic products are damaged more frequently in transit than are most other products shipped by mail-order companies.**

We care only about electronic products, and not other products.

**C. Whether a sizable proportion of returned items are returned because of damage already present when those items were packed for shipping. ANSWER**

If there was already damage, then no amount of packaging can prevent damage. Think of it this way, even if you pack a broken DVD player in an iron safe (hardly a cost-effective shipping method), it will still arrive damaged, and the recipient will very likely ask for a replacement. So, in order to determine how effective the manager's plan will be, we have to determine what percent of goods were already damaged before packing.

**D. Whether there are cases where customers blame themselves for product damage that, though present on arrival, isn't discovered until later.**

If customer's blame themselves, they are unlikely to return the product.

**E. Whether TrueSave continually monitors the performance of the shipping companies it uses to ship products to its customers.**

If a customer asks for a replacement, TrueSave will have to provide it, and thus lose money. Whether the company is monitoring the shipping company is moot if the packaging is flimsy.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

What is the effect on cost per the manager? Cost of new shipping material will be roughly equal to cost of replacing returned (damaged) goods from customers - implicit here (and also mentioned in the passage) is that with the new shipping material, there will be no damage to the goods in transit (i.e. *they will arrive to the customer in perfect condition*). If we are to check the veracity of this claim about cost, we need to find an option that will tell us something about potential costs that we are missing. To that end, whether TrueSave monitors shipping companies or not has no effect whatsoever on the cost it incurs due to either shipping material or due to goods getting damaged in transit and arriving damaged to the customer.

However, in Option (C), if a sizable portion of goods right now are *packed damaged*, they will still *arrive damaged* even with the new shipping material, and thus *these goods will still be returned and this will be an extra cost that the manager is not accounting for*. This is what we needed to find in our answer choice.

Option (C) is correct

81.

E is Correct.

'Evaluate the argument' question is a kind of strengthen/weaken question. You need to find the option which will strengthen or weaken the conclusion.

Conclusion: The objection provides no grounds for concern

(A) Irrelevant. Whether non prescription meds can interact with or block the action of prescription meds or not, the physician has the "final say" whether to prescribe the med or not. Even if the answer to this question is a yes/ no, it is immaterial because the doc finally decides. Hence this option doesn't help us evaluate the conclusion

(B) Irrelevant. Whether the ads are for recently developed meds or older meds doesn't help us evaluate the conclusion. We need to evaluate whether the objection is concerning or not.

(C) Mode of advertisements is irrelevant.

(D) Irrelevant. A yes/no answer to the question should give us opposing views – one should strengthen and other should weaken the conclusion.

If the physicians are more likely to pay attention to ads directed to general public than to advertising directed to physicians -> Not a cause for concern (Might strengthen the conclusion)

OR

If the physicians are not more likely to pay attention to ads directed to general public than to advertising directed to physicians -> Not a cause for concern (Doesn't weaken the conclusion)

Not opposing views. Hence, doesn't help us evaluate the conclusion.



If physicians are likely to succumb to pressure from patients to prescribe inappropriate

Medications -> Then, it is a cause for concern

If physicians are not likely to succumb to pressure from patients to prescribe inappropriate

Medications -> Then, it is not a cause for concern

82.

A. CORRECT.

This is pretty straight forward. IF the answer to this is yes, then the test clearly does not give us accurate time for dissipation. If the answer is no, then we can take assume the test to be accurate and that the pesticide obeys the standard time of 8 hours for dissipation.

B. Irrelevant. This does not affect the dissipation time.

C. same as above.

D. This is irrelevant. We already know that pesticides harmful to humans that do not dissipate under 8 hours are banned. The existence of such pesticides is not the question. Rather we are discussing if the means to determine the safety is accurate.

E. Irrelevant. Either way we know it needs to be under 8 hours.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Please note that we have to evaluate whether rate of dissipation when spraying a plywood box will be same as that of spraying an actual room.

D. Whether there are anti-termite pesticides that are toxic to humans that, when subjected to the manufacturers' test, dissipate completely from the air in the boxes in well under eight hours

Whether such pesticides exist or not doesn't matter. We are concerned about that fact that if a pesticide does pass the test, can it be used in houses? This option is out of scope.

83.

The passage suggests that since the price of the genetically engineered seeds will decline and there will be a high demand for plants grown from these seeds, the farmers will soon switch from the conventional seeds.

A. Irrelevant. The passage simply discusses the "crops for which these seeds can be developed".

B. Irrelevant. Even if the answer to this were yes, we still do not know how much pesticide is required to prevent crop damage. Whatever the amount, we know that farmers using the new seeds will need far less pesticides making this irrelevant.

C. The plants need not be pesticides free. Lowered use of pesticides will decrease cost for farmers and are preferred by consumers as well. This would achieve the purpose.

D. CORRECT. IF this were true then despite the lowered pesticides cost and increasing consumer demand, the farmers may not be able to switch from conventional seeds.

If this were false, then the plan will succeed.

E. Irrelevant

84.

There are two kinds of seafood stores → suburban and city. Now the cost of doing business for both has been the same. Since the taxes within the city will be lowered soon, the passage indicates that the city stores may make more profit.

- A. This may mean that city stores overall have more business. But it does not help us evaluate whether lowered taxes will lead to increased profits when compared to the suburban stores.
- B. While this looks tempting, it does not tell us whether the suburban stores will relocate to the city due to increased profit margins.
- C. this would affect the city and suburbs equally.
- D. We already know this to be true.
- E. CORRECT. IF this were true then the city stores may attract all the customers due to lowered rates and make considerable profit.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Question is asking which option will help us weigh the authenticity of the author's conclusion.

Author's conclusion:

Because the city's fish sellers will have to pay lower taxes than sub-urban fish sellers, doing business in the city will be more profitable.

E says: Let me check the validity of the conclusion:

Evaluation:

Whether the city sellers will be forced/obliged to set a price much lower than the sub-urban sellers' price? Take it to 2 different extremes:

Ans: Yes!! Really, the conclusion is baseless then because I know I won't make profit if I set up my business in the city, for I will have to sell my fishes at a much lower price. Even though I will pay lower taxes, what's the use if I make less profit on sales.

Ans: No!! Wow, that's wonderful. I will surely set up my shop in the city because the conclusion was indeed true. Now, I can sell the fishes at the same price as sub-urban sellers do. Plus, I pay less taxes than them. Surely, I will make more profits.

You saw how the evaluation question proposed in the statement E helped us validate the author's conclusion.

85.

A. Irrelevant. We are only concerned with the usability of the importation agency

B. This is irrelevant. Even if inefficiencies have been reduced it still costs more to keep an agency open than to close it down.

C. CORRECT.

If this were true, then the reason why the board does not receive substandard cheese is because of the presence of such a board. Removal of the agency may then cause amount of substandard cheese imported to rise and this would in turn cause the health costs to go up.

If this were untrue, then the evaluation is correct.

D. This does not help evaluate the usefulness of the agency. The number of such exporters could range from 0.1% to 100%

E. Irrelevant. This does not help evaluate the usefulness of the Cheese Importation Board in anyway.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The passage explicitly states that the agency's actions have a negligible benefit ("the health consequences and associated costs of not rejecting that one percent would be negligible"). In other words, the benefit of those actions is essentially zero.

C. Does the possibility of having merchandise rejected by the Cheese Importation Board deter many cheese exporters from shipping substandard cheese to Goronia?

If the answer to this is NO, then it affirms the idea that the agency isn't really helping and should be eliminated.

If the answer to this is YES, then it shows that the mere existence of the agency is significantly helping in that it is keeping exporters from sending bad cheese. Without the agency, a significant quantity of bad cheese may enter the country and harm the population.

86.

A. This does not help us evaluate whether blocking current access routes and allowing access only on foot will help protect the tortoise. Also we already know that the tortoises are captured for sale as pets

B. CORRECT.

If this answer to this is no, then the regulations may not help protect the tortoise as people will simply access different routes to hunt them and damage the habitat.

If the answer is yes, then the officers prediction about the measures being adequate will be true.

C. Irrelevant. Since the regulations are not separate for day and night, this is irrelevant to us.

D. Irrelevant. We know people travelling on foot can't catch them even if they encountered them.

E. Irrelevant. This does not affect the effectiveness of the plan.

87.

A. This is irrelevant. We are trying to evaluate whether cold virus concentrate in the mouth or the nose. This doesn't help the evaluation in anyway.

B. This seems tempting. But, unlike with zinc medicines, we do not have a comparison of what happens when such medicines are applied on the nose. Is there a further reduction in the duration of cold?

C. Irrelevant. How does this tell us whether the virus is in the nose or the mouth?

D. CORRECT. If this is true then we know that the reason gel worked better than lozenges was because of the zinc activity (which was different even though the zinc concentration was same in both) and not due to the concentration of the virus in the mouth.



88.

A. The goal of Trancorp's plan is to reduce shipping time. This might lower costs – but whether or not it does so is not relevant to whether or not the plan's goal is achieved.

B. Maybe they can but it has nothing to do with whether the current plan will reduce shipping time.

C. CORRECT. This properly identifies something that would be important in determining whether TranCorp's plan for reducing shipping time will achieve its goal – that is whether loading the freight cars onto barges will use up all the time saved by not using trucks

D. Regardless of variation in traffic we know that the bridge is typically congested and causes delays.

E. The state if trucks returning to mainland is irrelevant to our evaluation.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Shipping is the physical moving of goods from one point to another, such as the moving of merchandise from the warehouse to the customer. Shipping time is the amount of time a package will take to reach its intended destination.

(B) The conclusion states only that train and barge shipping would be faster than shipping by trucks. Other shipping methods, such as boats, are not relevant to this comparison.

89.

The argument states that even in greenhouse environments where sulfur dioxide was entirely eliminated the urban plants grew more slowly than the rural plants. This seems to indicate that some other factor appears to account for the difference in growth rates between urban and rural plants, at least within the greenhouse environment.

A. This choice is irrelevant, since both the urban and rural greenhouses are free of sulfur dioxide.

B. This choice doesn't account for any difference in growth; instead, it indicates that the greenhouse environments in both urban and rural areas are more conducive to plant growth than are the outside environments.

C. Irrelevant. Size of class does not matter.

D. CORRECT

This answer choice provides a factor other than sulfur dioxide that may account for the slow growth in urban environments. This is important because it undermines certain potential conclusions that the classes might make concerning the relationship between sulfur dioxide and plant growth in urban and rural environments.

E. Irrelevant. Both environments still remained sulfur dioxide free.

90.

A. CORRECT.

doesn't matter: we don't care about any other revenue, besides advertising-sales revenue.

and even if we did care about those types of revenue, the proportion still wouldn't tell us anything at all about whether, or by how much, advertising sales revenue has gone up or down.

either of these two reasons is enough to eliminate this choice; the combination of both is absolutely beyond alldoubt.

B. If the circulation has increased this could lead attract more advertisers and thereby lead to increased advertisement sales. In this case , the increased sales will not be because of reorganisation.

Therefore B is definitely relevant.



C. If the number of advertising employees increased, this means that there were more people involved in advertising and this could have increased the ad sales. This is relevant.

D. This is clearly relevant. If this were true, then a reorganisation would have helped them cope better.

E. Relevant. If the economy has been booming than the increased sales can be attributed to the economic growth rather than reorganisation.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The reason Option (A) is the answer is the total percentage of sales that advertising revenue constituted before and after the reorganization is immaterial. What matters is that in absolute terms, compared to before the reorg, the total sales volume in this segment has increased after the reorg. Say the percentage of advertising sales among total sales has decreased / increased. That does not matter when it comes to evaluating whether the reorg caused the increase in absolute value of the sales (which is what we are trying to evaluate).

Option (B) is not the answer because this will be a valid thing to evaluate in our quest to find the above answer - if, for example, total circulation has increased substantially, we may potentially attribute the increase in advertising sales to the increased circulation (both absolute numbers), and not specifically to the sales org restructuring. Similarly, Option (D) is also relevant. One of the reasons the reorg was done was to make the sales rep more skilled in particular areas / industries / verticals of customers. Then evaluating Option (D) is relevant in figuring out if the reorg was useful, and if it was useful in increasing advertising sales.

91.

A. Irrelevant. This does not tell us anything about whether the darts affect the fertility rate of a female.

B. irrelevant. We do not know if the same behaviour is observed in other mammals.

C. CORRECT.

If this were true then there is a chance that the un collared rhinos have been tranquilised too. Since the fertility rates of an un-collared rhino is higher, this would destroy the assumption that a substance in the tranquiliser inhibits fertility

if it were false, then the conclusion would be right.

D. We are only concerned with females.

E. Irrelevant. Does help evaluate if the tranquilizer is infact causing a decrease in fertility.

92.

if you see "Which of the following would be most useful to determine in order to evaluate the argument", thenyou should think of the same sorts of things you'd consider in a STRENGTHEN/WEAKEN problem.

so, let's think about this as a STRENGTHEN/WEAKEN QUESTION.

when you consider STRENGTHEN/WEAKEN problems, you should SIMPLIFY THE ARGUMENT as much aspossible.

in this problem, the argument basically boils down to they only rub the millipedes during the rainy season. during the rainy season, there are more mosquitoes than usual. Therefore, the rubbing must have to do withmosquitoes.

the weak link in this argument is the assumption that there's no OTHER connection between the rubbing andthe rainy season.

in other words, the argument assumes that because both of these ideas are connected to the mosquitoes, themosquitoes MUST be responsible for the overall connection.



therefore, if an answer choice gives ANOTHER connection between the rubbing and the rainy season, then itweakens the argument.

A. talks about the millipedes protecting themselves against their own predators. Does that address the hypothesis? No. The hypothesis is specifically about the monkeys protecting themselves against the mosquitoes.This one is out of scope. Eliminate A.

B. talks about the location of the millipedes – whether they can be found in other places. Does that address thehypothesis? No. The hypothesis is specifically about certain monkeys located in Venezuela. This one is also out of scope. Eliminate B.

C. talks about whether other animals besides the capuchins exhibit the same type of behavior. Does that address the hypothesis? No. The hypothesis is specifically about certain capuchins exhibiting this behavior. This one is also out of scope. Eliminate C.

D. CORRECT

This option provides another reason why the rubbing might be connected to the rainy season, a reason that hasnothing at all to do with mosquitoes. IT is possible the only reason the monkey run millipedes during the rainy seasons is because this is the only time they are available.

E. This doesn't really help unless there's some connection to the rainy season (which is the crux of the argument). whether or not there are such alternate insects, it doesn't really matter unless they would have differential effects during the rainy season vs. non-rainy season.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

CAUSAL ARGUMENT :

During Rainy Season --> Higher Mosquito Population, More Rubbing Behavior --> CORRELATION

There comes causation --> Therefore monkeys probably rub millipedes into their fur only because doing so helps protect

them against mosquitoes. This is even the CONCLUSION of this argument.

(D) Whether the only time millipedes are readily available to capuchins is during the rainy season  
YES- the only time millipedes are readily available to capuchins is during the rainy season : THIS BREAKS THE CONCLUSION. If that was the case then what about the other seasons?? How will the capuchins protect themselves against the mosquitos if millipedes are not available to them, when they are using millipedes (ONLY BECAUSE) for rubbing as a protection measure. The CAUSATION is weakened.

NO - the millipedes are readily available to capuchins not only during the rainy season (implies -- the millipedes are available in other seasons as well): THIS SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSION. Capuchins use millipedes ONLY BECAUSE for protection against the mosquitoes. CAUSATION is strengthened.

(E) Whether secretions of any other insects accessible to capuchins contain chemicals that repel the mosquitoes.

YES - the secretions of some other insects are accessible to capuchins containing chemicals that repel the mosquitoes. BUT how does that even matter to our conclusion at hand. It does not affect the CAUSATION at all. The conclusion is exclusively related to the rubbing of millipedes as a protection measure. So, even if some other insects which are accessible to capuchins and contain the mosquito repellent chemicals, would not be useful to evaluate. INCORRECT.

It doesn't matter whether there is availability of other insects!! Focus on the core of the argument/conclusion.

Let's start with the conclusion, which is that "monkeys *probably* rub millipedes into their fur *only* because doing so helps protect them against mosquitoes."

The author reasons that since the monkeys only rub the millipedes into their fur during the rainy season when mosquitoes are at their worst, it is likely that the monkeys are only doing this for mosquito protection. If there were OTHER reasons for rubbing the millipedes into their furs, then the monkeys would probably do it all year round.

For example, if the millipede secretions were also good for the monkeys' skin and fur, then the rubbing behavior would probably continue regardless of whether mosquito populations were high or low. But, according to the author, since the monkeys only do this during peak mosquito season, **the protection from mosquitoes is probably the only motivation for the rubbing.**

D) We know that the rubbing is rare outside of the rainy season. The author explains this by suggesting that the rubbing is not needed when the mosquitoes aren't so bad. But what if there is another explanation? What if the monkeys would LIKE to rub the millipedes into their furs outside of peak mosquito season but simply cannot do so because the millipedes are not readily available? If that were the case, it would suggest that the monkeys have OTHER reasons for wanting to continue the rubbing behavior. Wanting to repel mosquitoes during the rainy season would probably not be the ONLY reason. This would contradict the author's argument and conclusion. Thus, choice (D) could be useful to determine in order to evaluate the argument. CORRECT.

E) We are told that the rubbing behavior is rare outside of the rainy season, and we can infer that the monkeys often rub the millipedes into their fur during the rainy season. Sure, they might be doing the same thing with some other insects, but why is the rubbing behavior rare outside of the rainy season? The author provides one explanation, and choice (E) does not provide an alternative. Choice (E) has no impact on the author's argument and can be eliminated.

93

A. CORRECT.

If this were true then there is no need to reduce the artificial fat intake. One just needs to increase the amount of vitamin they consume.

B. Irrelevant. We know essential vitamins are being absorbed. Whether these vitamins are present in the same food as artificial fat or not, is irrelevant.

C. The columnist does not advise people to stay away from fat. Also we are discussing the cons of artificial fat. This makes the option irrelevant.

D. Irrelevant. IF there were such food items, it does not answer whether use of artificial fat will absorb essential vitamins.

E. This would be slightly relevant if we were told that people had no other way of knowing the difference between artificial fat and actual fat than by taste.

Since we do not know if this is true, even if people were unable to detect the difference in taste, it is irrelevant to our evaluation.

94.

This is very similar to [Question 77](#)

Lets analyze the correct answer.

D. CORRECT.

IF true, this would mean that the sales recorded for May, June, July and August were not the average and there is a chance that the sales might dip so Fedora might not be able to the target.

IF false, then by extrapolation Fedora will meet its target

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

In order to know whether the company is going to achieve its sales target, we need to know whether people will continue buying the convertibles in the remaining months of the year. Answer A is too general and thus irrelevant. Choice B also does not help because even if this is true, people have already bought 50000 of these cars. Thus the price does not discourage them. Answer C is also too general. The fact that the company launched a similar model does not help us decide how many cars will be sold this year. Answer E is also out of scope. The fact that the sales of the new model are important for the company does not influence people's buying habits. The correct answer is D. If people buy convertibles only in the summer, it is very likely that the company will not reach its sales target.



## Miscellaneous – Latest Questions

### Answer Key

- 95. B
- 96. D
- 97. D
- 98. E
- 99. C
- 100. B
- 101. E
- 102. C
- 103. D
- 104. D
- 105. A
- 106. A
- 107. A
- 108. C
- 109. A
- 110. B
- 111. A
- 112. D
- 113. B
- 114. A
- 115. C
- 116. B
- 117. B
- 118. C
- 119. B
- 120. A
- 121. A
- 122. E
- 123. C
- 124. E
- 125. B
- 126. D
- 127. E
- 128. B



## Solutions

95.

Let's start by breaking down the exchange between the environmentalist and the business spokesperson:

The environmentalist says that snowmobiles should be banned because they create unacceptable levels of air pollution (eg an environmental concern).

The business spokesperson responds by saying that snowmobiles bring in many out-of-towners during the winter months, financially benefiting many local residents. The spokesperson then specifically acknowledges the environmental concern (ie does not disagree that snowmobiling causes air pollution) but maintains that the economic "pro" outweighs the environmental "con". Thus, the spokesperson concludes that economics dictate that the town should put up with the pollution.

The environmentalist then responds by stating that although snowmobiling may in fact bring in many people who want to snowmobile, snowmobiling keeps a great many cross-country skiers from visiting. This consequence has a *negative* impact on the economy, so the environmentalist concludes that economics do NOT dictate that the town should put up with the pollution.

Notice that the environmentalist does not dispute the spokesperson's claim that snowmobiling brings in out-of-towners and thus has a positive economic consequence; rather, the environmentalist *adds* that snowmobiling also has a negative economic impact.

Now that we understand how the environmentalist responds to the business spokesperson, let's look at the answer choices:

(A) First, what are the "desirable outcomes" referenced in this passage? 1) financial benefit to local residents and 2) less air pollution. Where do those "desirable outcomes" come from? 1) from bringing in out-of-towners (ie snowmobilers or cross-country skiers) and 2) from banning snowmobiling.



Notice that the spokesperson's argument does not require the assumption that either desirable outcome comes from only one set of circumstances. The spokesperson simply notes that snowmobiling brings in out-of-towners which creates a financial benefit, he/she does not imply that this is the only way to achieve that benefit. The environmentalist does not challenge this assumption because the spokesperson never makes that assumption. Choice (A) can be eliminated.

(B) As discussed in (A), less air pollution is a desirable outcome, but what is the negative aspect of this outcome? Well, in order to achieve it, the town would have to ban snowmobiling, preventing those out-of-towners (those who want to enjoy snowmobiling) from coming to town and financially benefiting the locals. According to the spokesperson, this negative

outcome (less financial benefit from out-of-towners) outweighs the desirable outcome (less air pollution). The environmentalist challenges this assumption by pointing out an economic benefit that would occur if snowmobiling were banned: more cross-country skiers would come to town, creating a financial benefit and offsetting the negative economic impact assumed by the spokesperson. (B) is looking pretty good.

(C) The benefit that the spokesperson desires is financial benefit to the local residents. Although the environmentalist does imply that financial benefit can be created by a different means (ie banning snowmobiling and thus attracting more cross-country skiers), the environmentalist does NOT suggest that banning snowmobiling would achieve a GREATER degree of financial benefit than allowing snowmobiling.

The environmentalist is simply trying to demonstrate that the negative economic impact assumed by the spokesperson would not outweigh the positive environmental impact. This argument would hold up if both means created the same financial benefit. Choice (C) can be eliminated.

(D) Neither the spokesperson nor the environmentalist ever argues against the facts stated by the other person. Rather, each concedes the facts previously stated by the other person and simply adds new information to support a different conclusion. The environmentalist certainly does not claim that the spokesperson is "deliberately misrepresenting the environmentalist's position," so choice (D) can be eliminated.

(E) The environmentalist does not DENY that snowmobiling brings in out-of-towners or that it creates a financial benefit to the local residents. The environmentalist simply presents an additional economic factor that the spokesperson did not mention:

although snowmobiling may bring in many people who want to snowmobile (a financial positive for the locals), snowmobiling keeps a great many cross-country skiers from visiting (a financial negative for the locals).

Choice (E) can be eliminated, and we are left with (B).

96.

Summary: both methane and CO<sub>2</sub> when released into the atmosphere contribute to global warming. Methane from landfills should be burned instead of releasing to create electricity.

Objection : burning methane produces CO<sub>2</sub> which will be released into the atmosphere contributing to global warming.

What could counter the objection?

- A. Irrelevant. This is not connected to burning methane from the landfills
- B. Irrelevant. This will not affect the CO<sub>2</sub> being released when methane is burned.
- C. If anything this could further strengthen the objection rather than counter it.
- D. CORRECT.  
This would indicate that even though we are releasing CO<sub>2</sub>, disposing methane would contribute more towards reducing global warming.
- E. This ,if anything, strengthens the objection a bit.

97.

The passage states that bacteria from a different planet will have a substantial difference in the protein structure. No two types of bacteria have enough difference to have arisen from a different planet.



What would weaken this argument the most?

- A. Irrelevant. We want to know if any bacteria from Mars was transported here.
- B. We already know this to be theoretically possible.
- C. Irrelevant. The means by which bacteria was transported is not relevant to the argument.
- D. CORRECT.  
If this were true then there would be hardly any difference in the protein structure and the bacteria could have still come from Mars.
- E. This is considered in the passage.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The conclusion is that even if bacteria did arrive on Earth from Mars, they must have died out. Why? Because no two bacterial strains on Earth are different enough to have arisen on different planets. We need to find the flaw in this reasoning.

Let us look at the options now.

A says that the argument fails to establish whether the bacteria actually developed on Mars. That is not a flaw in the argument and is totally unrelated to the conclusion of the argument. Moreover, the author is agreeing with the assumption that the bacteria did arrive on Earth from Mars. So A is totally irrelevant.

B says that the argument fails to establish how likely it is that Martian bacteria were transported to Earth. Again, this is not what the argument is about. Totally irrelevant.

C says that the argument fails to consider whether there were means other than meteorites by which Martian bacteria could have been carried to Earth. We are concerned with the means through which the bacteria came to Earth from Mars. We are working under the assumption that even if the bacteria did come to Earth (by any means), they would have died. Eliminate!

D says that the argument fails to consider whether all bacteria now on Earth could have arisen from transported Martian bacteria. Okay, now let us understand this. The passage is saying that the reason the bacteria from Mars must have died is that **no two bacterial strains on Earth are different enough to have arisen on different planets. Meaning, the bacteria on Earth have arisen from only one planet.** But what if that planet is Mars and not Earth? Think about it. We're saying that the bacterial strains on Earth are not different enough or in other words, they are similar. So there is a possibility that these strains did in fact originate from Mars and not Earth. If they did originate from Mars, then also the bacterial strains would not be different enough. So D is our answer.

E says that the argument fails to consider whether there could have been strains of bacteria that originated on Earth and later died out. Okay? So what? Are we concerned with bacteria that originated on Earth? No! We're concerned with bacteria that originated on Mars. The argument claims that if there were bacteria on Earth from Mars, then those bacteria must have died. Whether bacteria originally from Earth have also disappeared has no effect on the argument at hand. E is out.



98.

A. The passage states the "If the ban can be successfully imposed" . The conclusion is subject to this happening.

The argument is "If these countries can successfully enforce this legislation,....."

"If X happens Y will happen for sure" In this argument, no one is assuming that X could be successfully made to occur. So, that is not a flaw.

B. Irrelevant. We are only concerned with the tigers here.

C. Irrelevant. The success rates of hunters does not matter.

D. Past efforts of the government is not relevant here.

E. CORRECT.

Argument says if legislation is enforced, survival will be ensured. And we are asked to find the flaw in the reasoning.

Extinction could be caused by many factors and one of them is hunting. E correctly identifies the flaw: takes the removal of an impediment to the tigers' survival as a guarantee of their survival.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option (C) has nothing, let me write it out again, absolutely nothing, to do with the argument. Irrespective of what the hit rate tiger hunters are getting, were getting or will get in the future, it has been established that hunting (with that rate itself) is enough to kill off all tigers over the course of time. So legislation has to be brought in to prevent poaching (again, with whatever, doesn't matter, the hit rate of hunters is)

However, poaching may be one impediment. If that is removed, the argument says tigers will definitely survive. This may not be true - there may be other factors that are playing / will play into the disappearance of tigers, other than poaching.



99.

Author is talking about 2 things here:

1) Yeast used to be accidentally mixed into the dough before 3000 B.C, despite this, Egyptians could not discover its ability to leaven the bread.

2) The Egyptians discovered a new type of wheat, which did not require pre-toasting of the grain. Soon after yeast was discovered.

So, The only difference between the new wheat and old wheat is that, New one doesn't need toasting.

A. This is irrelevant.

B. We do not know if stone-lined grained pits were in any way responsible for discovering yeast.

C. CORRECT.

This clearly tells us that the reason Egyptians did not discover yeast before 3000B.C was because they were toasting the wheat which would destroy gluten. Therefore even the presence of wheat in the dough did not lead to leavening, Only when they discovered the non toasting variety could yeast leaven the bread.

D. Irrelevant. Who consumed it is irrelevant to our argument.

E. The by products of the new variety is irrelevant here.

100.

Premises:

The scientific components are the complicated mathematics and the astronomical knowledge needed to create an astrological chart.

The art is in the synthesis of a multitude of factors and symbols into a coherent statement of their relevance to an individual.

Conclusion: Astrology is both an art and a science.

What will weaken it?

(A) presumes, without providing justification, that any science must involve complicated mathematics

He does not say that any science must involve complicated mathematics. He says that complicated mathematics are a scientific component.

(B) incorrectly infers that a practice is a science merely from the fact that the practice has some scientific components

The occultist says that because astrology has some scientific components, it is a science. This is a flaw in his reasoning.

(C) denies the possibility that astrology involves components that are neither artistic nor scientific

He only claims that it involves components of both, not that there are no other components.

(D) incorrectly infers that astronomical knowledge is scientific merely from the fact that such knowledge is needed to create an astrological chart

He doesn't infer that astronomical knowledge is scientific based on the given fact. He says that astronomical knowledge is scientific is a fact.



(E) presumes, without providing justification, that any art must involve the synthesis of a multitude of factors and symbols

He doesn't say that any art must involve the synthesis of a multitude of factors and symbols.

Answer (B)

#### **Alternate sol from powerscore**

Let's take a look at how the author attempts to prove that astrology is both an art and a science:

- The scientific components: the complex math and knowledge of astronomy that is necessary to create an astrological chart (astrology requires these scientific components).
- The art component: the synthesis of factors and symbols into a coherent message.

So, what is the issue with this argument? Just because a subject requires complex math and astronomical knowledge, that doesn't necessarily make it a science.

(B) - This is the criticism relayed in correct answer choice (B): The author concludes that astronomy is a science based on the fact that it involves the referenced scientific components.

(D) - Answer choice (D) describes an argument that sounds pretty closely related, but one that the author in this case doesn't really make: "since astronomical knowledge is needed to create a chart, we can conclude that such knowledge is scientific."

Notice that Answer Choice (D) concerns a statement that exists entirely within a premise of this argument. The argument establishes that "astronomical knowledge" is a "scientific component." The gap on the other hand has to do with the unsupported assumption that something that has scientific components must itself be a science. Notice in this latter observation that the gap exists between the conclusion that "astrology is both an art and a science" and the premises backing it up.

(E) - In answer B, the flow of information is from the evidence (scientific components) to the conclusion (it's science).

In answer E, the flow of information is from the conclusion (it's art) to the evidence (it involves that synthesis).

What makes B better than E is that the author's mistake is in using premises that are insufficient to establish the conclusion (which is pretty much the mistake in every flawed argument!) The author made a presumption about things that use scientific components, and he did not make a presumption about what all art must do. That's the problem with answer E - it describes something that the author did not do, while B describes something the author did do!

101.

Here is the summary.

Premise : A theory is either true or false.

Galileo → proved Ptolemy wrong.

Ptolemy's theory → inconsistent with Copernica's theory.

Therefore, Copernica's theory is right.

The passage makes the obvious assumption that since Ptolemy is wrong and Copernica does not agree with Ptolemy, Copernica must be right.

Lets see what can weaken this:

A. Irrelevant. This is completely out of scope and does not weaken the summary above.

B. The argument does not assume this. It says that ptolemy's theory as a whole is incorrect and the Copernican theory is right.

C. The argument does not assume it cannot be based on the same evidence. The assumption is that one theory is wrong and by the virtue of that, the inconsistent theory is right.

D. Irrelevant. The argument does not make this assumption. We are clearly told that galileo proved the theory to be incorrect.

E. CORRECT.

The argument assumes that since Ptolemy is wrong and Copernica does not agree with Ptolemy, Copernica must be right.

There is a chance that both could be wrong. Lets negate this option.

the Ptolemaic and Copernican theories, being inconsistent, can both be false

If this were true, the conclusion would crumble.



121.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Premise 1: most places have anti smoking rules

Premise 2: petition is being circulated which only asks if people want to sign it or not (yes/no response)

Premise 3: petition wants to promote a law restricting smoking in most retail/gov't offices that are open to the public

The issue here is that local ordinances (e.g. don't smoke within 10 ft of a public building) are being conflated with a statewide law limiting smoking in retail/gov't offices. If people are asked a yes/no question about whether they would sign the petition and they answer yes, that means they are affirming a NEW law on smoking in these places rather than extending the current local ordinances. So, we are asking in what case this would be misleading.

(A) Health costs associated with smoking cause health insurance premiums to rise for everyone and so affect nonsmokers.

-- This is irrelevant information; knowing this makes no difference to the question of "is the survey yes/no question misleading?"

(B) In rural areas of the state, there are relatively few retail establishments and government offices that are open to the public.

-- If there are only a few places in rural areas to ban smoking from, it shouldn't cause much of an effect whether the polled people answer yes or no. If it were the case that the rural people wanted to smoke in the gov't building then they would not sign "yes" to the petition anyway.

(C) The state law would supersede the local antismoking ordinances, which contain stronger bans than the state law does.

-- This would affect everyone. If the local laws are stronger and then weakened, perhaps people will now smoke in more places. If the people answer "yes" thinking they would get the same protection with the state law, this would be misleading.

(D) There is considerable sentiment among voters in most areas of the state for restriction of smoking.

-- Just means that most people have an opinion on the matter. If they have an opinion then they probably care about the outcome of the petition, but this doesn't contribute to judging if the question would be misleading.

(E) The state law would not affect existing local ordinances banning smoking in places where the fire authorities have determined that smoking would constitute a fire hazard.

-- Irrelevant information; by saying the state law will not affect some places where smoking is already banned means they are not even a consideration.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

**Question type-** Find the Flaw in argument

**Argument states that**

# In a Particular State- all Cities + most towns there is Anti smoking law.

# Petition circulated among voters- for statewide Smoking restriction

# This petition supports law to ban smoking at retail establishments + govt offices open to public

**Goal -** Is to identify circumstance/ thought which will mislead voters who are thinking this petition's purpose is to extend local law statewide. What can lead to misunderstanding of this purpose of the petition.

(A) Health costs associated with smoking cause health insurance premiums to rise for everyone and so affect nonsmokers.

- Health cost is one of the negative effects of smoking. so probably there is anti smoking law to reduce health cost.. This does not present circumstances to mislead voters' assumption that the petition of statewide law was an extension of local law. It just talks about the effects of smoking .

So we eliminate A

(B) In rural areas of the state, there are relatively few retail establishments and government offices that are open to the public.

- Even though there are few retail establishments and govt offices open to the public, how does that mislead the voters.

Impact on rural areas is not a focus area anyways.so it is irrelevant.

(C) The state law would supersede the local anti-smoking ordinances, which contain stronger bans than the state law does.

- If voters are led to think that statewide law is not as strong as local law for antismoking. State law is comparatively weak and it will replace strong local law . This understanding will mislead Voters assumption that statewide law was an extension to local law . Voters who sign for the petition will want to have a stronger local ban.

This is the answer we were looking for. CORRECT

(D) There is considerable sentiment among voters in most areas of the state for restriction of smoking.

This simply states that voters are in favour of statewide law. Does not talk about misleading circumstances. So Eliminate D

(E) The state law would not affect existing local ordinances banning smoking in places where the fire authorities have determined that smoking would constitute a fire hazard.

- This suggests state law will be compatible with local law. This is inline with what Voters have assumed about the petition.

So Eliminate E.

Answer is choice C.



103.

Crime Rate at Meadowbrook → 60% higher than 4 years ago  
Crime Rate at Parkdale → 10% higher than 4 years ago.

The argument concludes that people of Meadowbrook are more likely to become victims due to 60% increase.  
This obviously fails to take into account the initial rate of crime 4 years ago.

Lets say the rate was 5 crimes per 1000 citizens at meadowbrook. A 60% increase will mean 8 crimes per day.

Lets say the rate was 10 crimes per 1000 citizens at Parkdale. A 10% increase will mean 11 crimes per day.

In this case, clearly the residents of Parkdale are more likely to become victims of crime.

- A. Since we are discussing the increase in crime **rate**, this is irrelevant.
- B. since the argument uses as evidence the number of violent crimes per 1,000 residents, not the total numberof crimes, this is incorrect.
- C. The passage does talk about non violent crimes rates. We are discussing violent crimes only.
- D. CORRECT. Look at the example above. As long as the violent crime rate in both places was not the same 4years ago, the conclusion is flawed.
- E. The prevention and money spent on it is out of scope.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Say Meadowbrook's crime rate 4 years ago was 10 / 1,000 residents. Now it has become 16 / 1,000 residents. Now say Parkdale's crime rate 4 years ago was 600 / 1,000 residents. Now it has become 660 / 1,000 residents. Are residents of Meadowbrook more exposed to crime or are residents of Parkdale. The argument says the former, but we clearly see any such conclusion also needs to take into account the crime rates 4 years ago in each of the two places.

104.

- A. Irrelevant. Has nothing to do with the ban or prevention of forest fires.
- B. The ban is looking to reduce the cause of these fires. The presence of firefighters is irrelevant.
- C. This information again tells us nothing of how the ban will reduce forest fires.
- D. CORRECT.  
Once we know that the forest fires are hardly caused by outdoor fires(such as a bonfire) even during dry periods and periods of persistent winds, the ban becomes meaningless to stop forest fires.
- E. Irrelevant as the passage does not mention an increase in the number of outdoor fires either.

105.

A. CORRECT.

Mel says Its difficult to attract **future candidates** who might be interested in the judge's post because the increased salary is coupled with a ban that prevents the judges from earning money through lectures  
Pat counters this by saying among current judges only a few teach.

But what about any candidate in the future who might like to judge as well as teach?

Pat fails to identify the fact that future candidates might be interested in teaching and therefore the salary hike may not be all that lucrative.

- B. This argument has nothing to do with cause and effect.
- C. Pat mentions that salary rise. By doing so, she is not just pointing out the lack of negative effects. Also, Pat says that the effect will have little or no negative effect. Since there may be little negative effect, we cannot consider this option
- D. provides evidence to support her claim. The claim being “salary rise will have a positive effect” and the evidence being “Since very few judges teach or give lectures, the ban will have little or no negative effect”.
- E. Pat does not make a distinction between the “most able members” of the group and the less able members.

106.

- 1) helping ppl -> release of endorphins -> feeling of well-being
- 2) regular release of endorphins -> longevity
- 3) statistics show adults with regular voluntary work -> live longer ON AVERAGE than adults who are not involved in voluntary work

Now for the confusing part, "However, that statistic would be what we would expect even if volunteering does not boost longevity, because "

this means that step 3 would hold true even if volunteering does not increase longevity. So what is the connection between volunteering and adults living longer?

- A. CORRECT.  
This simply indicates that most adults who volunteer are women and women tend to live longer than men. Therefore on average adults who volunteer tend to live longer than adults that don't.
- B. This maybe. But will the young adults who volunteer live longer than young adults who don't?
- C. Indicates that volunteering might actually help mask certain diseases.
- D provides no correlation between volunteering and adults living longer.
- E. not explain why the statistics stated in step 3 will hold good.

107.

(A) the number of days with heavy rainfall was lower in 1990 than in 1910

>>> The number can be lower (assume just a difference of one day), but the intensity of rainfall received 1990 could be substantially greater than in 1990 to offset this difference.

(B) the number of days with some rainfall, but no more than two inches, was the same in 1990 as in 1910

>> There is no such rainfall listed in the question. So rejected.

(C) the number of days with some rainfall, but no more than two inches, was higher in 1990 than in 1910

>> There is no such rainfall listed.

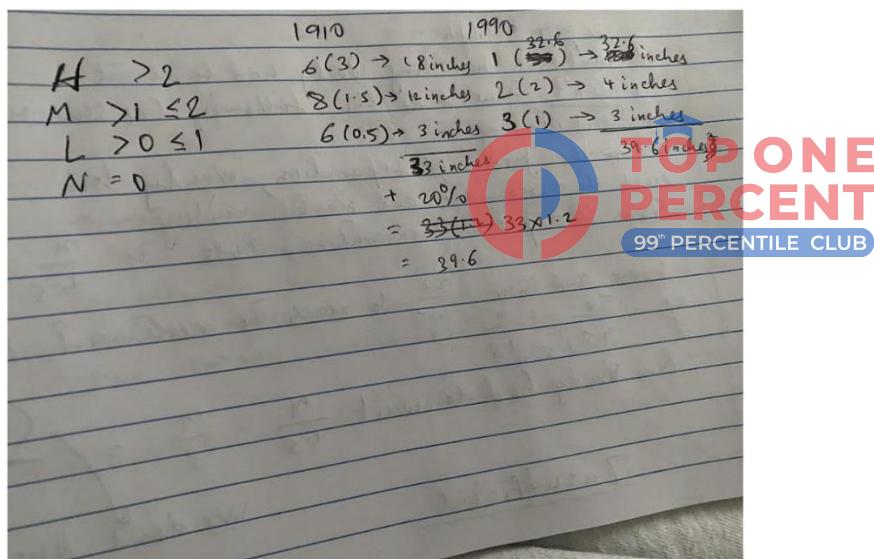
(D) the total number of inches of rain that fell on days with moderate rainfall in 1990 was more than twice what it had been in 1910

>> If 1910 received 1.5inch of rainfall, then 1990 would have received 3inch rainfall. But 2+ inch means heavy rainfall. So this is incorrect too.

(E) the average amount of rainfall per month was lower in 1990 than in 1910

>> This will mean that 1990 had less rainfall than 1910.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries



Under 1910 and 1990 columns, the parentheses represent rainfall in inches and the numbers outside the parentheses are the number of days of rainfall

When I started solving this the first thing that came to my mind is there are ranges of rainfall given not actual amounts, the number of days in each category is stated as an inequality, and they are asking which of the following can also be true. That means if I assume any numbers that satisfy the conditions given for the ranges of rainfall and numbers of days, everything else apart from the answer option should still be false.

Now I started with Option (A). I am trying to check if this can be true. 1990's total rainfall was higher, but the number of days for any rainfall category is lower than in 1910 if Option (A) is to be true (since the total rainfall amount in 1990 is 20% greater, we are not really concerned with the number of no rainfall days here). Next thought that should come to your mind, while choosing options, is ok, if number of days of rainfall is lower, but the total rainfall is more, let me try to maximize rainfall for each category in 1990. I did that here, I chose lower number of rainfall days, but maxed out the rainfall amount for L and M categories in 1990. As I mentioned above, since we know for any value that satisfies the range the options will not hold true except the correct answer option, I can choose any value in the range for 1910 L and M categories (I chose mid of the range). I see so far everything is onside of the conditions stated. Now, can Option (A) hold true? Notice that H category doesn't have an upper bound, the amount of rainfall can be any amount > 2 inches. I again chose a lower number of days in 1990 H category

but based on the value I had selected for 1910 amount of rainfall and number of days, put in an amount of rainfall that still made 1990's total rainfall 1.2x 1910's total rainfall with everything else satisfied, including what is stated in Option (A).

Lucked out that Option (A) is the correct answer, but if it wasn't we could have simply done a similar back of the envelope calculation for the other options - and stop at whichever one is the first one to possibly hold true (don't need to check the others because of what is being asked in the question)

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The answer is A.

The question is asking for an option that is possible but not necessarily true.

Stimulus tells us:

HR > 2  
MR 1 to 2  
LR 0 to 1  
No Rain 0

LR Days (1990) < LR Days (1910)  
MR Days (1990) < MR Days (1910)  
Yet, Total rainfall 1990 > Total rainfall 1910

A. the number of days with heavy rainfall was lower in 1990 than in 1910: CORRECT

This is possible. Even if HR Days (1990) < HR Days (1910), still 1990 could have had higher total rainfall. Think if in 1990, HR days were fewer, but on each one of those days, it rained 50 inches whereas in 1910, HR Days were more but on each one of those days, it rained only 3 inches, then total rainfall in 1990 could be higher than that of 1910. This is the answer.

B. the number of days with some rainfall, but no more than two inches, was the same in 1990 as in 1910.

Not possible because it is given that

LR Days (1990) < LR Days (1910)

MR Days (1990) < MR Days (1910)

So LR Days (1990) + MR Days (1990) < LR Days (1910) + MR Days (1910)

C. The number of days with some rainfall, but no more than two inches, was higher in 1990 than in 1910

Not possible because of the reason given in (B).

D. the total number of inches of rain that fell on days with moderate rainfall in 1990 was more than twice what it had been in 1910

Not Possible. On a moderate rainfall day, the amount of rainfall is more than 1 but less than 2. If the number of MR days in 1990 is less than the number of MR days in 1910, no amount of rain can make the total rainfall more than twice.

E. the average amount of rainfall per month was lower in 1990 than in 1910

Not Possible.

Total rain (1990) > Total rain (1910)

Average rain per month = (Total rain)/12

Total rain (1990)/12 > Total rain (1910)/12

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Given: In 1990 there were fewer days of moderate rainfall than in 1910

1 < Moderate rainfall  $\leq$  2 inches

Say,

1910 - 20 days

1990 - 19 days

Can this be correct

(D) the total number of inches of rain that fell on days with moderate rainfall in 1990 was more than twice what it had been in 1910

Is it possible that inches of rain on these 19 days of 1990 was more than twice of the inches of rain on these 20 days of 1920?

Let's look at the most favorable case - 20 days of 1910 had as little as possible rain on these moderate rain days and 19 days of 1990 had as much as possible.

1910 - 20 days - each day, rainfall was slightly more than 1 inch so total rainfall is slightly more than 20 inches  
1990 - 19 days - each day, rainfall was 2 inches (max possible) and so total rainfall is 38 inches

If 1990 had fewer days of moderate rainfall, it cannot have more than twice the rainfall of 1910.

For each day of 1990, you will need to have more than twice the rainfall of each day of 1910 but that is not possible because min rainfall on a moderate day is more than 1 and max is 2 (which is less than twice of 'more than 1')



108.

Students were observed.

Observation: Students who spent most time studying did not earn grades as high as did others who studied less (note that as per the argument "more time studying" = "more studying")

Conclusion: Studying more increased a student's chances of earning a higher grade.

This is a paradox question. We need to explain why researchers could have concluded what they did. As per observations, students who spent most time did not get the highest grades. Others who studied for less time got the highest grades. But still, the researchers concluded that studying more increases chances of a higher grades.

First thought here can be 'higher' relative to what? More studying would lead to higher grades than what they would have got with less studying. A person with a very high IQ could spend less time and still get an even higher grade. e.g. If Andy studies for 2 hrs a day, he gets B-. If he studies for 3 hrs a day, he gets B+. But Bob studies for only 1 hr a day and still gets A+. This would be consistent with the argument. Let's look at what the options have.

(A) The students who spent the most time studying earned higher grades than did some students who studied for less time than the average.

Doesn't explain the unexpected conclusion of the researchers. The students who spent the most time studying earned lower grades than did some students who studied for less time (the argument tells us). The students who spent the most time studying earned higher grades than did some students who studied for less time (this option tells us). Looks like time and grades don't have a strong connection. Why researchers concluded what they did, we cannot say.

(B) The students tended to get slightly lower grades as the academic year progressed.

Irrelevant



(C) In each course, the more a student studied, the better his or her grade was in that course.

This can explain the conclusion. It says the more one studies a course, the higher his grade in that course. The comparison of the student is with himself - when he studies less vs when he studies more. This leads to the conclusion while the observation is still viable.

(D) The students who spent the least time studying tended to be students with no more than average involvement in extracurricular activities.

Irrelevant

(E) Students who spent more time studying understood the course material better than other students did.

Doesn't explain the paradox. If more time means more understanding, then these students should have got the highest grades.

Answer (C)

#### **Alternate sol from powerscore**

Some of the students who got higher grades didn't study as much -- that's the primary fact provoking uncertainty in this stimulus. So you might imagine who those students could be -- for instance, those who have a natural aptitude for test-taking. Not all students need as much time to do well. So the fact that some get good grades with less effort than others, fits the fact that students have different levels of pre-existing ability and intelligence. But the hypothesis tests whether studying improves grades for each student, compared to how that student would do if s/he did not study, or studied less.

Here, the paradox is that the students that studied the most didn't receive grades as high as "many" who didn't study as much, but the researchers still concluded that the study showed that studying more leads to higher grades. Underlying this paradox is the lack of like-to-like comparisons; the conclusion is stating that an individual student is more likely to get a better grade in a class by studying more, while the premise is comparing students of varying aptitudes and showing that across all students, the greatest study time did not result in the highest grades.

Answer choice (A) fails to resolve this paradox because it doesn't get to the origin of the paradox, which is whether an individual student improves their chance of getting a higher grade by studying more. Instead, we're still comparing across students, and in a similarly vague way as in the stimulus.

C helps explain, because rather than comparing different students (who made need more or less studying based on different abilities), it compares each student's performance based on how \*that\* student will do if s/he studies more or less. It resolves our paradox by showing that the individual student could improve their own grade by studying more than they did prior, which allows that some students studying less (but with natural aptitude in some subjects) could still have higher grades overall than students who studied more overall.

109.

according to the passage, there is a fundamental conflict between

- (1) investment bankers who are raising capital for other companies, and
- (2) the banks' analysts, who sometimes send reports giving unfavorable evaluations of those companies.

in order to promote the "long-term success" of the company, the passage says the analyses of financial

institutions must be as unbiased as possible.

A. CORRECT.

If the analysts were rewarded based on the recommendations by the investment banker's manager, they'd be tempted to publish reports that would help group1

B. This would help the bank as it would give it an unbiased view of the financial health of a company

C. How will this hinder the long term prospects?

D. This would help the long term interest of the bank rather than hinder it.

E. Same as above. It would help in making the predictions by analysts more robust.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



The conclusion is: "**Analysis of companies' financial health need to be unbiased if an investment bank is to achieve long-term success.**"

Hence, we need to identify a practice that would cause the investment bank's **analysis of companies' financial health to be biased**, since that would **hinder its long-term success**.

Option A - If a manager is solely engaged in raising capital for clients, then that manager would certainly not want other clients wishing to make investments to see "unfavorable reports on the financial health of companies for whom they are raising capital." **Those managers would only want the clients making investments to see favorable reports** and would be more likely to give **positive recommendations for analysts who send favorable reports**. Because analysts want positive recommendations from those managers, the analysts would be more likely to send favorable reports. Thus, the **analysis by those analysts would be biased**, and, according to the author, this would **hinder the bank's long-term success**.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

We are asked to select an answer choice that would support one of the two hypotheses and undermine the other, so let's start by identifying the two hypotheses. Each of the following hypotheses is meant to explain why, "when running toward an insect, a tiger beetle will intermittently stop and then, a moment later, resume its attack."

1) "Perhaps the beetles cannot maintain their pace and must pause for a moment's rest." - According to this hypothesis, the beetles cannot sustain their pace while running toward an insect and, thus, stop intermittently to rest.

2) "While running, tiger beetles are unable to adequately process the resulting rapidly changing visual information and so quickly go blind and stop." - According to this hypothesis, tiger beetles are exposed to rapidly changing visual information while running. The beetles are unable to adequately process all of this information, causing them to quickly go blind. The beetles must then pause until the blindness passes and they can resume their chase.

(A) When a prey insect is moved directly toward a beetle that has been chasing it, the beetle immediately stops and runs away without its usual intermittent stopping.

We are looking for information that helps us evaluate two hypotheses that might explain why, "when running toward an insect, a tiger beetle will intermittently stop and then, a moment later, resume its attack." Choice (A) only tells us what happens when a prey insect is moved directly *toward* a beetle and, thus, does not help us evaluate either hypothesis. Eliminate (A).

(B) In pursuing a swerving insect, a beetle alters its course while running and its pauses become more frequent as the chase progresses.

According to the second hypothesis, the beetle **must** intermittently pause in order to process visual information. If the beetle is able to continually alter its course while running after a swerving insect, this implies that the beetle does NOT need to pause to process the visual information. Thus, the first part of choice (B) undermines the second hypothesis.

According to the first hypothesis, the beetle must pause in order to rest because it cannot sustain its pace. The second part of choice (B) is consistent with this hypothesis. If the pauses become more frequent as the chase progresses, this is evidence that it becomes more and more difficult for the beetle to sustain its pace without resting.

Thus, choice (B) undermines the second hypothesis and supports the first hypothesis. This is exactly what we are looking for, so keep (B).

(C) In pursuing a moving insect, a beetle usually responds immediately to changes in the insect's direction, and it pauses equally frequently whether the chase is up or down an incline.

The first part of choice (C) also undermines the second hypothesis. If the beetle is able to respond immediately to changes in the insect's direction, this is evidence that the beetle is able to process the rapidly changing visual information without pausing.

In order for choice (C) to work, the second part must SUPPORT the first hypothesis. which says that the beetles must pause for rest in order to maintain their pace. If that were the case, we would expect the pauses to be MORE frequent when the chase is up an incline (since it would take more effort for the beetle to maintain its pace). However, choice (C) says that the beetle pauses **EQUALLY** frequently whether the chase is up or down an incline. At best, we could argue that this doesn't necessarily weaken the first hypothesis, but it certainly does not support the first hypothesis. Thus, choice (C) must be eliminated.

(D) If, when a beetle pauses, it has not gained on the insect it is pursuing, the beetle generally ends its pursuit.

Choice (D) does not give us any evidence related to the intermittent pauses and thus does not support or undermine either hypothesis. Eliminate (D).

(E) The faster a beetle pursues an insect fleeing directly away from it, the more frequently the beetle stops.

Choice (E) supports the first hypothesis by suggesting that the beetle gets tired faster when it is running faster. This supports the idea that the beetle must pause for rest in order to maintain its pace. Choice (E) also seems to support the second hypothesis. When the beetle is running faster, it has to process more visual information, leading to more frequent stops. Choice

(E) does not undermine either hypothesis and, thus, must be eliminated.

Choice (B) is the best answer.

111.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

On strengthen, weaken, and assumption questions, I generally start with the conclusion, stated exactly in the passage's own words. In this case, the conclusion is basically the second and fourth sentences of the paragraph:

This success rate, exceptionally high for university fund-raisers, does not indicate that they were doing a good job... The high success rate shows insufficient canvassing effort.

Great, and what's the evidence to support this conclusion? Well, we know that fund-raisers have succeeded in getting donations from 80% of the potential donors they contacted, and "since the people most likely to donate are those who have donated in the past, good fund-raisers constantly try less-likely prospects in an effort to expand the donor base."

Bottom line: the argument is accusing Smithtown's fund-raisers of being lousy, lazy fundraisers who just keep contacting people who have donated in the past. The correct answer will support the conclusion that the fund-raisers were not "doing a good job" and that "the high success rate shows insufficient canvassing effort."

On to the answer choices:

(A) Smithtown University's fund-raisers were successful in their contacts with potential donors who had never given before about as frequently as were fund-raisers for other universities in their contacts with such people.



This looks pretty good! Again: we're trying to find support for the idea that the fund-raisers were not "doing a good job" and that "the high success rate shows insufficient canvassing effort."

(A) is telling us that the Smithtown fund-raisers were no better than those of other universities – so that supports the idea that they were not necessarily "doing a good job." Plus, if Smithtown's fund-raisers were just as unsuccessful with potential new donors as other universities, then it must be the case that the "exceptionally high" 80% success rate came from targeting previous donors.

It's hard to imagine that we'll beat (A), but we always want to find four wrong answers -- so let's go through the rest of them:

(B) This year the average size of the donations to Smithtown University from new donors when the university's fund-raisers had contacted was larger than the average size of donations from donors who had given to the university before.

Nope. If this is true, perhaps the fund-raisers deserve a cookie, but it's not terribly relevant to the argument. We're trying to support the idea that "the high success rate shows insufficient canvassing effort." The SIZE of donations from new donors tells us nothing about canvassing effort.

(C) This year most of the donations that came to Smithtown University from people who had previously donated to it were made without the university's fund-raisers having made any contact with the donors.

This is pretty much irrelevant to the conclusion. It just tells us that a lot of people donated without being contacted. This doesn't tell us anything about the fund-raisers' canvassing efforts with new donors, or whether they were "doing a good job" in general.

(D) The majority of the donations that fund-raisers succeeded in getting for Smithtown University this year were from donors who had never given to the university before.

Nope. This would definitely weaken the argument. If this is true, then the fund-raisers must have contacted a lot of new potential donors, with a high degree of success.

(E) More than half of the money raised by Smithtown University's fund-raisers came from donors who had never previously donated to the university.

If anything, this one weakens the argument. If (E) is true, it would be awfully hard to argue that the fundraisers were not "doing a good job" with new donors.

So (A) is our winner!

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(A) - The point here is that Smithtown University's fundraisers had about as much success as did fund-raisers from other universities (so they had average 'market-level' success) when reaching out to non-past donors. But their overall success rate was very high. How would this be possible, unless the vast majority of their donations came from past donors (as a percentage of total donors). This is essentially a weighted average problem where the weights and averages are not given

(C) - C is wrong due to who had previously donated it.

C is talking about most of the donations from old donors.  
C is not talking about most of the donations.



112.

- A. We are concerned with the increase in the number of jobs and the average pay overall and not just in the last 3 years.
- B. Whether the average pay was low when mayor took office is immaterial to the conclusion.
- C. We know that overall more jobs were created than eliminated making this irrelevant.

D. CORRECT.

If this were untrue, and if the jobs that were eliminated paid much higher than the average but the new jobs that were created did not pay as much as the jobs eliminated (the pay is still higher than average though) then the overall paycheck would not have risen.

However by indicating that the jobs that were eliminated paid around the average, this tells us that the new jobs indeed have a higher pay scale than before.

- E. We are not concerned with the suburbs.

113.

larger moths have higher optimal body temperature. This would mean that they have to remain inactive in the lower temperatures. Such lower temperatures could possibly be conducive for smaller moths with lower optimal body temperature.

- A. this is irrelevant to their optimal temperature.

B. CORRECT.

This as they can evade predators while flight better than the smaller moths, this explains why they are more common in warmer areas.

- C. This is not explained by the higher optimal temperatures of the large moth.
- D. Irrelevant.



- E. irrelevant.

114

A. CORRECT.

This indicates that most people taking the survey plan to use the highway even after the railways are expanded. Therefore if all these people continued to drive to work, the congestion on the highway won't ease despite the expansion of the railways.

B. We are concerned with the majority.

C. This neither helps nor weakens the evaluation of why railway expansion will not achieve its goal.

D. Irrelevant. Once again we are not told how this would prevent the traffic on the highway from easing.

E. Same as D.

115.

we need a choice that DIRECTLY speaks of the jay's lack of navigational ability.

A. where the jays lay their eggs has nothing whatsoever to do with navigational ability. (this may just mean that they're clever enough to take advantage of others' nests, like cuckoos, rather than going to the trouble of building their own.)

B. Irrelevant. We are discussing just the jays here.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that the jays are unable to migrate to north by themselves and is a direct attack on their navigation abilities.

D. Irrelevant. Same as B.



116.

Note that the passage says 2 things

1) every 2 misdiagnosis for every 98 correct diagnosis

2) use of the machine will help avoid unnecessary operations without making the doctors perform any fewer necessary operations – this simply means on using the machine, everyone who needs an operation will get one.

Therefore the misdiagnosis cannot be a situation where a patient in need of an operation is told its unnecessary.

A. This does not tell us about the cases that the machine misdiagnoses.

B. CORRECT. This properly explains why using the machine will cut down unnecessary operations without cutting down the necessary ones.

C. But what about the ones who are diagnosed as not having it?

D. Same as above.

E. But do these patients have appendicitis? Unless we know the answer to this the passage cannot be completed.

117.

When Colson, a non discount store, opened, a new store opened in the place of every store that shut because it could not compete with Colson.

The argument is, similarly when SpendLess, a discount store, opens, a new store will open in the place of every discount store that shuts down as it cannot compete with SpendLess.

What can weaken this logic?

A. We are not concerned with the effect on Colson's business.

B. CORRECT. Since discount stores are not competition to non-discount ones, a lot of discount stores opened near colson's. But the same logic cannot apply to SpendLess as it is a discount store. We also know that nondiscount stores cannot open in place of the discount stores that are shutting down due to competition from Colson's. So the area will probably be vacant.

C. We know they are expected to close. So this is irrelevant.

D. But how does this ensure that shops will open in the location of vacant stores?

E. IF this were true then they wouldn't have to shut at all.

"Although the discount stores in Goreville's central shopping district are expected to close within five years as a result of competition from a SpendLess discount department store that just opened, those locations will not stay vacant for long"  
This is the premise and we have to assume its true.

118.

A. Out of scope. We do not care about the time; we care if the workers are been paid the minimum wage or not

B. Out of scope. If the companies did not comply with the law before, they will not comply with the new wage either

C. CORRECT. IF this were true then increase in minimum wages will drive up the wages of not just the trainees but also the trained workers who must be paid more in comparison

D. Out of scope. We do not care about the sectors

E. Out of scope. We do not care if the minimum wage is enough or not. We only care if many people are going to be affected with the new minimum wage.

119.

A. Does not help explain the discrepancy.

B. CORRECT.

This would explain why the doctor has to spend more time with a patient before prescribing a treatment.

C. The amount of time spent in a physician's office is unaffected by this

D. same as C. This is completely out of scope.

E. Then the time spent with each patient should decrease.

120.

- A. CORRECT. This option provides the most support.
- B. This may provide a reason for supporting the proposal but provides no support for whether removing the boxes will reduce prank calls without hampering people's ability to report fire.
- C. This indicates that it is better to receive calls from telephones than from alarm boxes. But once again this provides no support for whether removing the boxes will reduce prank calls without hampering people's ability to report fire.
- D. this suggests that it would be good if the plan had the desired effect.
- E. This actually weakens the argument by suggesting that the only person aware that the fire has started is near an alarm box but lacks access to a telephone.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

The "announced effect" is that removing the fire alarm boxes on street corners "will reduce the number of prank calls without hampering people's ability to report a fire."

Why does the commissioner believe that removing those alarm boxes will reduce the number of prank calls? "The vast majority of false fire alarms are prank calls made anonymously from fire alarm boxes." The commissioner implies that it would be more difficult to make anonymous prank calls from private telephones rather than from public fire alarm boxes on street corners, but what if that isn't the case?

Also, what if removing those public fire alarm boxes limits people's ability to report fires? According to the commissioner, this is not a problem "since virtually everyone has access to a private telephone."

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the claim that the proposal, if carried out, "will reduce the number of prank calls without hampering people's ability to report a fire."?

- (A) The fire department traces all alarm calls made from private records where they came from.

The commissioner claims that the number of prank calls would be reduced if people could only report fires with private telephones rather than with public fire alarm boxes. But what if people could still make anonymous reports from their private telephones? That would weaken the commissioners argument. Choice (A) assures us that the private calls will, in fact, be traced, likely discouraging people from making prank calls from their private telephones. Thus, (A) supports the commissioner's claim.

- (B) Maintaining the fire alarm boxes costs Springfield approximately five million dollars annually.

The cost of maintaining the fire alarm boxes has nothing to do with the effect that removing those boxes would have on the number of prank calls or people's ability to report fires. Eliminate (B).

- (C) A telephone call can provide the fire department with more information about the nature and size of a fire than can an alarm placed from an alarm box.

Choice (C) describes a possible advantage of reporting fires with private telephones instead of fire alarm boxes. However, as with choice (B), this has nothing to do with the effect that removing those boxes would have on the number of prank calls or people's ability to report fires. (C) is out.

- (D) Responding to false alarms significantly reduces the fire department's capacity for responding to fires.

Choice (D) explains a negative consequence of prank calls but does give us any reason to believe that removing the fire alarm boxes would reduce the number of prank calls. Eliminate (D).

- (E) On any given day, a significant percentage of the public telephones in Springfield are out of service.

Choice (E) might strengthen the commissioner's claim that the "alarm boxes have outlived their usefulness," but it does not support the commissioner's claim that the proposal "will reduce the number of prank calls without hampering people's ability

to report a fire." Eliminate (E).

Choice (A) is the best answer.

121.

The discrepancy here is since only 30% of the zoo employees have developed an allergy while more than 30% of the general public has developed an allergy despite the same kind of exposure.

A. CORRECT.

This could mean that over 30% of the zoo employees developed an allergy but left as soon as they did and hence were not reflected in the survey.

B. We already know that the amount of time spent by the general public and the zoo employee, in the survey, with animals is the same.

C. This is irrelevant since we are calculating percentages.

D. If this were true, a lesser % of the general public should have reported allergy than the zoo employees.

E. Irrelevant. Since the general population does wear protection either, this would level the playing field. But it does not explain the discrepancy.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The argument says that the experts concluded that among members of the general population who have spent a similarly large amount of time in close contact with animals, the percentage with animal-induced allergies is not 30 percent but substantially more.



This conclusion was based on the fact that in a survey of current employees in major zoos, about 30 percent had animal-induced allergies.

We need to find the option which strengthens this conclusion. We need to look for a reason that strengthens.

Option E says that Zoo employees hardly wear protective gear when they handle animals in care. All this says is that zoo employees are susceptible to allergies. Okay? Be that as it may, does the option say anything about why members of the general population who have spent a similarly large amount of time in close contact with animals will have an infection rate of more than 30%? No, it doesn't. So, this option is incorrect. (Remember! Our job is to choose an option that explains why experts think the percentage of infections in the general population will be more. This option does not address that.)

122.

This is exactly the reverse of the previous one.

Given that we know zoo employees switch jobs, it follows that "Among members of the general population who have spent as much time with animals as zoo employees typically have, the percentage with animal-induced allergies is significantly more than 30 percent"

Option E is correct.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Let's see what the argument says:

People who spend a lot of time with animals often develop allergies. (A statement about people in general, not zoo workers) According to a survey, 30% of current zoo workers have allergies. ('Zoo workers' were chosen to do the survey because they spend a lot of time with animals. So they represent 'people who spend a lot of time with animals'. Whatever we deduce from this survey could probably be applied to people in the population who spend a lot of time with animals. Does it mean that 30% of people who spend a lot of time with animals develop allergies? Not really. Read the next statement.) Zoo workers who develop serious allergies change jobs.

What does this mean? It means that probably, the incidence of developing allergies by spending a lot of time with animals is higher than 30%. When zoo workers develop allergies, they leave jobs. Right now 30% of the zoo workers have allergies. So if you account for people who left zoo job due to allergies, probably the incidence of developing allergies is much higher.

(E) says that among people who spend as much time with animals as zoo workers, the % with animal induced allergies could be much more than 30%. the argument does support this statement.

Note that developing allergies happens over a period of time, not at a point in time. So when someone develops a serious allergy, it will take months or even years. Quitting will happen after this. So at any point in time, you would expect some zoo workers to have allergies (serious or not-so-serious)

The argument tells us that 30% of the zoo workers have allergies. When the allergies will become serious enough (again, this is a continuous scale. There isn't an immediate jump from normal to serious), they will quit. Hence, including those who quit, percentage of zoo workers who get allergies will be higher than 30%.

Then in general population too, people who spend as much time with animals, more than 30% will get allergies.

Option (A) – We can safely presume that people who work at zoos spend a lot of time in contact with animals, but notice that the passage does not say anything about "the general population." The passage doesn't tell us what percentage of people in the general population develop animal-induced allergies or what percentage of people in the general population spend a lot of time in contact with animals. So, the passage does not provide any reason for concluding what (A) says about the incidence of serious animal-induced allergies in zoo employees versus that among the general population.

In fact, since, presumably, people who work in zoos spend more time in contact with animals than the average person in the general population spends, it seems possible that the incidence of such allergies in zoo employees is higher than that in the general population even though the passage says that a zoo employee who develops a serious animal-induced allergy is very likely to switch to some other occupation.

So, (A) is not supported by the passage.

Option (B) is not supported by the argument. Note that the argument does not differentiate between "zoo workers" and "others who spend a lot of time with animals". So we cannot say whether zoo workers have more serious allergies or "others who spend an equally large amount of time with animals". They all come under "people who spend a lot of time with animals". The survey was conducted on zoo animals - an example of "people who spend a lot of time with animals".

Option (D) – It is not necessary that ALL other occupations would have lower risk of animal induced allergy. Say for vets, the risk could be 40%.

The zoo employee doesn't HAVE to switch to a vet's job. He could become an accountant, a job in which the risk of animal induced allergy might be 0%. There would be many other jobs in which the risk would be much lower.

123.

What is the hypothesis? That '*the herb's histidine production is what allows it to grow in metal-rich soil*'. We need to choose an option that **strengthens/supports** this hypothesis.

(A) - Now, A says that histidine is found in all parts of the plant. Okay? We already know that the histidine content of the herb is high. How does A help us? It just tells us that histidine is present in all the locations. **But that is the reason that the histidine content of the herb is high.** And we already know this. So A gives us no relevant information.

A fails to give us a reason to believe the hypothesis. It gives us no additional information to strengthen the hypothesis. Make sure you understand the hypothesis. It is saying that histidine production is what allows the herb to grow. That means that we already know that the amount of histidine in the herb is high. Knowing the exact location where the histidine is concentrated will not help us. We are looking for something else here.

(B) – Does not help in evaluation

(C) – “Possibly, therefore, the herb's high histidine production is **what allows it to grow in metal-rich soils**, a hypothesis that would gain support if...” \_\_\_\_\_.

and, from earlier,

“A certain cultivated herb is one of a group of closely related plants **that thrive in soil with high concentrations of metals...**”

Putting the two together, we can say that answer choice (C) strengthens the hypothesis in the following manner:

*If others of the closely related group of plants [that thrive in soil with high concentrations of metals] are also found to produce histidine in large quantities, then these herbs' high histidine production is what may allow them to grow in metal-rich soils.*

The causation (from histidine production) is certainly strengthened if this whole family of herbs thrives in metal-rich soils.

Note – “Countries that manufacture nuclear arms are feared the most.”

- That refers to countries (plural) ... are is plural
- That thrive goes to plants not the herb
- Just look at the verb thrive... it is plural



(D) - *Cultivation of the herb in soil with high concentrations of the metals will, over an extended period, make the soil suitable for plants to which the metals are toxic.*

Here, it is unclear HOW cultivation of the herb makes the soil suitable for other plants.

The soil could become suitable for any number of reasons.

To strengthen the conclusion, the correct answer must connect a high production of HISTIDINE to the ability to grow in metal-rich soil.

Only C accomplishes this goal.

Eliminate D.

(E) - Irrelevant. The hypothesis that herb's high histidine production is what allows it to grow in metal-rich soils would in no way be strengthened by this option.

124.

The conclusion suggests that manatees can't bear the noises a slow moving boat makes and therefore its useless to maintain low speeds (which would avoid collision with the manatee but make sounds the creature can't bear anyway)

- A. This does not strengthen/weaken the conclusion in any way
- B. by indicating that hyacinths are the main food for the mantas and are disturbed by fast moving boats, this slightly weakens the conclusion. But we still are not told anything about slow moving boats.
- C. Once again we are not told how boats avoiding collision will make things worse.
- D. We already know that the manatee are irritated by the sound of slow boats. Makes this irrelevant.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that banning fast moving boats cannot make things worse as it will avoid collision for one and since the manatee cannot distinguish between the sounds of fast boats and slow ones, both are bound to irritate them equally.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The conclusion is that "*Therefore, this approach may in fact make things worse rather than better*".

What approach is being referred to here? The approach is that (*boat traffic in manatee-populated waters is being required to maintain very low speeds*).

We need to weaken the conclusion here. Meaning, we need to choose an option that gives us reason to believe that the **approach will not make things worse**.

Look at C now. C is saying that *over the last several decades, boat traffic in Florida's coastal waters has been increasing almost continuously and now represents the greatest threat to the endangered manatee population*. Does this at all talk about if the approach will make things better or worse? Absolutely not. It simply says that boat traffic represents the greatest threat to the manatee population and therefore, makes no distinction between the impact of the initial speed and the "very low speeds". Therefore, it is out of scope and is not our answer.

Look at E now. E is saying that *when experimenters exposed manatees to the recorded sounds of boats moving at various speeds, the creatures were unable to discern the sounds over normal-background noise*. So if you were to expose a manatee to sounds of various speeds, it would not be able to differentiate between the speeds. And so there is essentially no difference between the initial state (where the boats did not maintain "very low speeds") and the future state (where the boats maintained "very low speeds") because different boat speeds do not change the behaviour/movement of manatees. And so the **approach will not make things WORSE**. Rather, things will stay the same. E attacks the conclusion and is our answer.

125.

- 1) Better healthcare in Rubaria than in Terland.
- 2) Overall death rate higher in Terland

Yet fewer men die of prostate cancer in Terland than they do in Rubaria.  
We know this is not due to better healthcare. Then what could be the cause?

- A. This creates more doubt rather than explain the disparity.
- B. CORRECT.  
This means that by the time the men in Terland reach an age where they can contract prostate cancer, they are already dead.
- C. The option just says people in Terland are no more susceptible to cancer than the people in Rubaria. This does not explain the discrepancy.
- D. This should ideally mean people died of cancer lesser in Rubaria than in Terland.
- E. ok, but why is the rate so low on Terland?

### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

For starters, Option (E) doesn't talk about Terland at all. We already know it cannot be correct, but here is why. Even if the death rate from prostate cancer in men *in Rubaria* is higher for those men that do not take full advantage of Rubaria's health care system, we still only know why the death rate in Rubaria *may possibly* be explained. However, what about the death rate of Rubaria compared to that of Terland? Option (E) is silent on this and hence is incorrect.

Now let's look carefully at what the passage is saying. R has better healthcare by far, T has very little by way of healthcare - and this is reflected in a general higher death rate for most diseases in T *except* for the death rate among men from prostate cancer, which is comparatively higher in R. Even before looking at the options, think of something that would help explain this, and then read on.

I can think of a few:

- i) If R's healthcare system, while being universal and great, has deficiencies when it comes to treating prostate cancer, whereas T's, while being pretty crappy in general, has an abnormally good prostate cancer treatment system
- ii) *Another possibility is that men who develop and die from prostate cancer anywhere, tend to do so when they are old and beyond a certain age. Since T's general healthcare system is so bad, men in T are not even living to that age, then how will they develop and die from prostate cancer? So T's numbers show an abnormally low death rate from the diseases. Whereas, because R in general has a great healthcare system, men live way longer than the age for developing prostate cancer and dying from it, and thus tend to do so in R in larger numbers*

We can think aloud other potential explanations too, but we see that (ii) above is almost given verbatim in Option (B), which is our answer

### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Look at each side of the disparity discussed in the passage:



On one hand, we know that "In Rubaria, excellent health care is available to virtually the entire population, whereas very few people in Terland receive adequate medical care." In addition, "the death rate for most diseases is higher in Terland than in Rubaria." This makes sense so far -- Rubaria has excellent healthcare and a lower death rate for most diseases, while Terland has inadequate healthcare and a higher death rate for most diseases.

And here is the other side of the disparity: "the percentage of the male population that dies from prostate cancer is significantly higher in Rubaria than in Terland." So, while "the death rate for most diseases is higher in Terland than in Rubaria," the **opposite** is true for prostate cancer.

Our task is to find an answer choice that explains why a higher percentage of men in Rubaria die of prostate cancer, despite the fact they receive much better healthcare than the men in Terland.

Let's first look at (B):

B) This tells us that men with prostate cancer are generally very old -- older, in fact, than men are expected to live in Terland. In other words, most men in Terland have **already died off** for some other reason before they could develop prostate cancer. In Rubaria, on the other hand, men live to a ripe old age and then develop prostate cancer. This explains why a higher percentage of Rubarian men die of prostate cancer than do Terlandian men -- they live long enough to contract the disease. Not a very cheerful explanation, but it does explain the disparity in the passage. (B) is the correct answer.

Now look at (E):

E) This answer choice tells us that men who use the excellent healthcare system in Rubaria have a lower death rate than the men who do not use the healthcare system. This makes sense: the men who receive treatment have better outcomes. However, we are trying to figure out why the death rate is lower in Terland, a place that does **not** have a great healthcare system -- in other words, why men who do **not** receive adequate treatment somehow have better outcomes (measured by percentage of men who die of prostate cancer). This answer choice does not explain the disparity at all, so eliminate (E).

126.

Decline in alligator population has led to a decline in the fish population as well. Which option explains why?

A. This is irrelevant as we know the total amount of fishes caught hasn't changed.

B. Same as above.

C. The reason for hunting alligators is immaterial. We know that their population has decreased. That's all we are concerned with.

D. CORRECT.

In the absence of these holes, the fish eggs probably did not have a place to hatch at.  
This clearly explains how alligators helped in the growth of the fish population as well.

E. Irrelevant. We already their population is declining.



If the tariffs were removed, the processing plants might have to buy cashew for a higher price causing them to lose their profit margins. This would in turn increase urban unemployment

A. Irrelevant. We are discussing removing tariff on unprocessed cashew. The by products and its manufacture is irrelevant.

B. Irrelevant. We are discussing Kernland only.

C. The argument talks of reducing urban unemployment and not improving the general economic situation of Kernland.  
So we need to deal with this from the perspective of urban unemployment only.

D. This strengthens the argument slightly by indicating the advantages of lowered tariffs for processing plants.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that removing tariff is causing farmers (who are unable to make a profit on cashews) to move to the city in search of a job. This would then drive up the urban unemployment rates defeating the purpose of lowered tariffs.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Farmers produce cashew (obviously unprocessed) -> That unprocessed cashew has high export tariffs which makes its international price much more than world markets (uncompetitive) -> This disincentivizes the export of cashew from Kernland -> Cashews are sent to processing plants (most of which are in urban areas) -> This helps prop up employment numbers in urban areas.

If the tariffs are removed, more cashew will be exported, less will be processed domestically, more urban processing plants will be negatively affected, urban employment will be negatively affected - this is the argument the passage establishes.

Now if this happens, cashew crop will become profitable. The negation of Option (E) will happen - farmers will not move en masse to cities any more. Production of cashew will not fall (what you were thinking), and this gives the best chance for unprocessed cashew to continue going to plants to be processed.



A. Irrelevant. If anything it looks to strengthen the politician's stand.

B. CORRECT. This means that they're already making almost as much as they can today. In addition, they were not making anywhere near as much as they could 12 years ago and 5 years ago. That's a change from the last two times when exports went up a lot. This indicates that the weakening the currency this time may not work as expected.

C. Irrelevant. While this option makes a good point, we are not looking for the best plan to strengthen Dafir's economy. Rather we need to find what will weaken the politician's argument

D. Irrelevant. Is the issue whether other countries have stable currencies? Do we know about those other countries during the previous 2 periods (12 years ago and 5 years ago)? No – not from the argument and not from this choice

E. Irrelevant. This might be true; perhaps this is a better plan overall... but they didn't ask to find a better plan. They are asking you to weaken the given conclusion. Does it address the stated conclusion, which is to increase exports specifically by weakening the currency? No

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Politician's recommendation: government should allow the pundra to become weak again.

The intention of the recommendation: To increase exports.

The point: Weakening the Pundra will cause an increase in exports. We need to weaken this point. Basically, supporting that even after Weakening the Pundra, this action will NOT cause an increase in exports. What other factors can increase exports is not relevant in this question.

We are concerned about the outcome when currency is weakened, not about other stimuli/factors which might/might not affect the exports. Option E mentions other factors that can increase the exports but does not weaken this- " Weakening the Pundra will cause an increase in exports".

## **Latest – all other types of questions – mixed-bag**

### **Answer Key**

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| 1. D  | 45. A |
| 2. A  | 46. A |
| 3. A  | 47. C |
| 4. E  | 48. E |
| 5. A  | 49. B |
| 6. D  | 50. C |
| 7. C  | 51. A |
| 8. D  | 52. A |
| 9. C  | 53. E |
| 10. B | 54. E |
| 11. E | 55. A |
| 12. E | 56. B |
| 13. B | 57. D |
| 14. B | 58. B |
| 15. C | 59. D |
| 16. E | 60. A |
| 17. A | 61. D |
| 18. A | 62. B |
| 19. E | 63. B |
| 20. D | 64. D |
| 21. B | 65. E |
| 22. E | 66. C |
| 23. A | 67. E |
| 24. C | 68. A |
| 25. C | 69. D |
| 26. E | 70. E |
| 27. B | 71. B |
| 28. E | 72. A |
| 29. A | 73. C |
| 30. C | 74. D |
| 31. E | 75. E |
| 32. C | 76. E |
| 33. D | 77. E |
| 34. C | 78. A |
| 35. B | 79. B |
| 36. D | 80. B |
| 37. D | 81. C |
| 38. D | 82. E |
| 39. E | 83. B |
| 40. A | 84. C |
| 41. B | 85. D |
| 42. A | 86. D |
| 43. E | 87. A |
| 44. B | 88. A |



- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| 89. C  | 122. B |
| 90. E  | 123. E |
| 91. D  | 124. C |
| 92. A  | 125. B |
| 93. E  | 126. E |
| 94. B  | 127. C |
| 95. D  | 128. B |
| 96. D  | 129. E |
| 97. D  | 130. B |
| 98. E  | 131. B |
| 99. C  | 132. C |
| 100. B | 133. E |
| 101. C | 134. D |
| 102. B | 135. D |
| 103. B | 136. B |
| 104. D | 137. B |
| 105. E | 138. D |
| 106. E | 139. E |
| 107. A | 140. A |
| 108. A | 141. C |
| 109. C | 142. A |
| 110. B | 143. D |
| 111. A | 144. C |
| 112. E | 145. B |
| 113. D | 146. A |
| 114. C | 147. E |
| 115. A | 148. C |
| 116. C | 149. A |
| 117. C | 150. C |
| 118. C |        |
| 119. B |        |
| 120. C |        |
| 121. B |        |



## Solutions

1.

the argument is looking at a decrease the proportion of interstate retirees who are moving to florida, andinterpreting this as something that is going to hurt florida's businesses.

the only reasonable way to process this argument is to realize that the author is confusing a percentage/proportion decrease with an absolute decrease (i.e., decrease in the actual number of retirees moving into the state), since a decrease in that actual number is the only thing that would reasonably lead to badtimes for these businesses.

therefore:

\* anything that separates the percentage/proportion from the actual number will be a weakener.

A. irrelevant, because nothing about the size of the number itself, either in absolute terms or in comparison to other states' numbers, matters -- we are only concerned with whether the number decreases.

B. We are concerned specifically with the number of retirees moving to florida.

C. has nothing to do with this argument, since tourists (and so, businesses catering to those tourists) areirrelevant -- the argument deals only with the interests of businesses that deal with retirees.  
i.e., businesses dealing with tourists are no more relevant than businesses dealing with, say, children or disabledpeople.

D. CORRECT

Now assume that last year 1000 people retired and moved to another state. Out of these 1000 people, 100 ofthem move to Florida. That means, 10% of the people moved to Florida.

This year, the % of the people moved to Florida decreased by 3%. That means, only 7% of the total peoplemoved to Florida.

Now, choice D states that the total number of ~~people~~ who ~~retired~~ and moved to other states increased significantly. Let us assume that a total of 10,000 people moved this year (where as it was 1000 people lastyear).

Now,  $7\% \text{ of } 10,000 = 700$  is the number of ~~people~~ who moved to Florida. Even though the % decreased, theactual number of people moved to Florida increased. This would ~~weaken~~ the argument.

E. We already know the total number of people retiring ~~to~~ florida has decreased.

2.

ALL this really says is:

the average coal output per miner, for ALL of tribinia, has doubled over the last 5 years.

that's it.

this means that there could be vast differences between miners; this is only a national average. in particular, it is totally possible that some miners, and some mines, are LESS productive than they were 5 years ago.

...and no new mines have opened.

however, the existing miners could have added, or laid off, miners. there is no information in the passage about the # of workers at each mine.

in fact, there could now be 100 times as many miners as there were before, at every mine or 1% as many as before. we have no idea at all.

A. CORRECT.

this choice deals with the WHOLE NATION of tribinia, so we can use the quoted statistic.

5 years ago, there were N number of miners, and their production rate was X units of coal per miner. that's a total of NX.

now, there are still N number of miners, but their production has increased to 2X units of coal per miner. that's a total of 2NX.

B. you can't assume that the NATIONAL trend applies to INDIVIDUAL mines.

also, it's entirely possible that this result could have come from adding miners to the mine's work force.

can't prove the statement.

C. totally hypothetical. no grounds whatsoever to prove (or disprove) this one.

D. it's possible that the mines added workers.

if a mine added workers, then its TOTAL OUTPUT could increase despite a decrease in the per-worker output.

(i.e., think about 100 workers producing 3 units each, vs. 200 workers producing 2 units each.)

can't prove the statement.

E. totally unrelated to anything in the passage.



3.

A. CORRECT.

This properly identifies a factor that would make the farmers respond positively.

B. If the dishes look different than the traditional sweet potato dishes, the people might be less likely to eat them, in such a situation the plan's success would be less likely.

C. the comparison is between sweet potato grown in this region and SPK004 only. We are not concerned with the other varieties of Sweet Potato

D. This undermines the success of the plan by suggesting that SPK004 could negatively affect nutrition.

E. This does nothing to tell us whether the plan to promote SPK004 will succeed or not.

4.

A. This is relevant to an extent - it tends to weaken the hypothesis. It makes it less likely the possibility that Neanderthals used other types of musical instruments employing the diatonic scale.

B. This also weakens the hypothesis because it states that there is no known evidence of a certain type that would support the hypothesis (by refuting the presence of such a flute before the Neanderthals). Also, this option does not tell us whether the flute found at the campsite did indeed contain all the seven notes that comprises of a diatonic scale.

C. The fact that the cave-bear bone fragment that was apparently a flute came from a site where many other cave-bear skeletal remains were found has little bearing on the hypothesis, and in no way supports it.

D. Even if this were false - even if a simpler instrument could be constructed that used the diatonic scale - the existence of a flute employing the diatonic scale would provide no less support for the hypothesis.

E. CORRECT. If this were untrue i.e if the bone fragment had not been large enough to create the seven note scale, then the bone fragment's existence would not provide support for the hypothesis.

5.

Lets compare information about the two crops

Winter wheat

→ lower yield per acre than spring wheat

Spring Wheat

→ higher yield per acre than winter wheat.

Now for the farmers to make more profit from spring wheat, all other factors such as

a) cost of cultivation

b) demand and therefore price

must remain the same for both kinds of wheat. We are told that both kinds of wheat are equally profitable. Will the new restrictions placed by the government cause any changes to the above factors?

Lets see if any of the above factors are addressed in the options.

A. CORRECT

This very clearly lower yield per acre of winter wheat will not be compensated by higher prices (this means that lower availability will not lead to higher demand and higher prices). Since we already know the cost of cultivation for both winter wheat and spring wheat is the same, this option tells us that it will definitely be more profitable to cultivate spring wheat,

B. The farmers are deciding between winter wheat and spring wheat. Which means either winter OR spring. This makes option B irrelevant.

C. Just because spring wheat is well adapted, it does not indicate that winter wheat is not well adapted. Since no comparison is made, this does not tell us why spring wheat would be more profitable

D. Once again, the passage tells us that both are equally profitable. Makes this irrelevant.

E. the comparison is between spring wheat and winter wheat.



6.

A. We already know that the plan is to distinguish based on color and that the prototype can do this. The stark color difference, although good, is not essential as we already know the prototype can distinguish based on color.

B. This would actually weaken the reasoning. If plants change color in time, this would call into question developing a prototype that can distinguish between weeds and crops based on color.

C. The object is to distinguish the weed plant from the crop plant. We are not concerned whether this is done based on the shape of the leaf or the color.

D. CORRECT.

This indicates that the shades of color of plants can be controlled which would make it that much easier to put the prototype in action. This provides the strongest reason to develop a prototype that can distinguish between weeds and crops based on color.

E. This is completely irrelevant to the company's decision to manufacture prototypes.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

What the question is essentially asking is which of the following strengthens the idea the company has of implementing this prototype, or in other words, which of the following will give even more credence to the fact that the company thinks developing this prototype is a good idea.

Now read Option (E) again and tell me if you still think it can be the answer? The idea of developing this prototype is that manual weeding labour can be eliminated from the farm supply chain. But if that same labour force has other (daresay significantly important) duties too (other than just removing weeds), is removing the labour force (i.e. developing this prototype) such a good idea? If anything, this option is a consideration weighing *against* the company developing this prototype.

Whether genetic manipulation helps grow plants of different colours is beyond the point, once again. It is like putting the horse before the cart - whether the company should manufacture the machine now cannot depend on whether people will grow plants that help the machine work better, right? Do plants and weeds exist with enough variance in colour for the machine to work effectively now? That is the question that needs to be answered.

7.

Fact 1 → heavy rains prevented the farmers from planting corn crops.

Fact 2 → the fields *that were meant for corn crops* are now dry.

Fact 3 → Soyabean prices are unusually high

YET, the farmers are not planting soyabeans on the dry lands meant for corn. Which option explains thisdisparity?

A. The farmers are leaving the fields empty. This does not explain why the farmers would leave the fields empty rather than plant soyabean.

B. This would give them all the more reason to plant soya bean (that is at an unusually high price now) to makeup for the losses.

C. CORRECT.

This would explain why the farmers, despite a bad growing season, would leave the fields empty rather than plant soya.

D. once again, it does not explain why the farmers would leave the fields empty rather than plant soyabeans.

E. We already know soya is one of the principle crops.

8.

Fact 1 → Yorco and Zortech have the SAME number of employees that are paid by the hour.

Fact 2 → Yorco spends more on the wages of employees that are paid by the hour than Zortech

Conclusion → Wages per hour are higher at Yorco than Zortech



Note the obvious gap between the facts and the conclusion → we are assuming the number of hours put in by the workers at Zortech and Yorco is the same.

A. This goes against the conclusion by indicating that Zortech infact spends more than Yorco.

B. This tells us that the skills of the workers at Zortech is either slightly higher, the same or below the skills of the workers at Yorco. This does not logically indicate that the salary at Yorco is higher. (same skill should mean same salary).

C. We are not discussing proportions but total number at Yorco and Zortech.

D. CORRECT.

This clearly tells us the average amount of time put in by the employees at both companies is approximately the same. Therefore the only way for the employees to make more at Yorco would be if the pay were higher.

E. We are discussing averages.

Consider the negation of the option below

Highest pay at Yorco \$100

Highest pay at Zortech \$105

Let there be 10 employees in each who work 10 hours a day.

Let the lowest wage(received by 1 employee) be \$50 at both.

Let the other 8 employees at Yorco make \$70

Let the other 8 employees at Zortech make \$60

Therefore the average pay

1) Yortech :  $(100 + 70*8 + 50) / 10 = 71$

2) Zortech :  $(105 + 60*8 + 50) / 10 = 63.5$

The conclusion still holds true. Therefore E is incorrect.

9.

- A. We are not discussing refined olive oil here. We only know that if the amount of free oleic acid is less in unrefined olive oil then its quality is better than that of olive oil with a higher amount of oleic acid.
- B. We know that measuring the amount of free oleic acid in olive oil is one way of measuring the oil's acidity. We do not know if it's the ONLY way.
- C. CORRECT. We know  
1) less oleic acid → better quality of unrefined oil  
2) more oleic acid → lower quality of unrefined oil  
therefore, it follows that intermediate quality of oleic acid → intermediate quality of unrefined oil (neither better nor low)
- D. this is irrelevant and cannot be inferred from the passage.
- E. The passage does not tell us about the means employed to judge the quality of oil. Therefore we do not know if it's a taste test and this option cannot be inferred from the passage.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Premise 1) Olive oil's quality is not related to acidity

Premise 2) If amount of free Oleic acid is less in oil then quality is good

The amount of free Oleic acid is inversely proportional to Oil's quality

Premise 3) Amount of free Oleic acid is an accurate measure of oils ACIDITY

Mathematically speaking

Amount of Oleic acid  $\propto$  Acidity {based on Premise 3}

Amount of Oleic acid  $\propto$  1/Quality {based on Premise 2}

therefore :- Amount of Oleic acid  $\propto$  Acidity/Quality



Pre-thinking :-

The **more free Oleic acid**, the **more acidic** is the oil and **poor** is the quality.

The **less free Oleic acid** the **less acidic** is oil and **better** is the quality.

Extending the same logic a little bit more

If some oil has **medium oleic acid** content, the acidity will be moderate and the quality will also be medium.

What options matches our Pre-thinking.

C. If an unrefined olive oil is intermediate in acidity between two other unrefined olive oils, it will also be intermediate between them in quality.

THE ANSWER IS C

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

(A) – The passage doesn't say anything at all about what happens to olive oil when it is refined. We want a conclusion that is "best supported" "by the statements above", and if those statements don't even mention what happens when you refine oil, then they certainly don't support any conclusions about what happens when you refine oil. So A can't be right here.

(B) – B is contradicted by the passage -- it must be false. The first sentence in the passage tells us that the quality of olive oil is not defined in terms of acidity. So it must be assessed in some other way. So clearly there must be other ways, besides by measuring acidity, to judge the quality of olive oil.

(C) – note that this is what we have:

"the less free oleic acid an unrefined olive oil contains per litre, the higher its quality"

This needs to hold, irrespective of other factors.

So if we know that oil B has less free oleic acid than oil A, we know Quality B > Quality A.  
If we know that oil B has more free oleic acid than oil C, we know Quality B < Quality C.

Then Quality A < Quality B < Quality C

(D) – First, the last sentence does not say that the measure of oleic acid is the ONLY measure of acidity. Instead, the last sentence tells us that it is AN accurate measure of acidity. There could be numerous other measures of acidity.

Second, just because the proportion of free oleic acid is an accurate measure of an olive oil's acidity does not mean that free oleic acid is the ONLY acid in unrefined olive oil. Unrefined olive oil could contain numerous other acids, and that would not contradict anything in the passage.

Because of the word "only", choice (D) must be eliminated.

Here's an example: Let's say that the noise produced by screaming toddlers on a plane is an accurate measure of how crowded the plane is. That doesn't mean that there are ONLY screaming toddlers on the plane -- it just means that you can draw an accurate conclusion from one data point. If each screaming toddler is surrounded by a statistically average number of harassed parents, well-behaved siblings, and annoyed businesspeople, then the noise of the toddlers can be an accurate measure of the plane-crowdedness as a whole.

Similarly, the proportion of free oleic acid can be an accurate measure of the acidity of the oil, even if it is not the only kind of acid. Perhaps each drop of free oleic acid is accompanied by a fixed amount of other kinds of acid. In that case, free oleic acid is still an accurate measure even if there are other acids present in the oil.

10.

The proposal is that sunflowers can be used to clean up radioactive contaminated water.

Reason: A pond with radioactive elements, that contained submerged sunflower plants, was 85% clean after 12 days → indicating sunflowers ability to clean radioactive materials.



The limitations from the process can come in 2 ways.

1) Sunflower plant was in fact not responsible for cleaning up the pond. In this case the option will have to give us an external factor that existed which cleaned up the pond.

2) Conditions applicable to the pond in question may not be applicable to all ponds.

A. According to the passage the sunflowers removed 85% of the radioactive elements. Unless we are told that other plants can do better than 85%, this is immaterial.

Also, even if there existed a plant that could remove 100% of the radioactive elements, the proposed plan (to decontaminate the pond up to 85%) would still be successful.

B. CORRECT.

The passage clearly indicates that

"sunflowers kept growing; in the process, they absorbed radioactive elements"

this means that it is essential for the sunflowers to grow to enable them to absorb radioactive elements.

If the plants were to die, then the proposed plan would fail.

C. The passage already indicates that the "sunflowers kept growing; in the process, they absorbed radioactive elements" This is sufficient for the plan to succeed. How the sunflowers in the water grow as compared to those that grow on land is irrelevant.

D. The plan proposes to use sunflowers that clearly have the ability to grow under water making this option irrelevant.

E. This provides a suggestion that might improve the effectiveness of the plan but does not tell us what the plan may not work.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

In the question stem a method of decontamination has been introduced / described. The question stem is asking which of the following is a limitation due to which said method may not be feasible to be applied.

The question is asking us to choose an option that weakens the conclusion about the benefit of applying/using this method.

In other words, we have to find an option that limits the applicability of the proposed method in this context.

D is incorrect because we can still use these sunflowers and decontaminate the pond. Additionally, maybe sunflowers with large leaves account for 99.9% of the total sunflowers present, in which case we have no issues using this plan.

11.

Summary:

the government increased all the elderly people's pensions. but, for some reason, the elderly people don't actually have any more money now.

our challenge is to find the "some reason" here.

we need a reason why the increase will have NO EFFECT on the elderly people's income. in other words, we must find some factor that will immediately cancel out the effect of the increase, since we know that the elderly people are indeed getting the money.

A. This would mean that an increase in pension would definitely result in better financial status for the old people.

B. We know that the 20% increase happened 2 years ago. Despite the 3 week delay, the pensioners must have got the increased pension, thereby contributing to their financial welfare.

C. But as the inflation is almost constant so we can safely assume that these prices are also same.

D. Note that we are trying to assess why the elderly are NOT financially better off now than they were before the increase. Even if this were true, given the 20% increase, the elderly below the poverty line must be in a slightly better state now than they were before.

E. CORRECT

if the elderly's income is supplemented by their children - up to a FIXED amount ("a comfortable living") - then it makes absolutely no difference how much pension those elderly people are receiving, as long as the pension is less than "a comfortable living". in other words, their children are just going to pay the difference anyway.

Example:

Person A needs \$ 200 per month for "comfortable living".

Previously pension was \$100, so Person A used to take \$100 for his livelihood from his/her children.

Now the increased pension is \$120, so that person takes \$ 80 from his/her children. But the net income is still \$200, therefore their financial condition continues to remain the same.



#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

This is a paradox question. The paradox being the pension has increased, and the increase has been passed on to the retirees, inflation is negligible, but still they are not financially better off.

Process of elimination will be our friend here.

Option (A) - If pension has increased by 20%, even if their entire source of income is the pension, if the pension was  $x$  and it is now  $1.2x$ ,  $1.2x$  is monotonically greater and better than  $x$ , for any positive  $x$

Option (B) - There is nothing to indicate that 3 weeks delay has any negative effect, especially since the increase is definitely being passed on to the retirees

Option (C) - This is irrelevant, as inflation has been said to have been negligible

Option (D) - Even if this is true, again, any positive increase of nominal income will result in higher real purchasing power in absence of inflation, so retirees receiving the increased income will be financially better off

Option (E) - By POE we have reached here, and this has to be the answer. Even then, let's understand why that is so. Whatever is the level of comfortable living upto which children supplement the income, that is the same level they will continue to do so. IF the income their parents earn increases, they will decrease how much they provide to their parents, and the overall financial level will remain the same

12.

Premises: Garnet pays for testing of its employees' cholesterol levels.

Garnet pays for treatment of high cholesterol.

Garnet does this because:

high cholesterol left untreated for many years leads to conditions that require very expensive treatment

Renco does not follow this procedure. This would have financial sense for Renco in the following case"

1) Renco's employees do not stick around for long enough and therefore untreated cholesterol may not necessarily translate into conditions that require very expensive treatment.

A. This option says "early treatment of high cholesterol does not entirely eliminate the possibility of a stroke later in life" However the passage does not specify the "conditions" high cholesterol leads to as stroke. There could be other expensive conditions that could be eliminated by early treatment of high cholesterol

B. Irrelevant. Since both Renco's and Garnet's employees are exposed to mass media, any effect due to such propagation will be apparent in both.

C. Does higher number of employees mean more employees with cholesterol? And if this were true, it would make more sense for Renco to invest in early treatment.

D. This is a tricky option. It means two things:

Renco's employees have same cholesterol levels as Garnet's employees OR Renco's employees have lower cholesterol levels than Garnet's employees.

Our aim here is to provide an argument strong enough that Renco would use to motivate why they are not financially interested by investing in present testing in treating the cholesterol problems of their employee.

If Renco's employees have lower cholesterol levels than Garnet's then it would serve the purpose. (as Renco would save money on testing employees with low cholesterol levels)  
But, If Renco's employees have same cholesterol levels as Garnet's employees, then it doesn't provide strong support to Renco's thoughts.



E. CORRECT. By indicating that if Renco's employees do not stay for a long duration, this eliminates the risk that Renco may have to pay for treatment of conditions caused by high cholesterol left untreated for many years

13.

The psychologists' hypothesis is that the credit-card logo on the tray bring to the minds of those who tip more the fact that they have more purchasing power than merely the cash at hand. This explanation would not be valid even if those people who are not reminded of their own excess purchasing power tip more in such trays when they see a logo.

A. This undermines the psychologists' interpretation, for it shows that the same phenomenon occurs even when the alleged cause has been removed.

B. CORRECT.

This indicates that upon seeing a tray with credit card logo, the patrons are reminded of their financial position (Good or bad) rather than in a situation when a tray is presented with no logo.

Thereby, as a corollary, if the patron were to be in a good financial position, seeing a credit card logo on the tray, would remind them of their excess spending capacity and the patron would tip more.

C. This does not tell us whether the logo on the tray had any effect on the tipping pattern.

D. This weakens the study by indicating exactly the opposite of what the psychologists indicate.

E. This does not support the idea that being reminded that one has a credit card induces one to be more generous, only that it induces one to use that credit card.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

What do consumer psychologists hypothesize? That 'credit card logos remind people of their spending power'. And for people who are not under financial distress and who have a good credit score realize that they have more

money to spend. And as a result, they tend to tip more. We need to strengthen this hypothesis.

Now look at option B. B says that people who are under financial pressure from their credit card obligations tend to pay less when they see the credit card logo. Now what is happening here? Let's say I am someone without lots of outstanding debt and I have been under financial pressure from my bank to clear this debt. When I go to a restaurant and I see the credit card logo on the bill, I am reminded of the fact that I have outstanding debt and that my spending ability is low. This causes me to pay less tip than I otherwise would have.

Isn't this clearly strengthening the hypothesis? The hypothesis says on seeing the credit card logo, customers are reminded of their spending power. B is saying that someone who is under financial pressure will realise his/her spending power and will tip less. Thus the hypothesis holds and B is our answer.

14.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Brochure: Convert your landscape to a water-conserving landscape - you reduce your outdoor water use, it's natural and attractive, and it also saves you money.

Criticism (against the brochure claim of 'saves you money'): Conversion would save less than twenty dollars on a homeowner's yearly water bills. This saving cannot justify the expense of new landscaping.

(Say new landscaping costs \$1000 which is an extra expense one needs to change. The saving per year on water bill would be just \$20 per year so even in 30 years, it will add up to only \$600. Hence, the added expense right now is not justified. With the regular yard, current expense required is nothing)

We need to rebut the criticism. So we need to say why changing to water-conserving landscape does save you money.

(A) Even homeowners whose yards do not have water-conserving landscapes can conserve water by installing water-saving devices in their homes.



We need to rebut the criticism which focusses on saving money.

(B) A conventional landscape generally requires a much greater expenditure on fertilizer and herbicide than does a water-conserving landscape.

Here is another reason why water-conserving landscape will help save money. So the \$600 saving could become \$1200 (just as an example). Hence, this helps rebut the criticism.

(C) A significant proportion of the residents of the city live in buildings that do not have yards.

Irrelevant

(D) It costs no more to put in water-conserving landscaping than it does to put in conventional landscaping.

The point is that CHANGING the yard will cost money. The argument talks about conventional landscaping getting REPLACED by water saving one. If both landscaping cost the same, it is a good idea to install water saving one in the beginning. But changing will require \$1000 extra. Hence it doesn't help rebut the criticism.

(E) Some homeowners use more water to maintain their yards than they use for all other purposes combined.

Irrelevant.

Answer (B)

15.

This is pretty straight forward. Which option would best explain why the cave paintings depict deer with humps while the fossils of the same animal does not have any humps?

- A. Irrelevant. Hump on another animal does not explain whether the cave paintings portray the European Wild Deer correctly.
- B. Irrelevant. This tells us that possibly more European Wild deer inhabited Ireland than France. But this gives us no reason to believe that the deer's of France had a hump while those in Ireland did not. Further, the passage does not discuss whether the fossils were found in Ireland or France or both.
- C. CORRECT. Perfectly explains the paradox. In this case, it's possible that the deer of Ireland as well as France had a hump which did not fossilize.
- D. This indicates that the cave paintings were painted well before the deer became extinct. But it still does not explain the discrepancy between the presence of a hump in the paintings and the lack of it in the fossils.
- E. This option has little bearing on the argument. Whether current species of deer have such humps or not tells us nothing of giant deer's anatomy.

16.

Last week

Thursday -> 5 specially ordered shipments

Friday -> all shipments had building supplies.

Sat and sun -> no shipments.

Total shipments to Truax construction -> 4  
Building supplies -> 3



We know that one shipment to Truax did not contain building supplies.

Since only building supplies were shipped on Friday, Truax must have received at least one shipment before Friday.

- A. Need not be true. We do not know what happened on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It is possible that the one shipment to Truax that did not contain building supplies came from the first 3 days of the week and was not specially ordered.
- B. Let's say all the specially ordered shipment sent out on Thursday contained building supplies.  
It is possible that Truax got two building supplies on Friday, one specially ordered building supply on Thursday and the non building supply on any of the first 3 days of the week.
- C. It is completely possible that all the shipments to Truax were sent on  
Of the 5 specially ordered shipments, 3 could have been building supplies, all of which were sent to Truax, along with one other specially ordered, non building supply.
- D. Let's assume that none of the shipment received by Truax was sent on Friday.  
Since we do not know what was shipped on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Truax could have received all its shipments on other days.
- E. CORRECT.  
We know only building supplies were sent on Friday. If the shipment to Truax contained non building supplies, it must have been sent before Friday.

17.

summary:

- 1) most smoking related illness is caused by inhaling tar in cigarettes.
- 2) nicotine in the cigarettes is addictive and prevents most smokers from quitting.
- 3) Government plans to reduce the amount of nicotine per cigarette → this should help more people quit.

Predicted outcome → people addicted to smoking will consume more cigarettes to balance out the lower nicotine content. Therefore overall number of cigarettes smoked in the next 5 years will increase but the amount of nicotine consumption will remain constant.

A. CORRECT.

Since people who are addicted to nicotine will smoke more cigarettes to balance out the lower nicotine content, selling cigarettes with less nicotine will not help them quit smoking. Thereby the amount of tar consumed by these people will not decrease as per the government's plan

Note: we cannot say that the tar consumption will increase. We know that the new cigarettes will have less nicotine. Will it correspondingly have reduced tar in its tobacco smoke? We don't know. All we know is that since the number of cigarettes being consumed is more than before, the amount of tar cannot be less for sure.

B. Nothing in the passage indicates that lowering nicotine content will cause non-smokers to turn smokers.

C. We know that the amount of tar consumed may not decrease. Hence there is nothing support this prediction.

D. Once again, we are not told why the number should be any different from last year. According to the passage, one way or another, the amount of nicotine consumed by smokers is going to remain the same.

E. Same as above. Just like we are not given any concrete reason for the proportion to decrease, we are not given any reason why the number will increase either.

According to the passage, baseline nicotine consumption is going to be the same.



18.

Kate: Decline of Bird → because of loss of tree cover in coffee tree plantation.

Scott: Decline of Bird → because of decline in warbler's favourite prey, budworm.

We need to find options that weaken Scott's hypothesis. That we need to find an option that might tell us that the decline in warbler's population is not due to the decline in budworm population.

A. CORRECT

This tells us that another bird that is dependent on coffee tree plantation but is not affected by the declining budworms, is also declining.

This statement is direct evidence against the idea that budworms are the source of the problem, since it provides an example of a species that doesn't eat budworms but has experienced exactly the same decline.

B. Why the bud worm population has dropped is irrelevant to us.

C. This is immaterial. What has happened to population of warbler before and after the decline is the question.

D. This would be relevant if the option told us that the birds were migrating to a place with more tree cover. Since we do not know what the migration is happening, this becomes irrelevant.

E. This piece of information tells us nothing about the reason for this decline.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Option (C) is irrelevant because whether the decline in the population of the prey is temporary or not, does not have any bearing on whether the decline in the population of the prey caused a decline in the population of the predator. The second guy's hypothesis is this latter part, and again, we cannot say that the hypothesis is weakened if the drop in the population of the prey is temporary (it might very well be correct and this may still be the reason why the population of the Warbler is decreasing)

19.

1980

amount of fish consumer -> 50

amount of poultry products consumed -> 50

number of people -> 100

number of fish per person 0.5

number of poultry per person -> 0.5

1989

amount of fish consumed-> 52.5

amount of poultry products consumed -> 54.5

number of people -> 106

number of fish per person 0.49

number of poultry per person -> 0.51

Based on our calculations lets see which option is true:

A. This option talks of rate of increase of profits. This means that the rate at which the profits for poultry increased from 1980 to 1989 must be higher than the rate at which profit increased for fish. We do not know the profit margins of fish or poultry. Although the consumption of poultry seems to have gone up while that of fish has decreased, we do not have sufficient information to conclude that distributors of poultry increased their profits at a higher rate.

B. While we know that the amount of fish consumption has decreased, we do not know if this because of the migrating population. It is possible that the immigrated people ate a lot of fish and the locals reduced their consumption.

C. Based on our calculations, we clearly know this to be false.



D. Since we only know the relative increase in consumption (i.e the consumption of fish went up by 4.5% ), the initial value could have been 50 fishes for a 100 people or 5 fishes for a 100 people. So we do not know how much of the population consumed fish and poultry.

E. CORRECT.

Based on our calculation, we can clearly see the per capita (per head) consumption of fish was lower in 1989.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

	1980	1989
Fish -	100x	104.5x
Poultry -	100y	109y
Population -	100z	106z

Per capita fish -  $\frac{x}{z} = 1\left(\frac{x}{z}\right)$        $\frac{104.5}{106} \frac{x}{z} = (\text{something} < 1)\left(\frac{x}{z}\right)$

It doesn't matter what the values of x, y, z are. They all have to be positive, and if so, the second line holds good.

Again x, y, z can be very large, very small etc - it does not matter.

20.

- A. This option applies equally to both eras and has no bearing on the argument.
- B. It is not clear whether the carpenters working on larger hotels would exercise more, less or the same skill and care as those working on smaller hotels; this option does not weaken the argument.
- C. The argument does not rely, even implicitly, on there being any difference in the quality of materials used in the two eras, so it does not weaken the argument to point out that no such difference exists.
- D. CORRECT.  
The comparison is between carpentry evident in hotels of the two eras that still exist. If there is some reason to think that hotels with good carpentry survive longer than those with bad carpentry, then the hotels from the older era will have a disproportionately more hotels with good carpentry, even if there were no difference in skill, care and effort of the carpenters from the two eras.
- E. The longer a carpenter works as an apprentice, the more skill he is apt to have. This slightly strengthens rather than weakens the argument.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

in Option B, 'post-1930 hotels can accommodate more guests' does not impact the quality of the carpentry. out of scope.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Here we have a know-it-all guidebook writer who comes to the following conclusion: "carpenters working on hotels before 1930 typically worked with more skill, care, and effort than carpenters who have worked on hotels built subsequently." How does the guidebook writer arrive at that conclusion?

- The writer has visited hotels throughout the country. From the context, we can infer that the writer has visited hotels built both before 1930 and after (or in) 1930.
- The writer has "noticed that in those built before 1930 the quality of the original carpentry work is generally superior to that in hotels built afterward." Okay, so the writer has been observing the quality of the original carpentry work while staying at hotels throughout the country. Apparently, the writer has found the quality of the carpentry work in the pre-1930 hotels to be superior to the quality of the carpentry work in the post-1930 hotels.
- Next, the author tries to EXPLAIN these observations. Why is the quality better in the pre-1930s hotel? If the carpenters who worked on hotels before 1930 typically worked with more skill, care, and effort than later carpenters, that would certainly explain the difference in quality.

Based on the evidence, the author has concluded that a POSSIBLE explanation is the correct explanation, but is that actually the case? We need to find the answer choice that most seriously weakens the author's argument:

(A) The quality of original carpentry in hotels is generally far superior to the quality of original carpentry in other structures, such as houses and stores.

We are trying to explain the quality difference between pre-1930 hotels and post-1930 hotels. How the quality in hotels generally compares to the quality in houses, stores, etc., has no relevance and does not help us evaluate the author's argument or conclusion. Eliminate (A).

(B) Hotels built since 1930 can generally accommodate more guests than those built before 1930.

Okay, post-1930 hotels can accommodate more guests, but does that impact the quality of the carpentry? Perhaps we could dream up a reason why the higher capacity would negatively affect the original carpentry, but that would require making our own assumptions and introducing ideas not found in the passage. On its own, choice (B) does not help us evaluate the author's argument or conclusion, so it can be eliminated.

(C) The materials available to carpenters working before 1930 were not significantly different in quality from the materials available to carpenters working after 1930.

If the materials available to carpenters working before 1930 WERE significantly different in quality, then that would possibly

explain the difference in the quality of the carpentry. Having such an alternate explanation would indeed weaken the author's argument. But choice (C) tells us that this alternate explanation is not valid. This only strengthens the author's argument, so eliminate (C).

(D) The better the quality of original carpentry in a building, the less likely that building is to fall into disuse and be demolished.

Choice (D) implies that buildings with low-quality carpentry are likely to fall into disuse and be demolished. So what about the low-quality hotels built before 1930? Well, if choice (D) is true, it is likely that those old, low-quality hotels have fallen into disuse and been demolished. If that's the case, most of the pre-1930s hotels that have NOT been demolished are likely to have HIGH-quality carpentry.

Now the author's argument is in trouble. The author says, "Most of the pre-1930 hotels have better quality. Therefore, pre-1930 carpenters were better." But what if many or even most of the hotels built before 1930 are no longer there? What if they had low-quality carpentry and were already demolished? Perhaps most of the low-quality pre-1930 hotels have been demolished and most of the high-quality pre-1930 hotels are still standing. If (D) is true, then we have no idea what proportion of hotels built before 1930 were high/low-quality. In other words, the writer's data only includes pre-1930 hotels that are still standing and does not take into account pre-1930 hotels that have already been demolished.

Although choice (D) doesn't necessarily *disprove* the author's conclusion, it certainly weakens the author's reasoning by offering an alternative way to explain the writer's observations. We can no longer conclude that the author's POSSIBLE explanation is the correct one. Now we need more information to reach a logical conclusion. Thus, choice (D) looks good.

(E) The average length of apprenticeship for carpenters has declined significantly since 1930.

This might imply that today's carpenters are less skilled when they begin working than were pre-1930 carpenters. This, in turn, might explain why carpenters work with less skill, care, and effort today, but that would only serve to strengthen the author's argument. Eliminate (E).

(D) is the best answer



21.

Prediction: opening Martin's Cafe, will cause Wildflower to suffer losses

Actual income: Average number of meals served pre night has increased at Wildflower, which indicates that the business has increased.

Note: Riverville has only two restaurants. Martin's cafe and Wildflower.

A. This does not help explain why Wildflower is serving more meals on an average. It simply tells us that Wildflower serves more meals on the weekend than on a weekday.

B. CORRECT.

This option has two parts.

1) Most of the customers of Martin's Cafe had never dined in Riverville before this restaurant opened -> this means that all of Martin's customers are new customers i.e they were not Wildflower's customers before Martin's opened.

2) on most days Martin's Cafe attracts more customers than it can seat -> this indicates that there is chance people coming to Riverville to dine at Martin's may go over to Wildflower due to the lack of seats at Martin's.

Also, since most of Martin's customers are new, the opening of Martin's has not adversely affected Wildflower.

Rather it has given Wildflower more customers.

C. We are not concerned with comparing profits of Wildflower against profits of Martin's. Our concern is, is Wildflower doing better business since Martin's opened?

D. This does not help explain why Wildflower is serving more meals on an average.

E. Same as D.

22.

The argument indicates that marriage has nothing to do with increasing the life span of a person.

People who marry early, *happened* to have fewer unhealthy habits than people of the same age who didn't. This is the reason they live longer.



Summary:

Marriage does not affect life span.

Unhealthy habits cause a person to have a shorter life.

We need an option that would strengthen the above hypothesis.

A. We most certainly know that there is connection between sports that cause bodily harm (could be anything from a bruise to a head injury) and life span!

By drawing a connection between marriage and sports that cause bodily harm, this option indicates that there might be a connection between marriage and the life span of a young adult.

B. Once again this indicates that married people may tend to live longer, as a direct consequence of marriage, thereby weakening the argument.

C. The passage is primarily concerned with people who marry as young adults. We need an option that will prove that marriage is not a reason young adults who marry early outlive their counterparts.

This option simply tells us that people tend to find partners with similar lifestyles, neither strengthening or weakening the argument.

D. This weakens the argument by implying that marriage was responsible for young adults giving up their unhealthy habits.

We need our answer to completely sever this connection.

E. CORRECT.

We know that young adults who marry early live longer as they have fewer unhealthy habits at the time of their marriage.

What about young adults that do not get married early/never?

This option tells that they tend to live just as long as their married counterparts.

This clearly shifts the responsibility to unhealthy habits and indicates that marriage is irrelevant, strengthening the argument.

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Those who marry as young adults live longer than those who don't marry.

Young adults about to get married (not married already so marriage not responsible) have fewer unhealthy habits.

Conclusion - Marriage doesn't give you longer life, fewer unhealthy habits does.

(A) Marriage tends to cause people to engage less regularly in sports that involve risk of bodily harm.  
Marriage makes people safer. Doesn't help our argument.

(B) A married person who has an unhealthy habit is more likely to give up that habit than a person with the same habit who is unmarried.

Marriage causes a person to have a healthier life. Doesn't help our argument.

(C) A person who smokes is much more likely than a nonsmoker to marry a person who smokes at the time of marriage, and the same is true for people who drink alcohol immoderately.

Irrelevant

(D) Among people who marry as young adults, most of those who give up an unhealthy habit after marriage do not resume the habit later in life.

We don't know how married people who give up compare with unmarried people who give up. We don't know whether unmarried people resume bad habits later in life after giving them up once.

If marriage causes people to give up and not resume, marriage is responsible for healthier life.

Doesn't strengthen our case.

(E) Among people who as young adults neither drink alcohol immoderately nor smoke, those who never marry live as long as those who marry.

Exactly. Tells us that marriage or no marriage has no impact on longevity. Those who don't have bad habits live longer than those who have bad habits.

Answer (E)



23.

Premise:

Lightbox, Inc plans to double the number of movie screens.

Currently the theatres are drawing just enough people to be profitable.

Conclusion:

Since the population of the County is not going to increase, the passage anticipates a loss.

There is a clear gap in the conclusion here. The passage assumes that the only way more people will come into the movie halls will be due to a population increase.

What if there are other external factors?

Such as a sudden spike in the interest of the existing population to visit movie halls?

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that despite the population size remaining constant, the County will see a larger number of young, wealthy and entertainment oriented crowd. (This simply means that a majority of the population that was 18 years old, with limited income, 5 years ago, will now be 23, affluent and willing to spend on movie halls).

B. Irrespective of where the money comes from, Lightbox, Inc can only make more money if more people come in.

C. Irrelevant. This neither weakens the argument nor strengthens it.

D. While this is good news for the movie business, we already know that Lightbox, Inc is making a profit.  
This does not address how opening more screens will not lead to a loss.

E. This strengthens the argument by indicating that there are no new areas that the movie screens can open in which Lightbox did not previously have an access to.

24.

Fact: Although maize contains vitamin niacin, it's not in a form that can be absorbed by the human body.  
Let's understand the paradox.

Europe:

Maize became the dietary staple of the people. Many people developed pellagra i.e. vitamin niacin deficiency.

America:

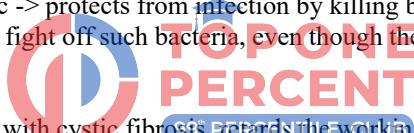
Maize was the dietary supplement of the people. Yet people did not develop pellagra.

Lets now look for an option that would explain this difference:

- A. All this tells us is that maize was widely cultivated in Europe. Does not help explain the paradox.
- B. This is irrelevant unless we are told that the maize in America contained niacin in the form that could be absorbed.
- C. CORRECT.  
This clearly explains the paradox. The difference in the way of cooking maize was the reason Americans were able to absorb the niacin in maize while the Europeans had no such luck and fell sick.
- D. This would actually increase the paradox by telling us that people in southern Europe had other means of consuming niacin. Why were they developing pellagra? And why weren't the Americans developing it? We do not know.
- E. The myths about the disease are completely irrelevant.

25.

- 1) healthy lungs produce natural antibiotic -> protects from infection by killing bacteria
- 2) People with Cystic fibrosis -> unable to fight off such bacteria, even though their lungs produce normal amounts of the antibiotic.



Therefore some other symptom associated with cystic fibrosis ~~permits the working~~ of the antibiotic

Conclusion: people with cystic fibrosis have an abnormally high salt concentration -> this makes the antibiotic ineffective.

We need to ascertain it is indeed the high salt concentration that is making the antibiotic ineffective and nothing else that may be present in a person with cystic fibrosis.

- A. Irrelevant as we are not told whether raising the salt concentration in a normal person makes the antibiotic ineffective.

- B. Once again, we are not told how the antibiotic would react in high concentration of salt.

C. CORRECT.

By placing a tissue affected with Cystic fibrosis in normal concentration of salt, we are only changing one condition i.e. the concentration of salt. Since the antibiotics work well in normal concentration we can confidently say it is the high salt concentration that mars the effectiveness of the antibiotic.

- D. This is irrelevant. We need to know why the natural antibiotics are not working in the first place.

- E. We are specifically interested in the effect high salt concentration has on the natural antibiotic produced by the lungs. This option tells us the ability of high salt concentration to heal making it irrelevant

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

**A causes B: HIGH SALT CONCENTRATION (CAUSE)----> ANTIBIOTIC TO BE INEFFECTIVE (EFFECT)**

Option C Shows that when the cause does not occur, the effect does not occur. **Strengthening- No A happened, so no effect happened.**

Using the reasoning in the previous point, any scenario where the cause does not occur and the effect does not occur supports the conclusion. This type of answer also can appear in the form of an example.

Since the environment created here has **normal salt concentration** and **NOT high salt concentration**, the point that high salt concentration in the lungs of such individuals is what has resulted in the antibiotic not being affected, is supported.

26.

Before we begin, population density refers to number of people per square kilometer of land. It is derived as below:  
total area population / land area in square miles (or square kilometers)

Now we know that the county with vast expanses of land is better suited for wind farms.

The argument tells us that since Country X has a higher population density than County Y, it is better suited to build wind farms.

But this may not be true.

lets assume that the total number of people in County X is 2000

total amount of land 200 square kilometers.

Population Density = 10

lets assume that the total number of people in County X is 1000

total amount of land 200 square kilometers.

Population Density = 5

Although County Y is more sparsely populated, lets say all the 2000 people of County X lived in 100 square kilometers, leaving another 100 kilometers of vast, empty expanse.

In contrast, if the population in County Y were evenly spread out, there would at least 5 people and their settlement per square kilometer, leaving no uninterrupted land.

The conclusion would crumble.

A. This is irrelevant as the comparison is between County X and County Y.

B. Even if this were true once again the same logic mentioned above could apply. County Y could have vast uninterrupted lands while County X could have evenly distributed settlements. Just interchange the numbers in the example above.



C. We do not have any evidence to indicate that the same may not happen at County X or that the wind farms at County X will be less profitable than those at Y.

D. This neither weakens nor strengthens the argument. We already know wind farms require vast expanse of land.

E. CORRECT.

This explains the example above and tells us why County X maybe a better choice, despite high population density.

27.

1) consumers began to switch to store brands due to the constantly rising prices of name-brands. This was DESPITE the better quality of store-brands.

2) name-brand manufactures are planning to narrow the price gap. This means that the prices of the name-brand will come down.

The name-brand manufactures think that once the prices come down, the consumers will switch back to namebrands due to its better quality.

When might this plan fail?

A. The competition is not among name brands but between name-brands and store-brands. Even if option A were true, it gives us no reason to doubt the success of the plan.

B. CORRECT.

Consumer had initially switched due to rising prices. If they are happy with the quality of the product, it is highly unlikely they will switch back unless the name-brand were to be priced lower than the store-brand (this is highly unlikely and unsupported by the passage)

C. We are concerned with consumers who have already switched.

D. We already know that the store prices are lower. If name-brand slashed prices are there any other incentives that the store brand offers which would keep the customers from switching? Option B addresses this more clearly.

E. This just tells us that the total number of consumers for cereals (whether store-brand or name-brand) has remained the same.

28.

A. Proponents of irradiation point out that irradiation is no worse in this respect than cooking. However, this fact is either beside the point, since much irradiated food is eaten raw, or else misleading, since \_\_\_\_\_.

Look at the structure above. We need an option that tells us why the statement "irradiation is no worse in this respect than cooking" is misleading

This option indicates that proponents of irrigation might be misleading us. this would include both "this fact is either beside the point" and "else misleading, since \_\_\_\_\_."

B. We already know this to be true. How would this be misleading?

C. We are not told if vegetables that have been subject to irradiation, lose more minerals with when they are stored. Therefore, this doesn't tell us why the statement "irradiation is no worse in this respect than cooking" is misleading

D. This would strengthen the stand of the proponents rather than telling us why their statement is misleading.

E. CORRECT.

By telling us that cooking irradiated food, the reduction of vitamin B1 would be twice as bad, this tells us why the statement "irradiation is no worse in this respect than cooking" is misleading. This statement indicates that irradiation is no worse than cooking, failing to take into account that irradiated vegetables that are cooked are twice as bad as vegetables that are just cooked.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Proponents of irradiation point out that irradiation is no worse than cooking when it comes to lowering the nutritional value of food. However, the author concludes that this fact is either beside the point or misleading.

The author explains that this fact can be beside the point since much irradiated food is eaten raw. Take raw vegetables for example:



- A proponent of irradiation might say, "Yes, irradiating the vegetables will lower the nutritional value. However, cooking the vegetables would have the same effect, so who cares?" In other words, if you are going to cook your food anyway, you are going to lower the nutritional value by the same amount that irradiation would lower it.
- But what if you eat most of your vegetables raw (without cooking them)? In that case, you'd either be eating irradiated vegetables with lower nutritional value or non-irradiated vegetables with higher nutritional value (though more susceptible to spoilage).
- Thus, the fact that cooking and irradiating have the same effect would be "beside the point" and wouldn't make you feel any better if you were concerned about nutrition.

The author does not, however, explain how that fact could be misleading. Given the structure of the sentence, we are likely looking for an answer choice that shows how the proponents' claim (that irradiation is no worse than cooking when it comes to lowering the nutritional value of food) could be misleading:

Choice (A) explains why the proponents might be motivated to defend irradiation. This might explain why the proponents would make a misleading statement, but it does not explain why the statement is in fact misleading. Eliminate (A).

Choice (B) *might* suggest that irradiation could have other adverse effects. Regardless, we need to show how the proponents' claim is misleading. Choice (B) does not help and can be eliminated.

Choice (C): This additional information about cooking and irradiation does not explain why the proponents' claim is misleading. Eliminate (C).

Choice (D): This fact is already implied in the passage: "Proponents of irradiation point out that irradiation is *no worse* in this respect than cooking." The author does not dispute that cooking can be worse. In fact, the author's wording suggests that cooking usually is worse. Choice (D) simply strengthens the point made by the proponents, and that's not what we are looking for. We need something that explains why the proponents' claim is misleading. Eliminate (D).

Choice (E): Remember the first bullet point above: "Proponents of irradiation point out that irradiation is no worse in this respect than cooking." So if irradiating your food lowers the nutritional value by some amount and cooking your food lowers

the nutritional value by approximately the same amount, why worry about irradiation? If you are going to cook your food, you are going to lower the nutritional value by that amount anyway, so don't worry about the effect of irradiation.

But what if each process INDEPENDENTLY lowers the nutritional value by that amount? In other words, if irradiating your food lowers the nutritional value by some amount, a proponent might say, "Well, cooking the food would have lowered the nutrition by that amount anyway, so who cares?" But what if cooking that irradiated food FURTHER lowers the nutritional value? Now you have lost TWICE as much nutrition as you would have with only one of those processes.

If each process could only lower the nutritional value to some level but not any further, then the proponents' argument would hold. For example, if we've already lowered the nutrition with irradiation, perhaps cooking won't lower it any further. Choice (E) tells us that this is not the case. If we've already lowered the nutritional value with irradiation, cooking will STILL lower the nutritional value even further (by approximately the same amount). Thus, we have compounded the problem, and, from a nutritional perspective, we would have been better off without irradiation.

Choice (E) explains how the proponents claim can be misleading, so it is the best answer.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The 'flow' of the argument is - Irradiation kills germs, but also reduces nutrition. But proponents of irradiation say so does cooking. The passage is saying this point of view is problematic, so anything that completes the passage will expound on *why* this point of view is problematic. One reason has already been given - irradiated food is eaten raw most often. Then what completes the passage is simply another such reason. Also note that the reason given as to why the point of view is problematic has to do with how the point of view is irrelevant. What completes the passage will show that the point of view is actually misleading. If you look at Option (E), it shows why the point of view (that irradiation is no worse than cooking when it comes to reduction in nutritional value, particularly vitamin B1) is misleading. If the compounding takes place, then irradiated + cooked food will be super low in nutritional value.



29.

The argument says that even though the pesticide law has become more lenient (from no TDX to traces of TDX being allowed) the amount of TDX on fruits will be the same ~~as it was in the 60s~~.

Which option could explain the paradox?

A. CORRECT

Option A tells us that there was actually some TDX residue on the fruits in the 60s that could not be detected by the authorities.

The authorities, in the 60s, would have thought there was no residue on the fruit while there actually was some. According to Option A the undetected residue of the 60s is the same (in terms of quantity) as the traces that are being allowed due to the new regulation.

Hence its perfectly possible that, even though the Regulation has become more lenient, the actual amount of TDX present on fruits remains the same.

B. We are not concerned with how much people consume. We are interested in knowing how much residue there is on the fruits being sold.

C. Once again, this is irrelevant. We want to know if the fruits now have more TDX residue or not.

D. the argument is only concerned with what is allowed or not allowed by the regulation -- i.e., with the particulars and enforceability of the rule itself.  
the presence or absence of actual violations of the rule has nothing to do with this argument.

E. We are not debating the pros and cons of TDX. We are trying to understand whether or not the amount of TDX on fruits will go up due to the new regulation

30.

The paradox is clear.

Wolves do not usually attack domestic sheep.

Yet they did, prior to 1910.

Farmers attributed this to a large number of wolves (which would mean that the competition for wild prey was higher)

However, killing wolves only increased the wolf attacks.

We need to find an explanation for this paradox.

A. IF this were true, it would mean that the prey for the wolves in the wild had increased significantly. So why did the wolves encroach human settlement? (something they usually avoid?)

B. This is irrelevant. We already know that a large number of wolves were killed between 1910 and 1915. The laws on hunting prior to 1910 does not help the argument in any way.

C. CORRECT.

This tells us that during the 1910-1915 period a great number of wolves were wounded. Unable to prey on wild animals they probably started preying on the domestic sheep (that are much slower). Therefore the more the number of wounded wolves, the higher the attack on the sheep.

D. This is true both before 1910 and after. So why did wolves, who had usually avoided human settlement, suddenly start to look for easy prey? Option C explains this perfectly.

E. This would be all the more reason for the number of attacks on the sheep to decrease. But we know that the opposite is true.

31.

Paradox : Donia's capital has a higher proportion of new cars (that come with catalytic converters post 1993) than other cities.

Yet the nitrogen dioxide levels have not reduced significantly in the capital while it has in other cities.

A. This is completely opposite of what is stated in the passage. The passage clearly tells us that the "proportion of new cars in Donia's capital city has always been comparatively high"

This means that the proportion of new cars in Donia's capital is higher when compared to other cities. And so, we are left wondering why the nitrogen dioxide emission has not reduced in Donia's capital while it has in other cities.

B. Irrelevant. We are talking about the cars in the capital city in particular.

C. This is irrelevant. Our concern is cars with catalytic converters and their effectiveness.

D. This would mean that the pollution should have most definitely gone down. Does not help explain the paradox.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that despite there being a high proportion of new cars in Donia's capital, the catalytic converters are unable to function as the short trips do not allow the cars to reach effective temperature.

This would mean that even the new cars are emitting nitrogen dioxide and therefore nitrogen emission has shown only an insignificant decline since 1993

32.

We need to evaluate if rubbing the millipede is a random action of the capuchin monkeys, *that happens* to act as a mosquito repellent or Is it intended by the monkeys to have this effect? Any option that strengthens the idea that the monkeys do so deliberately, is our option.

A. This does not tell us anything except that may a single millipede contains enough secretion for many monkeys. It does not help us evaluate why the monkeys are doing so in the first place?

B. Irrelevant. Unless we are told these insects are harmful to the capuchins that the capuchins use millipedes to get rid of such insects, this option is irrelevant to the discussion.

C. CORRECT.

This tells us that Capuchins rubbing millipedes on their body is not a random habit.

The fact that capuchins only do so in the rainy season, when the mosquito population is at its peak, means that there is a connection between the monkeys rubbing the millipede and repelling mosquitoes.

D. This is good information but once again, it does not make any connection between the monkeys rubbing the millipedes and repelling mosquitoes.

E. Irrelevant. This is implicit in the passage. Had it been carcinogenic, the monkeys would not have rubbed it on their bodies.

We already know that the chemicals in the millipedes help capuchins repel mosquitoes. The question is, do the monkeys know it too?

33.

To encourage savings, the government introduces special accounts.

Up to \$3000 a year can be saved, with no tax on the interest. This is valid as long as the citizen does not withdraw the money before he is 65.



Since the special account has accumulated millions of dollars, the plan must be working.

To weaken the above argument, we must find an option that tells us that the plan has not encouraged the citizens to save more, despite a substantial amount of money in the special account.

A. While this would mean that the citizens have to start paying taxes on the interest, the fact that a large number of citizens have substantial amount of money in savings, indicates that the plan has succeeded. The success of the plan is that the individuals invested in the special account in the first place.

B. This talks of a very specific set of people and does not help us evaluate the government plan as we are concerned with all of Levaska. Also these people were already subject to tax free savings, so they have sufficient encouragement to save.

C. We know that the interest earned through special account is tax free. So this option becomes irrelevant.

D. CORRECT.

This option indicates that no new wealth was created. In order to avoid paying taxes on their interest, people who already had a savings account, moved their money to the special account.

This means that the plan has not encouraged more people to save.

E. This is irrelevant. It gives us no information about why the government's plan may not be successful.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The argument says the government incentivized savings by creating these accounts that provide tax breaks, savings increased, and so the government's plan worked. What will show us that the plan actually didn't work?

Option (B) is completely irrelevant in this context. At the end of the day, whether these workers can or cannot access these government accounts, the fact of the matter remains that the total savings in these government accounts grew. That was the government's plan all along, and so this answer choice in no way weakens the argument.

Option (D) says that these savings are not net new. They have just been transferred from somewhere else. The government's plan was to create more savings. This shows new savings were not created.

34.

The most productive employees at SaleCo work 10 hours a day, four days a week with Friday off.

The president of SaleCo has assumed this to be the reason for their productivity and plans to implement this schedule for all employees.

What could weaken this plan the most?

A. This would be true if they were working 8 hours and 5 days a week or 10 hours and 4 days a week.  
In fact, if the employees worked just 4 days a week they will have less free time than employees who work 5 days a week.  
So this option strengthens the president's plan to an extent.

B. This is irrelevant. What matters is that they were productive.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that the reason for increased productivity is because the new schedule allowed the most productive employees to focus on their work 2 hours everyday, without disturbance  
If everyone has identical schedule then the plan would fail as no one would get any undisturbed working time.

D. This is irrelevant to explaining whether the new schedule will be effective or not as the employees are required to work the SAME number of hours with both schedules.

E. Whether the employees take work home or not, this option does not help us evaluate the effectiveness of the new plan.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

B is incorrect. If anything, I would say that this information increases the probability that the plan will achieve its desired purpose i.e. the productivity of the people will increase. The employees who work 10 hrs 4 days do not do it on their own accord and according to what works best for them; instead, they do it because their supervisors told them to. Hence, their productivity is higher not because their body works best in this manner and hence they chose to work this way but because somehow, this 10 hrs 4 days schedule increased their productivity. This means that if others are also told by their supervisors to work 10 hrs 4 days, their productivity might increase to **99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUB**

C says that 10 hrs has allowed people to work alone for 2 hrs. This alone time increased their productivity. If everybody is made to work for 10 hrs, there will be no alone time for anyone. Hence, we would expect the productivity of current 10 hrs 4 day slot people to decrease and the productivity of the rest of the employees to stay the same. Hence the plan will fail.

35.

Fact 1 -> overall more tourists stay at hotels in Springfield than Harristown

Fact 2 -> more tourists stay at the largest hotel in Harristown than in Royal Arms Hotel in Springfield.

Now let's assume both facts are true.

If Fact 1 and Fact 2 are true, which option CANNOT be true?

A. This is simply restating Fact 2. We already know it is true.

B. CORRECT.

This option cannot be true. If Royal Arms were the only hotel in Springfield and Fact 2 was true, then it would automatically make Fact 1 false. Springfield must have more than one hotel for both the sources to be correct.

C. This is irrelevant and even if it were true, Fact 1 and Fact 2 would still be correct.

D. Irrelevant. This does not affect our assessment in anyway.

E. Once again, this neither calls into question Fact 1 or Fact 2. So if the county's "Report on Tourism" reported it, it need not be erroneous.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

So the City of Springfield has published a brochure / promotional material (we will call it S). The largest hotel in

Harristown has published another brochure (say H). S says more tourists stay in Springfield *total* (in all hotels combined) than stay in Harristown (again, all hotels combined). H says the largest hotel in Harristown hosts more tourists than does the Royal Arms Hotel (RA) in Springfield (comparison of number of tourists between individual hotels). The stem tells us both S and H are correct. Then there is a third publication, 'Report on Tourism' (RT), that has said each of the following things (each of the answer choices - we can assume so. It could have said any one of these or it could have said all of these). However it is wrong in saying only one of these *for sure*. In other words, *if* RT said each of the things given in the answer choices, only one would definitely have been wrong. Which of these would that be?

Option (A) -Highly possible. Say Springfield hosts 1,000 tourists in all hotels, but only 50 tourists in RA. Harristown hosts 300 tourists total in all hotels. Everything is reconciled and this option does not *have to be wrong*

Option (C) - There is no information provided in the stem to this end and so nothing tells us this *has to be wrong*

Option (D) - This is irrelevant and hence may be correct too

Option (E) - Again possible. Say Springfield hosts 20,000 tourists each year. RA alone hosts 2,000 of these tourists. Harristown hosts a total of 5,000 tourists each year. It has 10 hotels, the largest hosts 3,000 tourists, and the others each host the remainder (~200 tourists each per year). Everything is reconciled and hence this option doesn't *have to be wrong*

Option (B) is the answer. If RT said that RA is the only hotel in Springfield, there is no way we can reconcile all the facts given in the stem. If RA is the only hotel in Springfield, and S has to be true, then RA hosts more tourists than do all hotels in Harristown combined. Yet H says the largest hotel itself in Harristown hosts more tourists than does RA. These two don't reconcile if RA is the *only* hotel in Springfield

36.

Summary: both methane and CO<sub>2</sub> when released into the atmosphere contribute to global warming. Methane from landfills should be burned instead of releasing to create electricity.

Objection : burning methane produces CO<sub>2</sub> which will be released into the atmosphere contributing to global warming.



What could counter the objection?

- A. Irrelevant. This is not connected to burning methane from the landfills
- B. Irrelevant. This will not affect the CO<sub>2</sub> being released when methane is burned.
- C. IF anything this could further strengthen the objection rather than counter it.
- D. CORRECT.  
This would indicate that even though we are releasing CO<sub>2</sub>, disposing methane would contribute more towards reducing global warming.
- E. This ,if anything, strengthens the objection a bit.

37.

A. This is immaterial. The question is despite the ridership increasing by 20% is it sufficient to increase the number of daily train trips by only 5 percent to avoid further crowding?

B. This will not make any difference to the crowding. In fact it might make access to the subway easier and further increase ridership.

C. Irrelevant. This does not tell us if increasing the number of daily train trips by 5 percent is sufficient to ensure the delay due to crowding does not increase.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that the increase in ridership is not during the peak hours and therefore there will not be any incidence of crowding(as the trains are sparsely used). Therefore delays due to crowding will not increase beyond what is present currently.

E. We are not concerned with costs but in evaluation whether delay due to crowding will increase.

38.

The politicians argue that by making cars unaffordable they can bring down the number of new automobiles on the streets and thereby reduce pollution.

Experts say that although this plan would result in fewer new automobiles on the road, it would not help combat pollution.

Which option supports the expert's opinion?

- A. This supports the politicians' view. If this were true fewer automobiles on the road would lead to less pollution.
- B. This once again supports the politicians' view. Expanding the non-polluting commuter rail system will lead to increased ridership and thereby few people will use automobiles.
- C. This is already implied in the passage. This neither strengthens the politicians' view nor the experts' view.

D. CORRECT.

If people are unable to afford new cars, they will carry on in their old ones. This would mean that the amount of pollution from their old cars will be far worse than if they had switched to a new car. This clearly severs the connection that fewer automobiles on the road lead to less pollution.

E. Irrelevant. Scrapping of automobiles occurs only when one is able to afford a new automobile and discards the old one.

The passage already states that the number of people going in for a new car will reduce.

39.

A. We are discussing patients who are over 65. The below this age group do not matter.

B. We already know that only 75% of the patients benefited from the surgery. We need an option to prove that in case of the remaining 25% the surgery was not just prescribed by doctors more interested in an opportunity to practice their skills and in their fee than in helping the patient.



C. Since 25% did not receive any benefit from the surgery, this slightly strengthens the assumption that such patients were misled by their doctors.

D. The risk of undergoing the surgery is irrelevant. The question is why were they advised to undergo the operation in the first place?

E. CORRECT.

This would mean that people who benefited from the surgery as well as those who didn't exhibited the same symptoms and therefore the doctors were unable to distinguish who would benefit more from the surgery.

The argument assumes that the doctors KNEW that the patients wouldn't have benefited from the surgery. This option shoots down this assumption.

40.

Here is the summary:

The number of ink-jet printers being sold have increased.

The revenue from such sales have not increased. This is because Printwell was forced to cut down the price of its ink jet printers and not been able to bring down the cost of manufacturing.

Monthly revenue (has not increased - can be constant or lesser) = total number of printers sold (has increased) \* value of each printer (has decreased)

Example:

Lets say the company sold 10 printers at 1000 ever month, previously.

$$\text{Monthly revenue} = 10 * 1000 = 10,000$$

Currently the number of printers sold is 11 (higher) and the value of each is 800 (lesser)

$$\text{Monthly revenue} = 11 * 800 = 8,800$$

Profit = Monthly revenue (has not increased) - cost of manufacturing (constant)

Therefore the argument concludes that despite increase in sales, the profits are smaller than before.

A. CORRECT.

This indicates that although Printwell may not be making high profits by selling more printers, these printers only use Printwell's ink cartridges.

Therefore the consumers who own Printwell's in-jet printer must constantly buy their ink cartridges and thereby provide increased revenue to Printwell.

B. Irrespective of who takes a cut, we know that the overall retail price of the printers has come down. This option does not tell us why Printwell may not be making smaller profits than before.

C. Irrelevant. We are concerned with Printwell's profits only.

D. We already know that the sales of the printer have increased. This doesn't explain why despite lowering its prices and recording no increase in its monthly revenue from printers, Printwell is able to make better profits than before.

E. Same as D.

41.

fact 1 -> corn prices have increased.

Fact 2 -> corn is used as a feed for livestock.

unable to cope with increasing corn prices, livestock farmers are expected to leave business.

Fact 3 -> less meat supplier will lead to increase in meat price.

We need to find an option which will explain why the meat prices may decrease in the immediate future.

A. Why the corn prices have gone up is immaterial to our argument. Our concern is the effect increased prices will have.

B. CORRECT

The passage states that livestock farmers are expected to leave business. IF all these farmers were to send their livestock to the market, there would a surplus of meat suddenly and the meat prices will decrease.

Note: we are only concerned with immediate short-term decrease. The meat prices will rise in the long-term but we are not discussing that.

C. Irrelevant. "some people" could mean anything from 1% of the population to 30%. We do not know this lack of demands is sufficient to depress the meat price.

D. Once again, this does not explain why we are expecting a immediate short-term decrease in meat prices.

E. Same as D. With livestock farmers going out of business, which will result in decrease in meat supply, this does not explain why we are expecting a immediate short-term decrease in meat prices.

42.

Two possible explanations for the decline of otter population

1) predation by killer whales -> not so likely has the number of whales have remained constant.

2) Disease -> more likely as sea lions and seals were killed due to a pollution-related disease.

Passage assumes that the disease could have spread to otters.



What could weaken this reasoning?

A. CORRECT.

This indicates that although the population of killer whales remained the same, otters may have died of predation has the main source prey for killer whales, seals and sea lions, were killed by pollution related disease.

B. This further strengthens the fact that the otters were killed or that they died. But it does not tell us whether pollution related disease was responsible for death of otters or killer whales were.

C. This is explained by the fact that the population of sea otters declined. This neither strengthens nor weakens our argument.

D. This is natural phenomenon that reinstates that the sea otter population declined. But we already know this to be true.

E. This is irrelevant to determining whether pollution related disease was responsible for death of otters or killer whales were.

43.

Barnacles grow on crab shells.

Fact 1 -> juvenile horseshoe crabs frequently burrow in the sand to avoid tidal currents.

Fact 2 -> Barnacles only grow fully grown crabs that have stopped burrowing.

Fact 3 -> in areas where tidal currents are very weak, juvenile horseshoe crabs that do not burrow do not have barnacles growing on them.

The passage assumes that since juvenile crabs do not burrow they must have Barnacles on them. It connects the growth of barnacles directly with burrowing.

What if there were some other external factor than prevented the barnacles from growing on juvenile crabs that do not burrow?

A. We know this already. It is the burrowing, done in order to escape the tidal waves, that discourages barnacles from clinging to crab shells.

B. This still does not explain why the juvenile horseshoe crabs, found in areas of low tidal currents, do not have significant barnacle populations.

C. Irrelevant. The strength of the tidal waves does not help explain the paradox in anyway.

D. The question is why don't juvenile crabs near areas of low tidal currents have barnacles? This option does not give us the answer.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that although juvenile crabs near areas of low tidal currents grow barnacles, they frequently shed their shells for new ones. This means that before the barnacle population on the shell can increase significantly, the shell has been shed.



44.

1973

number of people: 100

Number of cigarettes consumed : 500

Per Capita Consumption:  $500/100 = 5$

Total sales of chewing tobacco: 50

Per Capita Consumption:  $50/100 = 0.5$

1976

number of people: 105

Number of cigarettes consumed : 517

Per Capita Consumption:  $517/105 = 4.9$

Total sales of chewing tobacco: 59

Per Capita Consumption:  $59/105 = 0.56$

Now lets look at the options:

A. We know nothing of the profits. All we know is that sales of tobacco went up.

Since we do know if the retail price and cost of manufacture have remained constant, we cannot comment on the profits.

B. CORRECT

We can see from our calculation that this is clearly true. Per capita consumption of cigarettes has indeed gone up.

C. We do not have any information about the proportion of non smokers.

Lets assume that the reason the number of cigarettes consumed in 1976 went up was because people who were already smoking increased the number of cigarettes they smoked per day.

In this case, the proportion of non smokers will remain constant and the sales of cigarettes will continue to rise.

D. Once again, we are not told about the profits of tobacco or cigarettes and cannot make any assumptions only based on the sales figures.



E. We do not know if this is true.

Sales of tobacco could have gone up for any of the following reasons:

1) non-smokers and non-tobacco chewers started chewing tobacco.

2) tobacco chewers started chewing more tobacco.

Therefore, it's not necessary for smokers to have switched from cigarettes to chewing tobacco to improve tobacco sales.

45.

The passage clearly outlines the advantages of using a shopping cart:

Since customers using shopping carts tend to buy more than those without shopping carts, most of these stores are experiencing strong sales growth.

Now that Jerrod's is planning to implement shopping carts too, we need to find a disadvantage to Jerrod's using shopping carts that will offset the advantage stated above.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that rather than being tempted to buy more, customers will no longer associate Jerrod's products with high quality as shopping carts are usually associated with low-quality discount stores.

B. This is immaterial to whether shopping carts will boost the sales of Jerrod's or not.

C. This strengthens the manager's plans to an extent by indicating that shops that do not use carts are unable to keep up profits.

D. Unless the cost of maintaining and replacing carts exceeds the profits made from it, this is irrelevant.

E. Unless the cost of employing people to retrieve carts exceeds the profits made from it, this is irrelevant.

46.

A. CORRECT

This provides the strongest explanation for the public health officials' reluctance to recommend the use of mosquito nets over children's beds.

By telling us contracting malaria at an early age builds immunity and that this would prevent life threatening occurrences of malaria at a later age, this option gives a strong reason for why health officers would want children to contract malaria.

B. This option promotes the use of mosquito nets by indicating that children may contract diseases other than malaria.

C. Once again, this does not tell us why the officials are reluctant to recommend the use of nets.

D. By telling us that malaria is unpreventable, this still does not give us a concrete reason for officials refusing to recommend nets.

E. This slightly strengthens the argument that mosquito nets maybe the best way of preventing malaria and does not help us understand why officials are reluctant to recommend it.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Statement A gives as an alternate reason for the public officials to want children to be bitten by the mosquitos and therefore the nets are not needed. A is correct!

As for statement C, what difference does it make if the nets also protect against bees? It still makes sense to protect against the mosquitos infected with malaria.

47.

The cards are intended to help government agencies track the ruffe's spread. They will be useful only if the anglers actually report the ruffle they catch. Anything that increases the odds of the anglers doing such reporting, is our answer.



A. If the ruffles are unattractive as prey they will probably spread more quickly. This is unrelated to whether the cards will help the government track ruffles.

B. If the ruffles feed at night and the fishing is done during daytime, it's unlikely anglers will catch ruffe. Thus fewer catch will be reported, making it difficult to track their spread.

C. CORRECT.

This statement properly identifies a point that supports the prediction that the agencies action will have its intended effect- those who are interested in preserving the lake whitefish will be likely to report catches of ruffe, which threaten the whitefish, this enabling the tracking of ruffe.

D. This has no effect on the question of whether the wallet-sized cards will help government agencies track the ruffe's spread.

E. This would make it likely that anglers would catch few ruffe. If anglers do not catch many ruffe, there would not be many to report to government agencies, which would in turn make it more difficult for those agencies to track the ruffe's spread.

48.

This one is a bit tricky. Lets analyse it carefully.

Consumption of saturated fat increases the risk of heart attack -> both United States and France record the same per-capita consumption.

Consumption of wine decreases a person's risk of developing a heart attack -> consumption of wine is greater in France than in the United States.

Hence the passage derives that heart diseases are less in France than in the US.

Now the passage goes onto state that the difference in regular red-wine consumption has been narrowing between the two countries. This could mean two things

- 1) Consumption of wine in the US is increasing (in which case the number of heart diseases should decrease in the US)
- 2) consumption of wine in France is reducing (in which case the number of heart diseases should increase in France).

But we are told the number of heart diseases has stayed constant. We need to look for an option that can explain this:

- A. We do not care about how saturated fats cause heart disease. We need an option that'll explain why despite difference in regular red-wine consumption between the 2 countries reducing, the number of heart diseases hasn't changed.
- B. We are not concerned with what happened in the last 30 years. All we know is that currently the per-capita consumption of fat is the same in both countries.
- C. If this were true and the consumption of red wine in the US has been increasing, then option 1 above should hold. Which means the number of heart diseases in the US should have gone down. But we know that no such happened.
- D. We already know that the number of heart diseases in France is lower. This fact does not help us understand the paradox in anyway.



E. CORRECT.

This tells us that option 2 stated above is true i.e. wine consumption is declining in France. It also explains why France hasn't recorded an increase in the incidence of heart disease, since its mostly young adults (who are not prone to heart diseases until middle age) that have stopped drinking wine.

So the reduction in wine consumption may show up as heart disease only when these young adults reach middle age.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Last sentence: The difference in regular red-wine consumption has been narrowing, but no similar convergence in heart-disease rates has occurred.

The above means that either US population has been drinking more red wine or France population has been drinking less wine so that their wine consumption narrowed (**the gap** in wine consumption b/w the two countries is **reducing/diminishing**). E explains why wine consumption diminished in France (youngsters drink less of it) but why heart diseases are still high (because only middle-aged people are affected). This resolves the paradox at hand.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Fats increase risk. Wine decreases risk.

The average person in France and the US eats a similar amount of fat (so risk should be similar). The average person in France drinks more red wine (so risk is lower).

The average person in France has been drinking less and less wine (so risk should increase and converge with the US's risk). But the risk is not increasing? Why might that be?

Option (B) - French people are eating even more fats. So risk should be even higher. But the risk is not increasing. How does this option explain this then? It doesn't.

Option (E) - The people who are most susceptible to the risk are not drinking less wine (hence the risk in this susceptible population is still low). This explains what is going on.

Note - The question statement states that "if true", when the question itself says if true, we have to take it as true. It is clearly written in option E that regular consumption of red wine is declining dramatically in young adults in France.

It is just that effects of the declining rate of wine consumption will not manifest themselves in form of a higher rate of heart diseases until these French young adults become much older and that is why, the risk of heart disease in France has still not gone down.

49.

This is fairly direct.

If fossilised remains exist from before and after mastodon population began to decline, and if the age at which those fossilised mastodons reached reproductive maturity can be determined, then we determine the cause of their extinction. The fossilised remains before extinction will give an approximate age at which mastodons generally matured when not threatened either by food scarcity or hunting.

A. This only helps indicate that there was a decline. It does not tell us what caused the decline.

B. CORRECT.

This identifies a point that helps logically complete the argument. It explains how the fossilised mastodon remains could be useful in determining how they became extinct.

C. The point at which mastodons became extinct is not a part of the argument which concerns itself only with how they became extinct.

D. This is irrelevant. All we are to know is did hunting cause extinction?

E. This tells us that food scarcity may have caused a decline in the mastodon population. It tells us nothing about whether fossilized remains can help determine whether it was food scarcity or hunting that lead to the decline.

50.

A. This is irrelevant. By reducing steel import, the manufacturers in Krenland that use steel as a raw material will be forced to turn to the local steel industry, thereby boosting the jobs and the sales in Krenland's steel industry.

B. This indicates that foreign manufactures will continue to supply cheap steel to Krenland and the Krenland steel industry will continue to suffer. This strengthens the Editor's argument.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that by reducing cheap steel imports, the Krenlandian manufacturers who use steel as a raw material may take a serious hit. Since their profit margins are tight, they may not be able to cope with the increase in the raw material prices and as a consequence more Krenlan people may lose their jobs. Thus reducing steel import may protect Krenland's steel industry but it definitely won't help its industrial employment.

D. We already know from the passage that foreign imports are priced lower.

E. This is irrelevant. The question is will reducing steel imports help the steel industry and industrial employment for Krenland.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Coming to the question at hand, Krenland is a country. There are other countries in the world. Krenland, and the other countries, have their own steel manufacturing industries. What happens in other countries is that governments often subsidize their own steel manufacturers. This means the governments of these countries reduce the cost of producing steel for these manufacturing companies. As a result, the steel produced is cheaper (costs less). The passage says such subsidization is often in violation of international treaties (which essentially prohibit such subsidization). When this cheaper steel is imported into Krenland, what happens is purchasers of steel do not purchase the higher-cost steel produced inside Krenland, and they go ahead and purchase this cheaper imported steel. The argument says this will have an adverse effect on *not only* Krenland's steel industry, *but industrial employment in general* - steel manufacturers will suffer (as their steel will not be bought) and also the people working in Krenland's steel industry will ultimately suffer (as jobs will ultimately be lost), and finally, people working in the industrial sector in Krenland will also suffer. This last part, along with the italicized part before, are vital to reaching the correct answer in this question.

What can weaken this argument?

Option (A) - This is irrelevant. What or how much domestic steel manufacturers in Krenland are exporting (and how much revenue they are getting from that) is immaterial to the argument at hand

Option (B) - again irrelevant. Whether there are penalties spelt out or not for subsidizing steel production has no bearing on the argument. The fact of the matter is subsidization is happening, and this is reducing the cost and prices of steel produces internationally vis-a-vis that produced in Krenland

Option (D) - This actually strengthens the argument. If it is easier and more cost-effective to import steel into Krenland, then what the argument is saying is more likely to materialize

Option (E) - This does not really have a bearing on the argument, and you also said you eliminate this

Then Option (C) is the answer. This option basically says while the steel industry will go through what it will go through, the argument that industrial workers in general will suffer is not necessarily true. Who are purchasers of steel? Other industrial companies. If such cheap imported steel is a major raw material for them, then their costs of production will reduce. This will help them earn more profits, and then there is no strength to the argument that their workers and those jobs will suffer.

51.

The argument clearly indicates that smoking cigarettes causes depression. We need to find an option that strengthens this assumption.

A. CORRECT.

This option simply says that people who were already depressed when the study began were no more likely to take up smoking than students who were not depressed.

If the students who took up smoking did so because they were depressed, it would throw out the conclusion that smoking causes depression. In fact, this would mean that students smoke to alleviate their depression - the exact opposite of the conclusion.



B. Whether the students quit is irrelevant. Our main concern is did smoking cause depression in these students?

C. This is completely irrelevant to the argument as it does not relate to depression in any way.

D. Whether the students emerged from depression is irrelevant. Our main concern is did smoking cause depression in these students?

E. This would only be relevant if use of alcohol was known to cause depression. Since we do not have that information, this becomes irrelevant.

52.

Premise:

- 1) the Moviemania chain of movie theatres started popping its popcorn in canola oil, instead of the less healthful coconut oil
- 2) according to Moviemania's own sales figures, Moviemania sold 5 percent more popcorn last year than in the previous year.

Now in conjunction with Fact 2, we have to find an option that destroys the claim that switching to canola oil has hurt sales.

A. CORRECT.

Now let's say sales figure looked as below:

Sales in the year before last : 100

Sales in the previous year : 105

Now if the overall sales of all the refreshments in Moviemania increased by 20%, then the fact that the sales of popcorn has increased only by 5% would mean that the sales of popcorn has taken a hit.

This option tells us that this is not the case. Despite the overall sales of refreshment in Moviemania not having increased by more than 5%, if the popcorn sales have gone up this means that popcorn sales are going up on the strength of the popcorn itself.

B. This is irrelevant. The comparison is between the popcorn sales before canola oil and after.

C. This indirectly strengthens the claim that the switch may have led to a decrease in sales. This is the opposite of what we want.

D. Since this does not tell us anything about the sales of refreshment, it is irrelevant to the argument at hand.

E. Once again, this strengthens the claim that the sales are decreasing. If popcorn was recording a 10% sales rate, the fact that sales have increased only by 5% means that the sale of popcorn has been hurt.



Note: We can have more than one strengtheners to one argument.

Understand what the question is asking:

There are two different voices --- Moviemania, and the critics of Moviemania.

Here's the argument

(1) Background facts: "In January of last year the Moviemania chain of movie theaters started preparing its popcorn in canola oil, instead of the less healthful coconut oil that it had been using until then. Now Moviemania is planning to switch back." (Everyone agrees about these.)

(2) MOVIE MANIA: [We are switching back to canola oil because] the change has hurt popcorn sales.

(3) Critic: That claim (#2) is false, however, since according to Moviemania's own sales figures, Moviemania sold 5 percent more popcorn last year than in the previous year.

Then the question says, "Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the argument (#3) against Moviemania's claim (#2)?"

So, we want something that will weaken Moviemania's argument, and strengthen the argument of the critic.

(A) Total sales of all refreshments at Moviemania's movie theaters increased by less than 5 percent last year.

If the other refreshments increased by less than 5%, but popcorn increased 5%, then popcorn outperformed the other refreshments. This means, popcorn sales were not hurt, relative to other refreshments. This weakens Moviemania's position, and strengthens the critic, so this is the correct answer.

D. Total attendance at Moviemania's movie theaters was more than 20 percent higher last year than the year before.

Well, if total attendance rose by 20%, and popcorn sales rose by only 5%, that means popcorn sales per capita fell.

Let's say in the first year, 1000 people attended Moviemania, and bought 500 servings of popcorn --- the popcorn sales per person would be  $500/1000 = 0.5$ . We could say ---- 50% of folks in attendance bought popcorn

Now, let's say attendance increased by 20% to 1200, and popcorn sales increased by 5%, to 525. Now, the popcorn sales per person would be  $525/1200 = 0.4375$  --- now, only 43.75% of those in attendance bought popcorn. That would mean, Moviemania would be completely justified in saying ---- popcorn sales declined, because even though the net amount sold is up, the percentage is down --- popcorn is less popular among the attendees than it had been in the previous year.

Be very careful --- (D) strengthens Moviemania's position, but we want an answer that will strengthen *the critics* of Moviemania and *weaken* Moviemania's position. Thus, (D) does the exact opposite of what we want.

53.

Here is the breakdown of the argument.

1) US researchers believe, apart from exposure to asbestos, SV40 virus is a cause for mesothelioma. This is because 60% of the tissue samples, infected with mesothelioma, contain SV40 while the healthy tissues don't.

2) Researchers conclude that SV40 is only present in 60% of the people with mesothelioma as the polio vaccines were contaminated.

We need an option that strengthens the idea that SV40 is not a contributing factor but found its way into the people's tissue by accident.

A. This is irrelevant. We do not know if it's a contributing factor for mesothelioma or not.

B. Since mesothelioma takes long to develop, the fact that vaccines are no longer contaminated but were contaminated in 1960 does not help the argument.

C. This indicates that the vaccines from 1960 are still present and the virus is still active. However, we still do not know if it's a contributing factor for mesothelioma or not.

D. This tells us that asbestos may not be the only factor but throws no light on the contributing factors either.

E. CORRECT

This clearly tells us that SV40 is not a contributing factor. The only reason that SV40 was found in 60% of the tissues in America was because the polio vaccine was contaminated.



54.

The argument is simply this:

Large amount of small debris is better than small number of large satellites as the large satellites interfere more seriously with telescope observations because of the strong reflections they produce.

Therefore, the proposal is to explode non-functioning large satellites as this would effectively convert a large satellite to large amount of small debris (which is already established as better).

The idea behind the proposal is to allow telescopic observations.

We need an option that weakens the above proposal.

A. We already know this to be true. This does not tell us why the above proposal will be ineffective.

B. This actually strengthens the plan that the best thing to do is to get rid of them. Does not tell us why the above proposal will be ineffective.

C. This simply tells us that there is no precedent for such an action. Does not tell us that the action will be ineffective because of this.

D. This makes a case for the importance of telescopic observation and does help us evaluate the argument at hand.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that creating a large amount of small debris will not help with better telescopic observation as a large amount of small debris would behave exactly like a large satellite. There would be no point in exploding a large satellite if this were true.

55.

A. CORRECT.

We are told that rats when "briefly exposed to the substance aflatoxin tend to develop liver cancer when fed casein, a milk protein".

We already know that the natives were being fed casein through the milk powder they were given. Therefore we need to find an option that tells us that they were exposed to aflatoxin as well.

This is precisely what A does.

B. If this were true, it does not explain how the natives were exposed to aflatoxin.

C. This is completely irrelevant. The result indicates that exposure to aflatoxin + casein leads to liver cancer. We do not care about the other proteins.

D. This does not tell us how the lab results are relevant to milk powder causing liver cancer.

E. Once again, this does not connect milk powder to liver cancer nor does it tell us what makes the lab results relevant.

56.

Insect Infestation of cotton has lead to decreased prices which has in turn has caused the cotton prices to go up.

Soybeans farmers want to switch to cotton cultivation. Which option calls this into question?

A. This would strengthen the plan of the farmers. We know that the price of soybeans has long been stable. If the cost of cultivation has been rising, it means that the profit margins of the farmers is getting slimmer.

B. CORRECT.

This tells us that there is a cheap way of combatting infestation. This means that by the time the farmers switch from soybeans, the cotton-growing regions that are infested would have got rid of the infestation using these cheap pesticide and cotton prices would have once again, come down.

This would mean that the farmers will not be able to take advantage of the high price of cotton to increase their income significantly at least over the next several years.

C. We know that the prices of cotton will rise not due to the increase in demand but due to the fall in supply.  
Therefore this option becomes irrelevant.

D. This would further back the plan of the farmers by stating that consumers will continue to buy cotton goods even if it means paying higher prices for it.

E. This is irrelevant. The question is will soybeans farmers shifting to cotton work to their advantage?

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

A lower supply has already increased prices, and the correct answer will involve anything that reduces the prices. Option (B) will do so by increasing supply

Option (D) I would say has two major problems - one is that cotton / cotton products may not only be sold to individual consumers, but to other buyers too. The other is the word 'significantly'. They are already paying higher prices if they need cotton, so if they are willing to pay significantly more than that is not consequential (also note that the farmers' plan is to increase supply and then prices will actually reduce, so this option does nothing to thwart that plan)

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

**Question Type:** Weaken

**Missing Information:** The argument magically assumes that the plan is actually likely to work

**Goal:** We need to find the option that destroys the chances that the plan to grow cotton will boost income

A. The cost of raising soybeans has increased significantly over the past several years and is expected to continue to climb.

If these farmers were otherwise going to grow soybeans, and soybeans turn out to be more expensive to grow, this option actually strengthens the idea that switching to cotton will boost income.

B. Tests of a newly developed, inexpensive pesticide have shown it to be both environmentally safe and effective against the insects that have infested cotton crops.

This option introduces the news that there are tests that seem to show that there is a cure to treat the infestation plaguing cotton. If that were true, then it would significantly weaken the idea that there is a profit opportunity to grow cotton instead of soybeans. The time-frame between when this insecticide leaves testing and when it's available for commercial application could raise an ambiguity though. We always need to check all 5 options, and here that added confirmation would be valuable to determine whether the time-frame of testing to release ambiguity is a big enough concern. All of the other options subsequently prove wrong, so this is the only option that clearly damages the notion that switching to cotton presents an income boosting opportunity.

C. In the past several years, there has been no sharp increase in the demand for cotton and for goods made out of cotton.

This option does nothing for us because for all we know the current demand for cotton is plenty sufficient to support the profitable shift from growing soybeans to cotton. This option just doesn't supply us enough information to know that the current demand for cotton will be problematic. Also notice that option says that "**there has been no SHARP increase**". That could actually still mean that the demand for cotton is on the rise. In that sense, this option could actually strengthen the proposal.

D. Few consumers would be willing to pay significantly higher prices for cotton goods than they are now paying.

Prices of cotton HAVE ALREADY increased, and the income boosting opportunity from cotton already exists with prices at current levels. If prices can't increase further, would that weaken the proposal? No. The prices could be fine enough as they are for the opportunity to still exist. Accordingly, this option does not clearly weaken the likelihood of a boost in income for those who switch to cotton.

E. The species of insect that has infested cotton plants has never been known to attack soybean plants.

This option has absolutely no relevance to a shift from soybeans to cotton. The infestation either could or could not impact soybeans in the future and the move to grow cotton could still be more profitable than growing soybeans has been.

57.

Conclusion:

Due to the increase in the elephant ivory artifacts on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa, historians have concluded that medieval trade between North Africa and East Africa began at this period.

We need to find an option that does not strengthen the connection between increase in ivory artifacts and opening up of trade.

A. This strengthens the conclusion by telling us that currency from North Africa were found in East Africa only after 10th century. This is a definite indication that trade began around this period.

B. This provides a little support but not very much. Maybe the merchants did not see the need to mention trade or maybe there was no trade. But we do not know enough to make such assumptions.

C. Once again, this provides support to our conclusion by indicating North African influences. This means that the path to North Africa and indeed opened up.

D. CORRECT

This indicates that East Africa was already aware of the North. Therefore the presence of increased Ivory artifacts does not lead to the conclusion that this was the period that trade between the two places began.

E. Once again this provides support that the East African sailors were exposed to the Mediterranean sailors.

58.

A. We only know that Merton County has the highest percentage of households with an annual income of more than \$40,000. This definitely does not rule out the possibility of households having an income of over \$60,000 (although the % of such houses is higher in Sommer)

B. CORRECT.

We know that the % of houses with income over \$40,000 is the highest in Merton County.

We also know that the % of houses with income over \$60,000 is the highest in Sommer County.

Therefore, it is logical that there are households in Merton that earn between \$40,000 and \$60,000. If this weren't true then Merton would not be able to claim that the % of houses with income over \$40,000 is the highest in Merton County.

C. Remember we are discussing % and not actual numbers here.

If

total population of Merton is 100

Number of houses that earn more than \$40,000 -> 30

percentage of households that earn more than \$40,000 -> 30%

total population of Sommer is 200

Number of houses that earn more than \$40,000 -> 40

percentage of households that earn more than \$40,000 -> 20%

D. Since we are not discussing the total number of houses and we do not know anything about the averages, we cannot make this assumption.

E. It is possible that neither of the counties have an income of over \$80,000. This is not supported by the passage at all.

59.

Premise 1

People with eye disorder are unable to see in moderately bright light -> since the cells of their retinas are overwhelmed by moderately bright light.



Premise 2

their retinal cells are also not excessively sensitive to red components of moderately bright light.

Conclusion:

This means that although the people with such disorders are sensitive to moderately bright light, the red component in such lights does not disturb their eye.

Let's see which answer supports such a hypothesis.

A. The premise already tells us that "These people do, however, show normal sensitivity to most components of dim light."

B. Once again, we are told that "These people do, however, show normal sensitivity to most components of dim light". We are not told what these "most components" are and cannot assume they are more sensitive to white light than red.

C. Since we are told they have "normal sensitivity" to most components of dim light, we cannot assume any such thing.

D. CORRECT.

This summarises our conclusion above.

Since we know these people are not as sensitive to red component of moderate light, filtering out the other components will indeed help them see better.

E. There is nothing in the passage that suggests this to be true.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

This is an inference type of question. The answer choice must be true based on the information given in the argument.

A. In all moderately dim light in which people without the disorder can read large print, people with the disorder cannot read such print.

People with disorders do not have any problems with dim light. This is irrelevant.

B. In an otherwise darkened concert hall, these people will see a dimly illuminated red exit sign more clearly than small dim white lights that mark the aisles.

This cannot be inferred from the argument. The argument does not state that people with disorder see better in dim light.

C. These people typically see more acutely at night and in dim light than do most people who do not have the disorder.  
No, this cannot be inferred. The argument does not compare people without disorder with people with disorder. Moreover, the argument does not state that people with disorders see more acutely in dim light.

D. Eyeglasses that are transparent to red components of light but filter out other components of light help these people see in moderately bright light.

The argument says that red components of moderately bright light do not make the retina cells more sensitive.

Correct answer- Since the people with the disorder cannot bear the intensity of bright light and they are less sensitive to red light, they can see better with glasses that filter all but red color .

E. These people perceive colors other than red in the same way as do most people who do not have the disorder  
No, the argument does not compare people with/without disorder.

60.

Conclusion:

Since no companies in Remo currently produce pollution control systems, the plan, if implemented (the clean growth plan), will create significant opportunities for foreign exporters to market pollution-control systems.

We need to look for an option that can weaken this conclusion.

A. CORRECT.

This clearly indicates that there is room for local businesses to produce pollution-control devices and that such devices may not necessarily have to be exported. If this were true, it would destroy the conclusion.



B. This simply indicates an extension of the conclusion and in no way weakens it.

C. This tells us of a possible obstacle in the implementation of the plan. However, since the conclusion is based on the regulations being implemented, this neither weakens nor strengthens the conclusion.

D. Comparison with neighbouring countries is irrelevant to evaluating the conclusion at hand.

E. We already know that Remo faces serious environmental problems (as stated in the premise). This only adds additional information to it and neither weakens nor strengthens the conclusion.

61.

Premise:

1) Charcoal is 11,200 years old.

Assumption:

1) Presence of Humans is indicated by Charcoal.

2) Human migration was only possible from the south via the Alaska-Siberia land bridge.

Premise 2:

It was impossible for humans to migrate from 18,000 years ago to 11,000 years ago (for 7 years in between).

Conclusion:

Therefore the charcoal must have come from humans who migrated 18,000 years ago and continued to live between 18,000 to 11,000 years ago.

Which option questions the conclusion?

A. Since we know that the migration could not have happened anytime between 18,000 and 11,000 years ago, the conclusion would still hold.

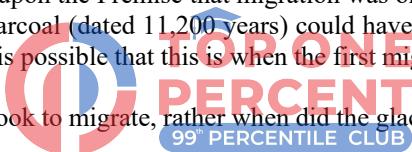
B. We are not discussing New Mexico but the Alaskan region.

C. The conclusion already states that "humans must have come to the Americas more than 18,000 years ago." Whether that was 18,500 years ago or 20,000 years ago is immaterial as the conclusion would still hold true.

D. CORRECT.

This destroys the conclusion which rested upon the Premise that migration was only possible 18,000 years ago. If migration was possible 11,400 years ago then the charcoal (dated 11,200 years) could have come from people who migrated between 11,400 years and 11,200 years ago. And it is possible that this is when the first migration to Alaska happened.

E. The question is not how many years it took to migrate, rather when did the glaciers allow passage?



#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

This question is all about one thing - can you take the reference of the present, and figure out looking into the past based on the number of years, what the chronological sequence of events was.

From the perspective of the present, 11,000 years ago is more recent; 11,200, 11,400 etc. years ago are progressively more old, 16,000 years ago is more old than that, and 18,000 years ago is more old than that (it is the earliest thing in this sequence).

The question says between 11,000 years ago and 18,000 years ago, humans could not have moved from Alaska to Colorado. If remains from a hearth (showing human activity) have been found dating to 11,200 years ago, then those humans must have moved from Alaska to Colorado more than 18,000 years ago (again, as they could not have moved between 11,000 and 18,000 years ago, and 11,200 years ago is between these two points in time). What can weaken this conclusion? If we show something to prove that humans could actually have moved down south from Alaska during this time period. Option (D) does that perfectly. At least 11,400 years ago humans moved, then they could have moved even before that and after 18,000 years ago. And even if they moved 11,400 years ago, the remains from their activity could definitely have been found and can be dated to 11,200 years ago.

Coming to Option (B) - if the remains dating to 16,000 years ago were found (which is between 11,000 and 18,000 years ago as I mentioned above), is there anything to conclusively show that the humans responsible for the activities moved between 18,000 and 11,000 years ago? No. They could have moved say 20,000 years ago, or 19,000 years ago, and lived for generations, and one of the remains from 16,000 years ago has been found. So nothing weakens the argument.

Option (E) - This option is completely irrelevant, as the argument is saying humans must have moved more than 18,000 years ago, and the option is saying humans could have moved easily less than 11,000 years ago. Whether they could have moved 10,980 years ago (as Option (E) says) or 2 years ago is immaterial to the argument; it doesn't help us weaken the claim that they *had to have* moved more than 18,000 years ago in any way. Note that the artefact has been dated to more than 11,000 years ago; so any movement *less than* 11,000 years ago is immaterial to the argument of when the humans responsible for the artefacts moved.

62.

- A) This refers to only a part of the ocean in the southern hemisphere which would no way weaken the plan.
- B) CORRECT. Since the amount of carbon dioxide released when seaweed is burned is the same amount that was absorbed during its lifetime, it would make the plan outlined by the scientists a waste of time.
- C) even if “some” people refuse to switch to sea-weed, this option makes no comment of the majority of the people who may or may not be willing to do so.
- D) Irrelevant. By increasing the amount of plant life, the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed will also increase. This would strengthen the plan rather than weaken it.
- E) Irrelevant as the point of the plan is not to generate money but to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide.

63.

Conclusion:

any future recessions in Vargonia will probably not reduce  
the availability of teaching jobs at government-funded schools

Notice see the following words:

and that current student-teacher ratios not be exceeded.

this means that, if you add more students, you HAVE to add more teachers. if you don't get rid of students, you CAN'T get rid of teachers.

therefore, any choice that implies that you won't lose students, or you'll even gain students, will be a HUGESTRENGTHENER.

A. This simply tells us that the ratio is higher now than before. It does not tell us how the ratio will be affected by future recessions. A is irrelevant.



B. 25% of the children in Vargonia attended private schools in the recent past. This gives rise to the possibility that these children may attend government-funded school due to recession and this would in turn help increase the number of students attending Government funded schools. In order to keep the current student-teacher ratio constant, more teaching jobs may have to be added.

This definitely strengthens the conclusion.

C. Once again, we are not concerned with the past. The question is how will the teaching jobs be affected by future recessions.

D. This simply tells us that the Government school teachers are better paid than those in private schools. It does not explain why despite future recessions, availability of teaching jobs at government-funded schools will not reduce.

E. This weakens the argument to an extent by indicating that last recession resulted in a closure of a number of schools thereby reducing the number of teaching jobs as well.

64.

conclusion:

To maximise sales, it is a better strategy to stock regular syrup over low-calorie syrup.

We need an option that will weaken this argument.

A. This does not tell us whether it is a better strategy to stock regular syrup over low-calorie syrup.

B. Since the consumption of the syrup is the same and since three-fourths of FastMart's customers prefer regular syrup, it would be best to stock regular syrup to improve sales.

This strengthens the argument.

C. By telling us that the price of both is the same, this does the exact same thing as the option above.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that by stocking regular syrup, FastMart will lose out on customers who prefer low-calorie syrup but stocking low-calorie syrup will not lead to the loss of customers who prefer the regular kind.

E. This does not tell us whether it is a better strategy to stock regular syrup over low-calorie syrup.

65.

A. This is irrelevant. We are specifically concerned with the effect of the natural insecticide in genetically modified strains of maize on the Monarch butterfly. The effect of such insecticides on insects in general is irrelevant.

B. While this tells us that the food source for such butterflies have reduced, it does not discuss the effects of the natural insecticide in genetically modified strains of maize on them.

C. We know that the caterpillars feed on milkweed that contain these insecticides. This only strengthens the argument further.



D. Feeding habits of maize-eating insects is irrelevant.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that the Monarch butterflies do not feed on the milkweed leaves that contain the affected maize pollen. If this were true then the conclusion that "use of the modified maize inadvertently imperils monarch butterflies" would crumble.

66.

Premise:

the idiomatic expression "thanks to" means "because of".  
also, "largely" means "almost entirely".

so, translated, we have:

their sales revenue from Denoma models actually grew, almost entirely because of some innovative and popular models that Denoma introduced.

A. The situation that must be explained is why Denoma's revenues went down even though retailers reported that their revenue from the sale of Denova's products rose. The whole argument is about revenues, not profits, so any expenses Denoma had such as advertising are not relevant to explaining this odd situation.

B. We are discussing Denoma's revenues only. The comparison of its revenue with that of its competitors is not relevant here.

C. CORRECT.

In this case, the "surprising result" we are trying to explain is the fact that, simultaneously, Denoma's sales revenues decreased while the retailers' sales from Denoma increased (largely because of NEW models).

This provides a good rationalization: the other part of Denoma's revenue (the part from making parts for other companies) decreased. This would not have affected the retailers' revenue from Denoma products, because the retailers don't sell the parts.

This perfectly explains why, although Denoma's new models sold well, the overall revenue of Denoma still decreased.

D. We are not concerned whether Denoma can increase its revenue by expanding to markets outside consumer electronics. Irrespective of whether this option is true or not, it does not explain why, although Denoma's new models sold well, the overall revenue of Denoma still decreased.

E. Even if this were true, these deep-discounted models accounted for only a small fraction of the retailers' sales revenue - because, as stated in the passage, the clear majority of that sales revenue came from the "innovative" new models. Note, this option discusses the "remaining models"



67.

Vaccines are not used for the following reasons:

- 1) Too expensive.
- 2) The vaccines take effect only a month after they are administered making it useless if there is already a Rift Valley fever break-out.

Despite the above reasons, the use of vaccines is expected to rise. We need to find an option that would explain such a rise.

A. This simply tells us how Rift Valley fever spreads and why it is uncontrollable. This does not answer why the vaccines, despite their shortcomings, will be in sudden demand.

B. This gives us further reason to control/prevent a break-out. However, this does not answer why the vaccines, despite their shortcomings, will be in sudden demand.

C. While this tells us that the makers of the vaccine will probably be capable of meeting the demand, we are not told why the vaccines are in the demand.

D. This would mean that most farmers whose cattle is prone to an outbreak, live away from the access of such a vaccine. This further deepens the divide and we do not know why the vaccines are expected to be in demand soon.

E. CORRECT.

This option tells us that the farmers are able to predict when such an outbreak may occur almost 5 months in advance. If such is the case, they maybe able to prepare for it beforehand and vaccines that take a month to be effective will be useful to curb an outbreak.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Each word in the stem is there for a reason - vaccines are too expensive to use routinely, vaccines take about a month from administering to be effective, but experts say vaccines will be taken up extensively soon.



For something to strengthen what the experts are saying, it has to counter both the previous obstacles to vaccine use.

Option (B) says other countries will not import cattle (and ~~TOP ONE PERCENT~~ negatively impact cattle farmers), but does this in any way whatsoever, counter the two obstacles to using vaccines? Then why will this reason suddenly prompt widespread vaccine use?

Look at Option (E) - if there are predictable periods (they see a particular type of climate, that means this virus will happen 2-5 months from now), farmers will know to use the vaccine during those times. They don't have to use it routinely (only during those climatic patterns), and the vaccine will get enough time to be effective (more than a month that it takes). Both our obstacles are surmounted, this is the correct answer.

68.

Shoppers coming out of FoodBasket were asked to show the items they purchased. The argument states that when the prices of these items were compared with those of ShopperKing, the prices of the items from ShopperKing was 5% higher. Despite this, we need an option that will explain why shopping at FoodBasket may not save money for those customers that shop at ShopperKing.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that the shoppers at FoodBasket had chosen to shop at this store as it offered low prices on the items they purchased most often.

It is possible that ShopperKing offers lower prices than FoodBasket on certain items. If a customer were to purchase this item most often, he would save money shopping at ShopperKing than FoodBasket.

A customer has probably picked ShopperKing because it offers the lowest prices on the items he buys most often.

B. This further weakens the argument that customers of ShopperKing will not save any money by shopping at FoodBasket.

C. This maybe. But the argument is specifically concerned about money only, making this option irrelevant.

D. This does not explain why the customers of ShopperKing will not save any money by shopping at FoodBasket.

E. While this tells us that there was no bias while conducting the research, we are still not told why customers of ShopperKing will not save any money by shopping at FoodBasket.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Let us focus on A.

Fact given - (as per the research)

Price in Shopper King is higher than Food Basket total

Still the Conclusion is shopper will save money by buying in Shopper King.



The shoppers of FoodBasket choose FoodBasket for the low prices offered on the items that they purchase most often. That means this survey result is biased. If the same survey are making among the shoppers of ShopperKing, the result may be contrary with the current one due to the reason raised by Answer A.

We have to show the survey is biased to reverse the trend of the survey.

A - shows-says people patronize a particular shop because their favourite items are cheaper there. The statistics does not necessarily say goods are more expensive at SK than FB.

69.

Conclusion:

The objection that the ban (on smoking in restaurant) would reduce restaurants' revenues is ill founded.

Premise:

- 1) Several towns in Vorland enacted restaurant smoking restrictions five years ago.
- 2) Since then, the amount the government collects in restaurant meal taxes in those towns has increased 34percent, on average, but only 26 percent elsewhere in Vorland.

Let's see which option can weaken the relation between Premise 2 and the conclusion.

- A. Since we are not concerned with what happens in the short term and also since we are told "amount collected in restaurant meal taxes closely reflects restaurants' revenues", this option is irrelevant.
- B. The discrepancy is this. The towns where restaurants imposed a smoking ban paid more in taxes (indicating an increased revenue) than the towns whose restaurants didn't. Since the comparison is among restaurants (allof which are taxed similarly) this option is irrelevant.
- C. Once again, this does not help explain the increase in taxes collected in towns where smoking had been banned.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that smoking was allowed, albeit in separate rooms.

This explains to us that "smoking restrictions" is in entirely different from a nation wide ban on smoking, as smoking was still allowed under the former plan.

This severs the connection between ban on smoking and the revenues of restaurants increasing, thereby weakening the conclusion.

E. We are only concerned with restaurant meal taxes. Sales tax are completely irrelevant to the argument.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



What is the government's plan? Vorland's government is planning a nationwide ban on smoking in restaurants.

What is the defense of this plan? Restaurant meal taxes actually **increased** in towns that enacted smoking restrictions.

Undermine defense would mean that we need to show that with the smoking ban, the revenue does drop. We need to look for an option which proves this.

So to answer the question we need to find something that attacks the defense.

A, B, and C can be eliminated as they are out of scope or irrelevant.

In choice E, we're told government revenues from sales tax **in general** have grown no faster in the towns with restaurant smoking restrictions than in the towns that have no such restrictions. However, the defense only speaks to *restaurant meal taxes*, not sales tax in general! E is out.

In choice D, we're told restaurants can maintain separate dining areas where smoking is permitted. Interesting. If that's the case, then perhaps the objection to the government's plan is not ill founded -- people might no longer go to these restaurants if they aren't able to smoke in these designated smoking areas. Choice D is the answer.

To tell it in simple terms:

The key is to notice that the government is considering a **BAN** on smoking in restaurants. To defend the ban, the author of the passage uses evidence from a **RESTRICTION** on smoking in restaurants. Imposing a *ban* might be much different than imposing *restrictions*.

Choice (D) illustrates this point. The restaurants in towns with restrictions were fine because, despite the restrictions, those restaurants could allow customers to smoke in separate dining areas. If those towns had smoking *bans* instead of smoking *restrictions*, separate dining areas for smokers would not be allowed and perhaps revenues would decrease. The author's evidence suggests that revenues might not decrease when smoking *restrictions* are implemented. But this doesn't necessarily provide any evidence related to the effect of a smoking *ban*.

If choice (D) is true, then the author's argument falls apart, so (D) is the best answer.

70.

This is very simple.

Let's say there are X department heads and Y are looking to retire.

Total Department heads = X-Y

Total vacancies = Y

Now the number of people who are eligible for the position of the Department head = N

N = Y/2(is half of the number of vacancies)

1) Nobody will be hired from outside.

2) no department head can head more than a single department.

It follows that Qualitex will have to cut a few departments to ensure each department has a head.

E is this answer.

All other options are irrelevant as we are discussing the Department Heads only and not the other employees.

71.

Premise 1: county plans to eliminate the property tax and support schools with a new three percent sales tax on all retail items sold in the county.

Premise 2: the amount made from sales tax on all retail items is lesser than that made from property tax

Conclusion: The amount of money going to Aroca County public schools will not reduce.

Which explains the discrepancy?



A. This does not necessarily explain why, despite three percent of current retail sales being less than the amount collected through property taxes, amount of money going to Aroca County public schools will not reduce.

B. CORRECT.

This tells us that the retail sales will increase due to the shopping mall. As a consequence 3% of retail tax on total sales will also be a bigger amount.

C. This is irrelevant. Same as A.

D. This is irrelevant. Despite everything we know that the total amount collected from property tax is lesser than the amount collected from retail sales tax.

E. If this were true, it would further lower the amount collected through sales tax and widen the difference between this and the amount that was generated through property tax.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

We know at present revenue from 3% sales tax on all retail items sold is not equal to revenue through property taxes.

But we have to show increase in the total scope of retail items so that the difference is met.

If sales tax is replacing property tax, but with less revenue, the only way to increase revenue would be to have more people buy things.

B says it.

Many shoppers come to buy goods in Aroca will make more retail taxes offsetting loss in property tax.

72.

Rodents -> Pose health risk  
Loma ant -> pose health risk.

Step 1:

Black Ants get rid of rodents by creating food scarcity.

Step 2:

Ant Flies are introduced to get rid of Loma ants.

Please note that for public health benefit both rodents and Loma ants must be eliminated.

A. CORRECT.

If ant flies were to attack all black ants then we would not be able to control the Rodent population in that region.

B. We already know that Loma ants are harmful to humans because of their sting. This tells us that they are not even as useful as several for getting rid of rodents. This neither strengthens nor weakens the argument.

C. Once again, this stresses of the lack of need of Loma ants for public health benefit. This neither strengthens nor weakens the argument.

D. This tells us that Loma Ants can get rid of rodents. However their sting which is fatal to Humans is still a contention. Besides we need an option that strengthens the plan to get rid of the Loma ants.

E. While this rules out the possible use of pesticides for control Loma ants, it does not indicate that using Antflies is the best way either.

Does not help evaluate the plan at hand.



73.

Mice with Macrophages: show elevated levels of nitrates when infected with bacteria.

Mice without Macrophages: do not show elevated levels of nitrates when infected with bacteria.

Premise: Macrophages play a role in the response of the immune system of mice and other mammals to invasive organisms such as bacteria.

A. Nothing in the passage suggests that Mice without sufficient Macrophages will find an alternative.

B. While this establishes a connection between nitrates and bacterial infection, nothing in the passage suggests this to be true.

We know that Macrophages are needed to ward off infection, But the connection with nitrates is not clearly established.

C. CORRECT.

The passage very clearly says "Unlike other mice, mice that are genetically incapable of making these particular cells do not show elevated levels of nitrates when infected with bacteria" which indicates that the presence of Macrophages is connected with the amount of nitrates present.

The conclusion that is provided in C, follows most logically.

D. There is nothing in the passage to indicate how Macrophages work to ward off bacteria.

The numbers may multiply or decrease. We do not know.

E. Once again, we do not know enough to draw this conclusion. We know that Macrophages help ward off bacteria. And we know that mice without Macrophages have lower levels of nitrates than mice with it. But this isn't sufficient information to conclude that just nitrates will not help ward off infection.

It is possible that Macrophages are only needed to produce the nitrates. In such a case, this conclusion would be untrue.

74.

Here is the what the argument states:

1) In response to Viral infection -> mice produce antibodies -> react by binding protein to the surface of the virus.

2) Keratitis -> develops in mice that already have herpesvirus -> protein deposits are found on the surface eye cells -> protein deposit closely resemble those on the herpesvirus surface.

Conclusion: This protein deposit (and hence Keratitis) is caused by the antibodies that are produced in response to herpesvirus.

A. This does not directly discuss herpesvirus or the protein deposit found in the eye cells.

B. The rate of contraction of the disease is irrelevant to forming the connection between herpesvirus and the protein deposit on the eye cells.

C. This weakens the argument slightly by indicating that it is possible for mice to develop herpesvirus without developing keratitis. This weakens the relationship of keratitis being caused by the antibodies fighting herpesvirus.

D. CORRECT.

This makes a connection between the antibodies and keratitis.

We know that mice with herpesvirus develop keratitis. However, if mice that cannot form antibodies to herpesvirus do not develop keratitis, this suggests that the antibodies are in some way responsible for causing keratitis which is what is stated in the conclusion.

E. This weakens the conclusion by providing no connection between keratitis and the antibodies produced toward off herpesvirus.



75.

- A. The number of students who graduated is irrelevant. It does not explain the discrepancy in any way.
- B. We already know that the student population is increasing. This does not explain why despite the number of applications for the teaching position being lower, there are not shortage of teachers.
- C. Even if the ratio were the same, we know that the student population is increasing and so is the number of teacher resignations. This would widen the student teach ratio further.
- D. This could be one of the reasons why the number of applications are decreasing. But this does not help explain the discrepancy.
- E. This indicates that despite an increasing number of teachers resigning and the number of applicants for the position being lower than in 1985, the number of applications received was still 40% more than what was needed. It is possible that 5.9% more applicants were received in 1985 because the requirements were greater. Our concern is only with why is there no shortage of teachers in 1990? This option clearly explains why by telling us that the number of applications is till much more than the requirements. This is the only statistic we need. Everything else is just to confuse you.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

First, let's take a look at the structure of the passage:

- The number of teaching applicants in Newtown decreased 5.7% from 1985-1993 and 5.9% from 1985-1994. This means that teaching applications declined a little over .2% from 1993-1994.
- Throughout the late 1990s, the student population grew and more teachers resigned.
- With more students, more teacher resignations, and fewer teaching applicants we would EXPECT a teacher shortage towards the end of the decade.
- BUT, Newtown DID NOT face a teacher shortage in the late 1990s.



The question asks that we identify an answer choice that explains this apparent discrepancy. In other words, how can we have more students, more teacher resignations, and fewer teaching applicants, but at the same time not face a teacher shortage?

- A. The fact that many of Newtown's public school students do not graduate from high school does not help explain why Newtown does not face a teacher shortage in the late 1990s. Even if the graduation rate were in some way connected to the number of teachers needed, (A) still provides no information on how the number of students who graduate has or has not changed over the course of the decade. Eliminate (A).
- B. (B) explains why Newtown's student population continued to grow in the late 1990s, but the question asks us to explain the **discrepancy**. Because (B) does not explain why Newton did not face a teacher shortage in that time period, we can eliminate it.
- C. The passage has already indicated that the number of students has grown in the 1990s. Thus, if the Newtown school board were to increase the ratio of students to teachers, it could keep constant or decrease the number of teachers. But (C) indicates that the school board will not increase this ratio. This means that the school board will have to hire more teachers than ever to keep pace with the growing student population. Therefore, rather than explain why Newtown does not face a teacher shortage, (C) gives us all the more reason to find the lack of a teacher shortage perplexing. Eliminate (C).
- D. If teachers' colleges in the area began to produce fewer graduates, we would have all the more reason to expect a teacher shortage. Fewer graduates means a smaller pool of teachers to hire from. If anything, (D), like (C), gives us more reason to expect a teacher shortage. So, we can eliminate (D).
- E. We are trying to explain how, despite a decrease in applications, an increase in resignations, and an increase in students, Newtown did not face a teacher shortage in the late 1990s. If, in 1993, Newtown began with 40% more applications than positions available, then it had a significant surplus of teaching applicants. That means Newtown could afford a slight decrease in the number of applications and still be able to hire enough teachers to cover a growing student population and increasing number of resignations. Therefore, (E) explains the apparent discrepancy and is the best choice. (E) is correct.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

First thing is we don't have to explain about 1990. We have to explain something about late 1990s (very technically 1996 onwards).

Now the argument says applications in early 1990s were reducing (not number of teachers). Also student population was increasing. Finally number of teachers was also decreasing. However, if in early 1990s the number of applications for teacher positions was so much more than the number of positions available, in the absence of any information to the contrary, we can definitely think that, based on that trend, all of the resigned positions must have gotten filled up and there was never any shortage of teachers. This is why Option (E) is explaining the discrepancy. Also, if you use elimination, you will see that this option is the only one that has a semblance of explaining what is going on; the rest just don't.

76.

penicillin or erythromycin -> patients stop taking those drugs within three days, when it's prescribed for 7. Therefore, reinfection is common.

new antibiotic requires only a three-day course of treatment.

Conclusion: Therefore reinfection is less common than when they take penicillin or erythromycin

The assumption is that the patients will take this new drug for three days as they did with penicillin or erythromycin. We need something to strengthen this assumption.

A. We are not concerned with people who have allergies.

B. This means that money won't be a factor but it does not strengthen why reinfection will be less common with the new drug and whether patients will indeed take it for 3 days.

C. This is irrelevant. We are concerned with strep only.

D. Once again it does not strengthen why reinfection will be less common with the new drug and whether patients will indeed take it for 3 days.



E. CORRECT.

This tells us the reason why people stop taking the medicine after 3 days as the symptoms disappear after this time. Therefore this eliminates the possibility that the patients will take the new drug for less than 3 days and strengthens our conclusion that a 3 days drug will work better than a 7 days drug.

77.

Premise: Driving the steep road to the mountaintop Inca ruins of Machu Picchu is potentially dangerous and hiking there is difficult. Installing a cable car that will make access much easier.

Conclusion: Increased number of tourist will damage the site. Therefore, installation of the cable car is certain to result in harm to the ruins.

A. The comparison with the actual city of Inca is irrelevant. We are concerned with protecting the ruins and nothing in the passage suggests that the ruins can hold as many people as the original city could.

B. This further strengthens the conclusion that the installation of cable cars will damage the site.

C. This tells us that there are already a considerable number of tourists visiting the site. However, it does not tell us why installing cable cars may not cause increased damage to the site.

D. We do not care if tourist traffic is the number one cause. The question is will installation of cable cars cause more damage to the site than not installing them?

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that the current method of access is far more damaging. Therefore installing cable cars may not result in more harm than is being done currently.

78.

We need to find an option that justifies wildlife agency's approval of the permits.

A. CORRECT.

IF this were true, then the blackbirds will eat up the poisoned rice that is set out for them before the rare migratory birds can get to it. In such a case, the wildlife agency would be justified in approving such a plan as it poses no threat to the rare migratory bird species.

B. If this were true, it would still harm the rare bird species. Such birds are already rare and if they are unable to reproduce, it would further decrease their population.

C. since both blackbirds are the rare bird species are migratory (non-native), this is irrelevant.

D. This does not explain why the wildlife agency is justified in approving the plan. If this were true, under the fear of being fined, the farmers would not have set out the rice.

This option reiterates the importance of approval of the plan.

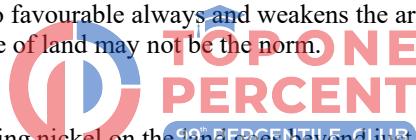
E. This indicates that the plan to poison the birds will be successful. But it does not tell us the consequence of such a plan on the rare migratory birds.

79.

The argument actually states that extracting nickel from the ash of such crops after incineration, is slightly above that of current mining.

We need a reason that will tell us why this method of growing crops in nickel rich soil and incinerating them will be adopted.

A. This indicates that the result may not be so favourable always and weakens the argument by suggesting that extraction of 100 pounds of nickel per acre of land may not be the norm.



B. CORRECT.

This indicates that the advantages of growing nickel on the land goes beyond just mining nickel. Since the land can be sold for more than it costs, adapting this plan will be more profitable than just mining and refining nickel in the usual way.

C. This weakens the conclusion that the method maybe adapted commercially by stating the environmental effects of such a plan.

D. Once again, this indicates that the study was performed under special conditions and that if it were to be repeated on land that has weeds, the results may not be the same.

E. Same as D.

80.

The passage says that the reasons Boreal owls range over a much larger area is due to the scarcity of food. We need an option that establishes this connection.

A. We already know that Boreal owls range over a much larger area. Whether this is 8 times or is irrelevant. We need to connect this behaviour with scarcity of food.

B. IF the food eaten by small mammals is sparse, it follows that the number of small mammals is also not very much. As a result this would result in scarcity of prey of the Boreal owl.

This option tells us that under such conditions Boreal owls range over a larger area than when food is abundant for the small mammals. This clearly connects their ranging patterns with the presence of prey.

C. Hunting more often need not translate to ranging over a wider area.

D. This in no way connects the scarcity of food with the ranging habits of the Boreal owl.

E. Same as D.

81.

Crux of the argument:

Although the reclamation technology has not improved, the cost of reclamation of mined out land has decreased by more than half.

How?

A. This is irrelevant. We are not concerned with the operational costs of coal mines. WE are looking at why has the reclamation cost decreased so drastically.

B. Once again, the popularity of fuel is not in question. Reclamation of a mined out land and its cost are independent of the demand for the fuel being mined.

C. CORRECT.

This tells us why the average reclamation costs may have gone down over the years. Once the law was passed, mining in the mountainous areas of Balzania ceased where the reclamation costs had been particularly high (and this had driven up the average).

D. This makes a distinction in the price of coal produced from surface mines and those from underground mines. All this tells us is that maybe the surface mines had a higher profit margin that allowed them to absorb the reclamation costs.

This is irrelevant to why the reclamation costs have decreased over the years.

E. This is completely out of scope as it does not discuss reclamation at all.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

We are told that operators of surface mines have had to pay for the reclamation of mined-out land for the past twenty years. During that time, reclamation technology has not improved. Yet, the average reclamation cost for a surface coal mine being reclaimed today is significantly less than what it was twenty years ago.

So why has the average reclamation cost decreased even though the technology has not improved?

A. Even after Balzania began requiring surface mine operators to pay reclamation costs, coal mines in Balzania continued to be less expensive to operate than coal mines in almost any other country. We are not concerned with how the reclamation costs in Balzania compare to those in other countries. We are trying to explain why the average reclamation cost IN BALZANIA has decreased even though the technology has not improved. Eliminate (A).

B. In the twenty years since the regulations took effect, the use of coal as a fuel has declined from the level it was at in the previous twenty years. A decline in the use of coal might have caused a decrease in surface coal mining and thus an OVERALL decrease in reclamation costs, but that would not affect AVERAGE reclamation cost. Eliminate (B).

C. Mine operators have generally ceased surface mining in the mountainous areas of Balzania because reclamation costs per ton of coal produced are particularly high for mines in such areas. Before the regulations, operators did not have to pay for the reclamation of mined-out land, so they would have had no incentive to consider those costs when choosing mining sites. However, since the passing of the regulations, the operators HAVE had incentive to consider reclamation costs when choosing mining sites. As a result, the operators might have started to avoid mining in areas that would incur high reclamation costs (i.e. mountainous areas), thus reducing average reclamation cost. Choice (C) would help to explain why average reclamation cost has decreased even though the technology has not improved, so keep (C).

D. Even after Balzania began requiring surface mine operators to pay reclamation costs, surface mines continued to produce coal at a lower total cost than underground mines. We need a statement that explains why the average reclamation cost for a SURFACE coal mine has decreased. How those costs compare to those of underground mines is irrelevant, so (D) can be eliminated.

E. As compared to twenty years ago, a greater percentage of the coal mined in Balzania today comes from surface mines. Increasing the amount of coal from surface mines might increase the TOTAL reclamation costs from those sites, but, as with choice (B), this would not explain why the AVERAGE reclamation cost has changed. Choice (E) might explain why the operators of such mines are making more money, but it does not explain the change in reclamation costs. Eliminate (E). Choice (C) is the best answer.

82.

We need to find an option that OLEX has another motive to keep the Grenville refinery open, apart from social concerns.

- A. We already know that OLEX has determined closing this refinery will be more profitable than keeping it open. Therefore this option becomes irrelevant.
- B. We already know that closing the refinery will be more profitable. Therefore this does not help strengthen the argument that OLEX is not keeping the refinery open due to social concerns.
- C. Once again, this provides more reason from closing the Grenville refinery than for keeping it open.
- D. This tells us of a possible outcome of closing the Grenville refinery and that it may not result in a loss of 1200 jobs. However, now that OLEX is keeping the refinery open, the option does not provide a good reason for OLEX doing so, apart from social concern.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that closing the Grenville refinery would result in additional overheads for OLEX. This provides a good reason for why they would keep the refinery open to avoid such overheads. This clearly tells us that OLEX is not doing so because it cares about the residents of Grenville.

83.

Here is the discrepancy:

Although the legal drinking age was raised to 21 to decrease Alcohol-related traffic deaths, people under this age continue to consume the same amount of alcohol.

However, the number of Alcohol-related traffic deaths among people under 21 have decreased .

- A. Does not explain why people under 21 continued to drink the same amount and yet were involved in fewer accidents.
- B. CORRECT.  
This tells us that although the drinking did not reduce, due to the new increased age limit, alcohol consumption outside homes decreased for people under 21 and thereby lowered the number of accidents.
- C. This should ideally lead to more accidents. Does not explain why people under 21 continued to drink the same amount and yet were involved in fewer accidents.
- D. This is irrelevant. The comparison is between the same age group of under 21 before and after the legal drinking age limit was raised.
- E. We are not concerned with people who are over 21.

84.

Relation:

Bacteria -> whitefooted mice -> larvae of deer ticks -> humans

Larvae feed on other species which do not harbor the bacterium so increase their population. Fewer people will get Lyme disease.

Conclusion: Increase the population of 'other species'; fewer people will get Lyme disease.

Strengthen the conclusion:

A. Ticks do not suffer any adverse consequences from carrying the bacterium that causes Lyme disease in humans.

Out of scope.

B. There are no known cases of a human's contracting Lyme disease through contact with white-footed mice.

Out of scope. Argument doesn't discuss whether humans can directly contract Lyme disease. The argument only deals with Lyme disease through deer ticks. Let me elaborate on this. Say 100 people contract Lyme disease every year. At least some of them are through infected deer ticks. If number of infected deer ticks is reduced, the number of infected humans will reduce too. It is immaterial whether there are other ways of contracting lyme disease. If all 100 humans get infected through deer ticks, the number of infected humans might go down to 50. If half get infected directly and half through deer ticks, number of infected humans may go down to 75. In any case, we do expect the number of humans infected to go down. Hence, we can say that option (B) has no relevance as far as our conclusion goes. We are only concluding that there will be a decrease - not the amount of decrease.

C. A deer tick feeds only once while in the larval stage.

If there are more uninfected food sources, it is likely that when the larvae feed, they feed on uninfected food. If the larvae do not feed again, it is probable that they will not carry the bacterium. Hence fewer humans will get affected. Answer (C)



D. A single host animal can be the source of bacteria for many tick larvae.

It doesn't strengthen our plan since bacteria could still proliferate if a single host can be source for many tick larvae. So we may not see much decrease in Lyme disease in humans.

E. None of the other species on which deer tick larvae feed harbor other bacteria that ticks transmit to humans.

Out of scope.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Larvae feed on infected white footed mice and get infected themselves. This they pass on to humans.

If they feed on other species that don't carry the bacterium, they will not get infected and will not pass the bacterium to humans.

Say, there are 30 infected whitefooted mice in the forest and 70 uninfected other species. So the chances of larvae carrying the bacterium is 30%.

If we increase the population of other species to 170, the chances of larvae carrying the bacterium will be 15% (must reduced).

What helps in this scenario? If the larvae feed only once. If they feed multiple times, even if they feed on an uninfected species once, they might feed on the infected whitefooted mice the next time they feed. So in case of multiple feeds, whether increasing the population of other species will actually have an impact, we don't know. The chances of "fewer people getting Lyme disease" increases when larvae feed once only.

Hence (C) is correct. It strengthens our conclusion.

85.

Here is the summary:

1) the market value of real estate in Altonville has steadily declined over the past four years.

2) The overall figure on which the city's property tax is based has also declined.

For example, if all of Altonville's real estate was worth \$100,000 4 years ago, and is now worth \$60,000, the assessed value of real estate is now \$60,000 on which the property tax is based.

3) The percentage of the above assessed value that was paid as property tax has remained the same.

For example, if 10% of \$100,000 was paid 4 years ago, 10% of \$60,000 is paid now.

Given the above information, which option can be inferred?

A. Nothing in the passage states that most of Altonville's revenue comes from property tax.

B. Since we do not know whether the overall revenue of Altonville changed in the last 4 years, we cannot infer whether percentage of Altonville's yearly revenue that comes from money collected in property taxes changed or not.

Refer example below:

Lets assume that the 4 years ago, Altonville's yearly revenue was \$100. Of this \$20 came from property tax and \$80 from the rest.

% of revenue from property tax : 20

% of revenue from the rest: 80

4 years later, lets say the Altonville's yearly revenue was \$50. Of this \$16 came from property tax and \$34 from the rest.

% of revenue from property tax : 32

% of revenue from the rest: 68

Therefore, although the assessed value of real estate and the subsequent tax collected from it has reduced in the last 4 years, the % of the annual revenue that comes from property tax has gone up in our example.

Unless the option tells us that Altonville's yearly revenue has remained the same or increased, we cannot comment on this option.

C. This is irrelevant. We already know that the percentage of assessed value that was paid as property taxes has not changed. We cannot infer whether the officials wanted to raise the tax amount or not.



D. CORRECT.

We know that the assessed value of real estate was low and the percentage of the above assessed value that was paid as property tax has remained the same. Therefore it follows that the ACTUAL amount of money collected from real estate was lower.

E. Nothing in the passage indicates if taxes on other sources of revenue was increased or decreased or remained the same.

86.

A. If this were true, it does not explain why they would develop high blood pressure on moving to the city.

B. Once again, this indicates that high salt maybe the reason for high blood pressure and does not indicate why "Though suggestive, these facts do not establish salt as the culprit in high blood pressure.. "

C. We know that the people who move from the isolated communities adopt a high salt diet. Therefore this does not explain why salt may not be the culprit.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that other factors of the diet, besides the salt can be responsible for the increase in blood pressure and supports the conclusion that "Though suggestive, these facts do not establish salt as the culprit in high blood pressure, however, because \_\_\_\_\_."

E. This is completely irrelevant and is no way connected to the conclusion. The comparison is between high salt and low salt and not complete absence of salt.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The author says that people who reside in isolated rainforest areas have a vegetarian diet with very little salt consumption. Only a few of them suffer from high blood pressure and their blood pressure doesn't increase with age- such increase in blood pressure is common among people residing in industrialized countries.

The author further says that when people who reside in forest areas move to industrialized cities & adopt high-salt, they develop high blood pressure.

The above statements may indicate a cause-effect relationship between salt consumption and high blood pressure but as per the question, we have to find some reason other than salt which can lead to high blood pressure.

Option D provides a reason other than salt and hence- it is correct!



87.

The crux of the argument is the money involved. We need an option that shows that electrically conductive concrete is more economically viable than standard concrete.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that continuous deicing can shorten the life-span of a bridge. Therefore it would be economically viable to use electrically conductive concrete for resurfacing, rather than rebuild a bridge more frequently due to the use of standard concrete.

B. This option indicates that the use of electrically conductive concrete may pose more difficulty in de-icing. This is the exact opposite of what the highway official is saying.

C. This is irrelevant. We already know that icing is a problem. Whether ice forms first on the bridge or the road does not matter.

D. Since we are primarily discussing the cost involved in resurfacing bridges, the other uses of ECC is irrelevant.

E. We already know that electric current is used for de-icing. We need something that can prove, despite the high construction cost, ECC is still more economically viable.

88.

Here is the summary of the argument.

1) Mastitis cannot be treated by anti-biotics.

2) A related bacterium *Staphylococcus simulans* can displace *Staphylococcus aureus*, thereby treating Mastitis.

Yet, this method of treating Mastitis is unlikely to become popular. We need to find a reason why.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that injecting cows with *Staphylococcus simulans* will expose them to dangerous bacteria and since Mastitis is not dangerous, it is unlikely that the farmers will put their ~~cows~~ ~~percentage~~ at risk to treat it.

B. This is irrelevant since it does not tell us what *Staphylococcus simulans* will not be used for treatment.

C. Same as B.

D. Same as B.

E. The symptom is not relevant. We are discussing the treatment method here.

89. Conclusion:

Ever since plastic sleds became popular, number of sledding accidents have gone up.  
Therefore, it is concluded that plastic sleds are more dangerous.

We need an option that undermines this conclusion.

A. This is irrelevant. It does not explain the relationship between plastic sleds and accidents.

B. Since this does not mention if they do so only while using plastic sleds, it is not relevant to the argument.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that the accidents may not have been because the plastic sleds are more dangerous but rather because they make sledding possible in conditions that weren't accessible before.

This clearly undermines the conclusion that plastic sleds are more dangerous and opens up the possibility that sledding under certain snow conditions is what caused the accident.

D. Since this does not distinguish between plastic sleds and wooden sleds, it is irrelevant.

E. This should typically mean that the number of children injured while using a wooden sled should be high.  
Since we do not know how many people a plastic sled can carry, we cannot comment on the conclusion.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Before 10 years ago, wooden sleds were common. Since last 10 years, plastic sleds have become common. We are not comparing plastic sleds today with plastic sleds ten years ago. We are comparing plastic sleds today with wooden sleds before 10 years.

You can also get a hint that plastic sleds are being compared with wooden sleds by the language of the passage. Info is being provided about both plastic sleds and wooden sleds. Then passage says that 'plastic sleds are **more dangerous**' means that they are being **compared with wooden sleds**. It is also giving a hint in next statement 'the number of children injured while sledding was much higher last winter **than it was ten years ago**'. Ten years ago should tell you that plastic sleds are being compared with **wooden sleds**

90.

We need an option that tells us that lowering prices for workstations may not generate interest among the buyers.

- A. This would be an advantage as it would spur them then to buy the workstations. This is precisely what the manufacturer wants.
- B. We are not discussing the capabilities of the workstation but rather how the reduced prices may attract buyers.
- C. This would ensure that these buyers knew the significance of the price reduction.
- D. This is completely irrelevant to evaluating whether us that lowering prices for workstations will or will not generate interest among the buyers.

E. CORRECT.

If this were true, then the buyers would not be tempted to buy from the manufacturer as it has already lowered its price significantly and hence they will not be able to negotiate further discounts.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub



The manufacturer's strategy (in other words, the manufacturer's conclusion) is that publishing very low list prices for workstations will generate interest among buyers, and therefore increase sales. Keep in mind that the best choice will give us the best logical reason for this specific conclusion to fail.

The conclusion is not "publishing very low list prices will hide the manufacturer's intent" or "tricking buyers into a non-straightforward deal will lead to increased sales." It doesn't rely on any kind of hidden reason for the low list price, and doesn't rely on any kind of particular knowledge outside of list prices. So let's keep this as simple as it sounds. The right answer will give us a reason to doubt whether lower list prices will lead to more sales.

C. If this were true, wouldn't it be even more clear to buyers that the manufacturer's list prices are very low when compared to the rest of the workstation market? If anything, this makes the strategy more believable, because now we know that the strategy targets the people who are most informed about price.

In short: there's no need to complicate this.

- The strategy focuses on the impact of low list prices on sales.
- Choice (C), at most, slightly strengthens the strategy by confirming that buyers are knowledgeable about prices in general.
- Choice (E) weakens the strategy by revealing that buyers would see low list prices as negative for them, and therefore have less reason to buy.

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

It's crucial here to differentiate between (1) the published prices (aka the "list prices") and (2) the prices that the buyers actually pay.

Imagine that these workstations are typically sold for about \$1,000:

- The manufacturer creates a catalog with its most recent models, and that catalog contains the published (list) prices of each one.

- Now a buyer comes in and says, "Hey, I'd like to buy 50 of these \$1,000 workstations. How about you sell them to me for \$750 each?"
- The manufacturer agrees, and the buyer gets to brag to his boss about how he/she saved the company 25% off the list price.

Now let's move to an alternate dimension where that same manufacturer says, "You know what? Let's publish LOWER list prices in our catalog to generate interest among the buyers!"

- Now the LIST price for those same workstations is, say, \$800 instead of \$1,000.
- The same buyer comes in wanting to buy 50, but the manufacturer still isn't willing to sell them for less than \$750 (to get the same profit as in the previous example).
- So the buyer in this dimension scores the same exact deal. But now the buyer only gets to brag about saving 6-7% off the list price.

If (E) is true, then the second situation doesn't bode well for the buyer. He/she would rather hunt for a manufacturer who publishes *inflated* list prices -- that way, there's more room for negotiation and more room for buyer bragging and bonuses! The key point is that we aren't talking about changing the actual purchase prices -- we're only changing the *published* (list) prices.

As for (C), you'd have to assume quite a bit to make this one work. Maybe those "very knowledgeable" buyers look at the price of 5 and say, "Wow, that's a great price for this kind of workstation! Let's buy a bunch while they are so cheap!" In that case, (C) could explain why the plan is likely to succeed.

(E) is a much better option.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

A. If the plan is "to publish very low list prices for workstations in order to generate interest among the buyers for those corporations," the fact that those proposed list prices actually would seem low to a typical buyer is consistent with the manufacturer's plan. This is evidence that the strategy will succeed, not fail.

E. True, the buyers' compensation may be affected by several other factors, but choice E only discusses the specific bonus received for "negotiating large discounts from the list price." 99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE GMAT If the list prices are already low and the buyers have no room to negotiate, the buyers will most likely NOT be able to earn those specific bonuses. This would REDUCE the buyers' interest in those listings and potentially cause the strategy to fail. Also, the question does not ask us for a characteristic of the marketplace that would DEFINITELY cause the strategy to fail; rather it asks for one that "would TEND to cause the manufacturer's strategy to fail." E is the best choice because it most clearly works against the strategy of the manufacturer.

Remember that the strategy of the manufacturer is "to publish very low list prices for workstations in order to generate interest among the buyers for those corporations"--the manufacturer WANTS the prices to seem low to a typical buyer, so choice A is consistent with that strategy. True, we don't know for sure if that strategy will succeed, and if one of the answer choices were something like, "Most buyers are suspicious of very low prices...", that could certainly be a characteristic of the marketplace that would tend to cause the strategy to fail; however, without being given that information, we can't make assumptions about the thought process of the buyers.

As for choice E, again, we can only go by the information in the passage--all we know is that the buyers receive bonuses for negotiating large discounts from the list price. If the list prices are already low, then there is little to no room to negotiate discounts; thus, the buyers cannot earn those specific bonuses. This alone is a factor that works AGAINST the strategy (ie "would tend to cause the manufacturer's strategy to fail"). Yes, we can come up with scenarios in which the lost bonuses referred to in choice E are offset by other means of compensation, but we cannot assume that will happen if it is not included in the answer choice.

We only need to find an answer choice that would *tend* to cause the manufacturer's strategy to fail; we don't need it to be something that will DEFINITELY cause the strategy to fail. Solely based on the information in the passage and the answer choices, choice E is the best fit.

91.

A. This would not explain why the several musical treatises from the late 1500's have come to light, all of which name Pescard as the composer of Lacrimae, would not lend support to the claim made by the earlier treatises.

B. Same as above.

C. Since we are specifically discussing Lacrimae, Pescard's other works are not relevant here.

D. CORRECT.

This indicates that the later treatises had not way of validating the author of Lacrimae other than by looking at the earlier treatise. Therefore the later treatises cannot be used as evidence to verify the earlier treatise.

E. But this will not explain why we must discard what the treatises from early and late 1500 say.

92.

The buildings complied with the safety standards in every way except for one - the nails used for attaching roof supports to the building's columns were of a smaller size than the codes specify for this purpose.

We need an option that establishes that even the slightest departure from the code can lead to a collapse.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that the buildings that were built according to the safety code could withstand the snowfall and the only buildings that collapsed were the older ones that did not follow the current building safety code.

This clearly strengthens the Editorial's conclusion that "this collapse exemplifies how even a single, apparently insignificant, departure from safety standards can have severe consequences."

B. This weakens the editorial's argument by stating that maybe the reason for the collapse was not the use of nails but the weight of the snow on its roof.



C. This is irrelevant. As long as the safety code for the equipment-storage building was followed, the building should have been safe.

Since it collapsed, we are trying to find out if a slight departure from the code can lead to such a collapse.

D. Same as C. As long as the pillars were as strong as it required by the code, this option is irrelevant.

E. This is irrelevant. Whether the building was empty or not, provides no strength to the argument.

93.

A. This argues with the premise. The premise already tells us what "Tourist interest is high, so the plan has promise of achieving the twin goals of giving the former hunters a good income and helping ensure the manatees' survival."

B. This tells us the consequence of the plan's success. But we need to find an option that tells us why the plan may not succeed in recovering the dying manatee population.

C. This tells us that there is no need for hunting manatees. But does not tell us help us evaluate the success of the plan.

D. Even if there were a shortage of guides, it would still give the former hunters a good income and help ensure the manatees' survival.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that many such trips to the fragile habitat of manatees may disturb the manatees and pose more threat to their safety than hunting.

94.

The conclusion:

publication of the book will almost certainly increase the use of products containing recycled materials in Calovia.

This can be true, if the consumers currently are not aware of such products.

A. This is irrelevant to the conclusion. The profits from the book will not affect the consumers' buying habits.

B. CORRECT.

This indicates that there are many brands that do not advertise their use of recycled products and therefore the consumers must go looking for it. A book of this kind will definitely help in identification.

C. This is irrelevant to evaluating the conclusion of whether the use of products containing recycled materials will increase post the book.

D. This would make the book slightly redundant as the consumers will be using products that contain recycled materials anyway.

E. The point of this book is to provide a listing of all products that use recycled materials.

We need to evaluate if the book will spike the sales of such products. Therefore the % of recycled material used is not relevant here.

95.

A. Does not explain why they would not forage in the sanctuaries created for them and seek cultivated land instead.

B. We already know that farmers have lost millions of dollars worth of crops annually. This option does not explain why sanctuaries will not keep the elephants out of cultivated lands.

C. Once again, we do not know despite that guarantee elephants sufficient natural vegetation, the raiding of cultivated land would likely persist.

D. CORRECT.

This clearly tells us why the elephants will prefer cultivated land to sanctuaries that are full of natural vegetation.

E. This should be all the more reason why elephants will stop raiding cultivated land. But we are told that the exact opposite is expected to happen.

96.

A pattern has been established. Reduction in the Argonian currency has lead to a significant increase in exports. However we need to find an option that tells us that a similar decrease in currency this year will lead to no such increase in exports.

A. This does not tell us why decreasing its value will not lead to an increase in exports.

B. This simple re establishes the pattern we already know to be true.

C. This is irrelevant. It does not help answer the question why lowering the currency will not lead to an increase in exports.

D. CORRECT.

This indicates that due to a decrease in the currency value, even if the export demand went up, Argonia will not be able to keep with the increasing demands as its factories are operating at full capacity and new factories would take years to build.

E. We are not concerned with the decrease in the currency value and its effects on import.

97.

1) lungs produce a natural antibiotic -> kills harmful bacteria on airway surfaces.

2) People with cystic fibrosis -> produce normal amount of antibiotic but are unable to kill such bacteria.

Conclusion: antibiotic becomes ineffective at killing harmful bacteria in high-salt environments that are present in lungs of people with cystic fibrosis.

Which option weakens the conclusion?

A. But we already know that the salt concentration of people with cystic fibrosis is high. This does not help determine whether antibiotic becomes ineffective at killing harmful bacteria in high-salt environments.

B. Since we are talking of the effectiveness of the antibiotic at high-salt environments and not low-salt environments, this becomes irrelevant.

C. Once again, we are discussing whether antibiotic becomes ineffective at killing harmful bacteria in high-salt environments. By telling us that people with cystic fibrosis are unable to maintain salt levels typical of healthy lungs, this is only reinstating what we already know.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that even when the main condition for the ineffectiveness of the antibiotic as stated by the conclusion is removed, the antibiotic is still unable to function normally in people with cystic fibrosis. This weakens the conclusion (that high salt environment is responsible) considerably.

E. This is out of scope. We are discussing people with cystic fibrosis where the salt concentration is higher than normal.

98.

Fact 1 -> overall more tourists stay at hotels in Springfield than Harristown



Fact 2 -> more tourist stay at the largest hotel in Harristown than Royal Arms hotel in Springfield.

Now lets assume both facts are true.

If Fact1 and Fact2 are true, which option CANNOT be true?

A. We are not concerned with the length of stay but with the number of tourists staying. This option could be true and both Fact 1 and Fact 2 would still hold good.

B. Once again, this fact could be true and Fact 1 and Fact 2 could still follow.

C. This is simply restating Fact 2. We already know it is true.

D. Maybe. This would mean that the largest hotel in Harristown has more people than the largest hotel in Springfield. However, it is still possible that overall more tourists stay at hotels in Springfield than Harristown. Therefore both Fact 1 and Fact 2 are true.

E. CORRECT.

This option cannot be true. IF Royal Arms were the only hotel in Springfield and Fact 2 was true, then it would automatically make Fact 1 false. Springfield must have more than one hotel for both the sources to be correct.

99.

A. This maybe. But we are discussing the orthopedists and their cases only.

B. We are not discussing initial X rays. The question is about fractures that have been diagnosed as stable and if follow up X ray is required in such a case.

C. CORRECT.

This tells us that it is not a particular orthopedist or a particular hospital that can judge the stability of a fracture well. By telling us that the sampling was done across hospitals and across doctors, we are much more sure ofthe conclusion that it is a waste of money to order follow-up X-rays of ankle fracture initially judged stable.

D. We are not discussing ankle fractures that were operated upon. This is out of scope.

E. Once again, the scope here is just ankle fractures and not other fractures of the bone.

100.

We need to find an option that supports the notion that age does not have anything to do with the loss ofcreative capacity. Rather, scientists who have worked for 15 or more years exhaust all creative avenues.

A. While this tells us that scientists over 40 do good work, it does not address the question of "creative capacity". Has the creative capacity of these scientists reduced? Is creative work a criteria for receiving thegrant? We do not know.

B. CORRECT.

This option does two things:

1)Tells us that it is possible for scientists to do creative work after 40.

2)Implies that scientists who do creative work after 40, entered the field at a later age than common - this means that they may not have the average 15 years experience. ~~This indicates that since they have spent less time in that field, they have not exhausted all their creative avenues as yet.~~



C. This makes a connection between a scientist's expectation and creativity. This is not supported by the passage. Nor does it strengthen the explanation that scientists burn out creative avenues after 15 years in thesame field.

In fact this option offers a third, completely different explanation for why scientists do their most creative work before age forty.

D. Once again, this does not strengthen the explanation that scientists burn out creative avenues after 15 yearsin the same field. It seems to indicate that scientists lose interest in research post 40.

E. This supports the explanation that “aging carries with it a loss of creative capacity”.

101.

We need an option that will provide an alternate explanation for the decline in attendance at the demonstration which strengthens the fact that decline in attendance does not indicate that popular support for the opposition’s demands is dropping.

A. Even if the demands have not changed, people could have just lost interest. This does not tell us that thepopular support for the opposition’s demand has remained constant.

B. This is irrelevant. We are discussing popular support i.e public support.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that although people may want to be a part of demonstration, due to lack of sufficient information, they do not know the demonstrations are still ongoing. The option also indicates that the “state- controlled media have ceased any mention of the demonstrations” indicating that the media had mentioned thedemonstrations earlier (resulting in a large turnout) and then stopped doing so.

D. This is irrelevant. We need an option that explains why the attendance started to decline at the demonstration in question.

E. Even if this were true, why was the demonstration well attended in the first week? And why did the attendance decline subsequently?

102.

Here is the summary:

As soon as a person wakes up, Adenosine starts to bind to more and more sites on cells.

This cumulative binding to a large number of sites, reaches a peak and causes the onset of sleep. Once the person sleeps, the binding slowly starts to reduce.

And the cycle repeats.

Which option strengthens this argument?

- A. This weakens the hypothesis by indicating that the number of brain cells bound with adenosine, even after long sleep, remains very large.

According to the hypothesis "During sleep, the number of sites to which adenosine is bound decreases"

**B. CORRECT.**

This tells us that in order to help a person stay awake, caffeine interferes with the binding of adenosine to sites on brain cells.

This indicates that the action of binding is connected to wakefulness of a person.

This is consistent with the hypothesis which states that

- 1) more bound adenosine -> onset of sleep
- 2) lesser bound adenosine -> wakefulness

- C. This is irrelevant to the hypothesis. We are concerned with the connection between adenosine and sleep only.

- D. This does not indicate the connection between bound adenosine and sleep.

- E. This provides an expectation to the rule. We already know that when levels of bound adenosine are high it results in the onset of sleep.

This simply gives us a situation where this does not occur and in no way strengthens the hypothesis.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**



Brain cells release Ade when people are awake.  
Ade binds to more and more cells at this time.

When asleep, these bindings reduce.

Hypothesis - The large number of bindings cause sleepiness.

(When the bindings increase too much, the brain signals that we need to sleep to reduce the bindings)

- (A) Even after long periods of sleep when adenosine is at its lowest concentration in the brain, the number of brain cells bound with adenosine remains very large.

We are talking about relative number of bindings. Bindings increase when awake and reduce when asleep. Whether the absolute number is small or large while we are asleep is irrelevant.

- (B) Caffeine, which has the effect of making people remain wakeful, is known to interfere with the binding of adenosine to sites on brain cells.

Caffeine interferes with bindings (does not let Ade bind to cells) and is known to cause wakefulness. This does strengthen that a large number of bindings cause sleepiness. When caffeine is ingested, it interferes with bindings and hence would lead to wakefulness if bindings cause sleepiness.

- (C) Besides binding to sites in the brain, adenosine is known to be involved in biochemical reactions throughout the body.  
Irrelevant

- (D) Some areas of the brain that are relatively inactive nonetheless release some adenosine.  
Irrelevant

- (E) Stress resulting from a dangerous situation can preserve wakefulness even when brain levels of bound adenosine are high. This is irrelevant too. It does not help us link sleepiness to bindings. This tells us that stress can preserve wakefulness even if bindings are high. Then it does not strengthen that bindings cause sleepiness.

Answer (B)

103.

Fact 1: Hill and Dale is a business that sells high-quality, expensive camping and hiking equipment in Boravia.

Fact 2: Consumers planning to buy recreational equipment tend to buy higher quality, more expensive equipment when the economy is strong than when it is weak.

Despite the economy of Boravia being strong currently, the managers of the company do not expect an increase in sales.

We need to find an option that gives us a reason for consumers not buying high-quality, expensive camping and hiking equipment, despite a strong economy.

A. This should typically increase sales. Does not answer why the managers do not expect an increase in sales.

B. CORRECT.

If this were true, then despite strong economy (in fact due to it) consumers may not find the need to buy camping equipment.

Note that the passage indicates that consumers buy high quality "recreational equipment" when the economy is strong. This may or may not include camping equipment. This option gives us a reason for why it may not include camping equipment.

C. This would typically mean that there will be more camping activity, all the more reason why the business of Hill and Dale must improve.

D. This does not answer why the managers of the company do not expect an increase in sales.

E. Same as C.

104.

Conclusion: Since average homework time is 30 minutes, there is no need to impose limits on the amount as it does not eat into much of children's free time.



A. Even if this weren't true, the theorist's argument is that the children will have sufficient time to complete their homework as well as engage in free time activities.(irrespective of what those activities are)

B. This argument isn't about the effectiveness of homework. Rather it's about whether a child can do homework as well as have time for other activities.

C. This would actually weaken the theorist's argument to an extent indicating that we need someone else other than teachers to decide the amount of homework (Exactly what he is arguing against)

D. CORRECT. Lets negate this:

In most schools, if not all, the homework assignments given are of a length that diverges widely from the average. This would mean that children may have to spend more than 30 minutes which might cut into their free time and thereby proving the point made by the editorials. This would destroy the conclusion.

E. The theorist does not state that free time activities are useless. This is out of scope.

105.

- 3 key difference between electronic and micro-mechanics chips:
- 1) speed of EC (electronic chips) > Speed of MMC (micro-mechanics chips)
  - 2) number of Switches in EC > number of Switches in MMC
  - 3) EC cannot withstand intense radiation where as MMC can.

Now we need to find an option which makes MMC redundant for example: in a scenario where chips are not required to withstand intense radiation, the use of high speed EC chips would make more sense.

- A. This tells us that speed is not an issue in which case consumers may prefer the radiation resistant MMC chips.
- B. This tells us that EC chips that use only 12,000 switches (i.e. chips with the same speed as MMC) are vulnerable to radiation damage. In such cases, since the speed is the same, MMC would be the obvious choice.
- C. Such scenarios would obviously require MMC chips.
- D. This tells us that there is market for devices where the components may have to withstand radiation and such components already exist.

This makes a case for a market where MMC chips will be used.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that for devices that maybe exposed to radiation, manufacturers have a way of protecting the chips from radiation.

Since the only advantage of MMC is its ability to withstand radiation, EC chips that can be protected from radiation will be a better choice given their higher speed.

106.

Summary:



Fact 1: federal government implemented a tax amnesty program.

Fact 2: Tax amnesty program allows tax delinquents to pay all owed tax without added financial penalty.

Prediction: This program will not be as effective for the federal government as it was for the state government.

We need an option that supports this prediction:

- A. We are not told that the federal government's amnesty program was less widely publicised than the state government's.
- B. This should mean that federal government's and state government's amnesty program will meet with equal success.
- C. The amnesty program will allow the delinquents to pay taxes WITHOUT financial penalty. This means that the incentive for federal tax delinquents must be higher to pay the taxes.
- D. We are not told if the federal tax is higher. It is possible that the federal tax could be lower than the tax in most states or the opposite could also be true.

Without this information, this option does not help us understand why "federal government would collect a far lower percentage of total tax owed by delinquents than did state governments implementing similar programs".

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that the federal tax delinquents do not pay their taxes intentionally while the state tax delinquents do so because of an oversight.

If people are intentionally not paying taxes then the amnesty program will not provide an incentive to do so, unlike in the state, where people who had overlooked paying their taxes might be tempted to pay it without a financial penalty.

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Let's break down what's presented, without introducing any hypotheticals or re-phrasing:

- **Economists conclude** that when compared to States, Feds will collect a far lower % of total tax owed to them by delinquents.
- We're talking about tax **delinquents**. This program is only concerned with taxpayers who are **already late** in paying their taxes.
- The Feds' program allows delinquents to pay all of what they already owe, **without added financial penalty**. This implies that the penalty in question is issued at the moment when a delinquent steps forward and pays all taxes owed.

The logic of this program is that delinquents will willingly pay all of what they owe, if doing so doesn't cost them anything extra.

Yet, economists conclude that the Feds' version of this program will bring in a smaller proportion of owed taxes than States' versions of this program. We aren't given any information that would explain this difference between Federal outcome and State outcome.

Which of the following, if true, would most contribute to an explanation of the economists' projections?

We're looking for the answer choice that most strengthens the economists' conclusion. The right choice does NOT have to prove the economists' conclusion. It just has to make the conclusion easier to believe by connecting the missing logical dots. In other words, we want a choice that shows us:

- Why State delinquents are more willing to pay all that they owe in this amnesty program, OR
- Why Federal delinquents are less willing to pay all that they owe in this amnesty program.

Since discussion around choice (C) and (E) has been the focus of this thread so far, let's start there.



C. Although federal tax delinquents usually must pay high financial penalties, the states require far lower financial penalties.

Wait a minute. The amnesty program **gets rid of added financial penalties** for delinquents who pay what they owe. If amnesty reduces this penalty to \$0 at the Federal level *and* the State level, does it matter if the penalty was high or low before these programs were implemented? Knowing what the federal and state penalties were usually like *before* these programs are implemented doesn't directly explain the economists' conclusion, which projects how much total tax will be collected *after* these programs are implemented.

If anything, Choice (C) weakens the conclusion, because it states that Federal penalties would have been high without the amnesty program. So if you're a delinquent, and you learn that your penalty is about to go from "high" to "\$0," then you've gained an extra incentive to pay what you owe now.

From either line of reasoning, (C) does not make the economists' conclusion easier to believe. Either this information is *irrelevant to why Federal delinquents would pay at a lower rate than State delinquents*, or it leads us to expect delinquents to be *more willing to pay the Feds*. This is why we eliminate (C).

E. Unlike most federal tax delinquents, most state tax delinquents fail to pay state tax because of an oversight rather than a decision not to pay.

(E) is a much better answer choice because it goes straight for the heart of this argument: **why each type of delinquents would pay or not pay what they owe**. This choice neatly tells us:

- State delinquents don't pay what they owe because of an oversight (i.e., a mistake), rather than a decision not to pay.
- State delinquents are unlike most federal tax delinquents.
- This implies that most federal tax delinquents don't pay what they owe because they're deciding not to pay, rather than because of an oversight.

This connects the logical dots we were missing! If (E) is true, then we know why economists would expect to see a smaller % of owed taxes collected through the federal program: Most Federal delinquents are trying **not to pay at all**. They're not just trying to avoid a penalty; they're trying to avoid paying taxes. So simply eliminating an added penalty is unlikely to

impact that avoidance.

Given this information we'd expect the Federal program to bring in a smaller % of owed taxes than comparable State programs. So let's keep (E) and run our process of elimination on (A), (B), and (D) to be sure we haven't missed an even more convincing choice.

A. Tax amnesty programs are only successful if they are widely publicized.

So what? (A) doesn't tell us a single thing about why Federal delinquents would be less willing to pay what they owe or why State delinquents would be more willing to pay what they owe. Eliminate.

B. Most people who honestly pay their state tax are equally honest in paying their federal tax.

We only care about **delinquents**, i.e., people who have not paid their taxes yet. And knowing whether or not the delinquents are honest is irrelevant. Knowing that honest federal taxpayers are just as honest as state taxpayers is miles away from the types of taxpayers we're thinking about and the logical argument we've been analyzing. Eliminate (B).

D. The state tax rate varies considerably from state to state, but the federal tax is levied according to laws which apply to citizens of all the states.

Huh? So you're telling me that state taxes are *state* taxes, and... the federal tax is a *federal* tax? (D) adds absolutely no information to the passage or the argument. It just tells us state and federal taxes are based on different laws. Eliminate (D).

(E) is **by far** the best answer choice, so we can keep it and move onto the next question.



107.

Fact 1: Whales originated in the freshwater lakes and rivers of ancient Asia about sixty million years ago.

Fact 2: whales developed specialised kidneys enabling them to drink salt water about 50 million years ago.

Fact 3: Between 50-60 million years ago, whales swam in salt-water oceans.

Hypothesis: Between 50-60 million years ago, whales that swam in salt-water oceans must have had to return frequently to freshwater rivers to drink.

Now, let's find an option that agrees with the hypothesis.

**A. CORRECT.**

This option indicates that whales that originated in Asia were unable to migrate to other continents (between 50-60 million years ago) as this involved extensive swimming in salt ocean.

This supports the hypothesis that that swam in salt-water oceans must have had to return frequently to freshwater rivers to drink.

**B.** We know that whales developed specialised kidneys enabling them to drink salt water about 50 million years ago. So anything after this time period is irrelevant to our hypothesis.

**C.** We know that whale species that drank fresh water were separated by whale species that drank salt water by 10 million years.

This option provides no support to our hypothesis.

**D.** Once again, we do know whales that swam in salt-water oceans, before developing specialised kidneys, must have had to return frequently to freshwater rivers to drink.

**E.** While this provides us with a reason why whales had to develop specialised kidneys, it does not answer whether whales that swam in salt-water oceans, before developing specialised kidneys, must have had to return frequently to freshwater rivers to drink.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



Between 60 million years ago (when they appeared) and 50 million years ago (when specialized kidneys appeared), whales didn't have specialized kidneys that enabled them to drink sea / ocean water. So they lived in freshwater, and even if they did swim in the oceans, they made frequent trips back to freshwater to drink. If that is the case, would it have been possible for them to cross vast expanses of ocean? No (they needed to make trips back to freshwater frequently, remember?). Then it wouldn't have been possible for whales (at least would have been extremely unlikely) to reach any landmass that was separated from Asia by vast expanse of ocean at the time the whales lacked specialized kidneys. So freshwater-drinking whales' fossils are extremely unlikely to be found on any such landmass in present times. You can also arrive at Option (A) by process of elimination.

108.

**A. CORRECT.**

The passage tells us that the reason there is a high rate of death among baby dolphins along Florida's Gulf Coast, is because the mothers ingest a high amount of toxins from its contaminated waters and pass this on to their new born in the way of milk.

By telling us that baby dolphins whose mothers died before they could be weaned ( Freed of dependence on mother's milk) have the highest rate of survival, this connects mother's milk with the baby's death and provides most support to the argument.

**B.** Since we do not know of the mortality rate of baby dolphins in polluted waters elsewhere, this option becomes irrelevant to the argument.

**C.** This provides slight support to argument. But since it does not make any direct connection between mother's milk and mortality rate, we can eliminate it. Remember, When drawing a conclusion, we must remember not to conclude too much; i.e., do not make unwarranted assumptions

**D.** This is irrelevant. We already know that about 80% of toxins a female dolphin has accumulated pass into the fat-rich milk her nursing calf ingests. We are concerned with the effects of this on the calf.

**E.** The amount of body fat is completely irrelevant to the argument.

109.

This is a tricky one.

Summary:

Fact 1: crowding increases the number of attacks among rats, significantly.

Fact 2: crowding among rhesus monkeys only increases the instances of "coping" behavior - number of attacks does not increase.

Conclusion: Therefore the study assumes that for any species of monkey, crowding does not increase aggression, as is the case with rats.

Note, the study extrapolates the behavior seen among rhesus monkeys to all species of monkeys. Lets find an option that indicates that this extrapolation is justified.

A. The passage indicates that the coping behavior "increased" in a crowded environment. This means that it could have been present in a non-crowded environment also. Since we already know that rhesus monkeys do not react with aggression in a crowded environment, the lack of coping behaviour specific to a crowded environment becomes irrelevant.

B. This explains coping behaviour in rats. But we already know that rats reacted with increased aggression in a crowded environment. Therefore this option does not strengthen the conclusion of the argument, which is specific to monkeys.

C. CORRECT.

This option indicates that Rhesus monkeys are most prone to aggression than any other species of monkeys. Therefore, if these monkeys do not react with aggression to crowding, the chances that other species of monkeys will is slim. This properly strengthens the conclusion.

D. We are concerned with the number of overall attacks. Also, the passage tells us that "attacks did not become any more frequent". This indicates that these individuals are prone to attacking, irrespective of whether the environment is crowded or not.

E. This might be tempting. This indicates that rhesus monkeys use the same coping behaviour as is used to end attacks, thereby suggesting that they come to a truce in a crowded environment. This doesn't strengthen the conclusion in that it does not tell us whether all species of monkeys are prone to doing the same.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

What we have here is a "strengthen the conclusion" question. To strengthen a conclusion, you need to make one of the argument's underlying assumptions into a supporting premise by stating it explicitly. This argument is essentially:

1. Crowding leads to aggression in rats.
2. However, crowding does NOT lead to aggression in rhesus monkeys.
3. Therefore, crowding probably does NOT lead to aggression in monkeys the way it does in rats.

Statements 1 and 2 are premises. Statement 3 is our conclusion. The question you want to ask yourself is: "What assumption are they making in between statements 2 and 3?" That assumption is going to be the answer to this type of question.

In this example, you can't assume that the behavior of Rhesus monkeys would reflect the behavior of other monkeys. Although we could probably justify this statement if we watch a lot of Discovery Channel, we can't use that external knowledge on the GMAT. Answer choice C is a version of this assumption; it makes explicit the fact that rhesus monkeys are actually more aggressive than other monkeys. The natural next step of this chain of logic is that if crowding doesn't make rhesus monkeys act aggressively, it probably doesn't make any other monkeys act aggressively.

As a result, C is the best way to strengthen this conclusion.

110.

- A. If the retail price of the magazines were to go down, Paper&Print will get 25 percent of the retail price, further reducing the profits it make on such magazines.

Also, this option does not tell us why devoting more of its stores' shelf space to books and stationery products will not increase Paper&Print's profit.

B. CORRECT.

This indicates that consumers come to Paper&Print for its wide variety of magazines than for books and stationery. By reducing the number of magazines, the store will lose its customer base and will be unable to attract customers with increased options in books and stationery.

C. This only tells us the huge profit margin of a magazine publisher. Since Paper&Print is a magazine retailer, this is irrelevant to the argument.

D. Such consumers would not have been customers of Paper&Print, even before the management decided to put the new plan to action.

E. This would strengthen the management's plan, to an extent, by indicating that since Paper&Print is the only retail outlet for books, its customer base for books will not decrease.

111.

Summary:

1) In Partoria, large trucks are involved in 12% of highway deaths.

2) Of all large trucks, those with three trailers have been involved in the least number of accidents (less than a third of the accident rate of single-and double-trailer trucks)

Conclusion: By encouraging shippers to use three-trailer trucks, Partoria can reduce the number of highway deaths.

Which option weakens this conclusion?



A. CORRECT.

This indicates that the reason trucks with three trailers have been involved in the least number of accidents is not because these trucks are safer but because they are used only on major highways with less traffic.

If these were to be used all over Partoria, there is no way of knowing whether it will reduce the number of accidents or not.

B. This is clearly irrelevant to argument. On roads that trucks are off limit, the plan becomes completely out of scope.

C. The collision need not between two trucks. Since we already know large trucks are involved in 12% of highway deaths, this option neither weakens nor strengthens the conclusion.

D. While this is good to know, the fact that of all large trucks, those with three trailers have been involved in the least number of accidents still remains. This option does not weaken the conclusion to increase the use of three-trailer trucks as a way of reducing highway deaths.

E. We do not know if there is a connection between the amount of payload and highway deaths. Since we cannot assume any such connection, this option becomes irrelevant.

112.

Summary:

the government increased all the elderly people's pensions. but, for some reason, the elderly people don't actually have any more money now.

our challenge is to find the "some reason" here.

we need a reason why the increase will have NO EFFECT on the elderly people's income. in other words, we must find some factor that will immediately cancel out the effect of the increase, since we know that the elderly people are indeed getting the money.

A. This would mean that an increase in pension would definitely result in better financial status for the old people.

B. We know that the 20% increase happened 2 years ago. Despite the 3 week delay, the pensioners must have got the increased pension, thereby contributing to their financial welfare.

C. But as the inflation is almost constant so we can safely assume that these prices are also same.

D. Note that we are trying to assess why the elderly are NOT financially better off now than they were before the increase. Even if this were true, given the 20% increase, the elderly below the poverty line must be in a slightly better state now than they were before.

E. CORRECT

if the elderly's income is supplemented by their children - up to a FIXED amount ("a comfortable living") - then it makes absolutely no difference how much pension those elderly people are receiving, as long as the pension is less than "a comfortable living". in other words, their children are just going to pay the difference anyway.

Example:

Person A needs \$ 200 per month for "comfortable living".

Previously pension was \$100, so Person A used to take \$100 from his/her children.

Now the increased pension is \$120, so that person takes \$ 80 from his/her children. But the net income is still \$200, therefore their financial condition continues to remain the same.



#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

This is a paradox question. The paradox being the pension has increased, and the increase has been passed on to the retirees, inflation is negligible, but still they are not financially better off.

Process of elimination will be our friend here.

Option (A) - If pension has increased by 20%, even if their entire source of income is the pension, if the pension was  $x$  and it is now  $1.2x$ ,  $1.2x$  is monotonically greater and better than  $x$ , for any positive  $x$

Option (B) - There is nothing to indicate that 3 weeks delay has any negative effect, especially since the increase is definitely being passed on to the retirees

Option (C) - This is irrelevant, as inflation has been said to have been negligible

Option (D) - Even if this is true, again, any positive increase of nominal income will result in higher real purchasing power in absence of inflation, so retirees receiving the increased income will be financially better off

Option (E) - By POE we have reached here, and this has to be the answer. Even then, let's understand why that is so. Whatever is the level of comfortable living upto which children supplement the income, that is the same level they will continue to do so. IF the income their parents earn increases, they will decrease how much they provide to their parents, and the overall financial level will remain the same

113.

oceanographers' hypothesis:

shortage of iron in the ocean prevents plankton from thriving.

Experiment:

release of iron compounds into one such area (in the ocean) failed to produce a thriving plankton population, even though local iron concentrations increased immediately.

We need to find an option that explains why, despite the above experiment, the oceanographers' hypothesis may not be false.

Note: the option need not prove that oceanographers' hypothesis is true. It just needs to prove that simply based on the above experiment, it cannot be disproved.

A. This is irrelevant. We know that planktons thrive in nitrogen rich areas. We are trying to understand if they also require iron to thrive.

B. This would strengthen the argument that the oceanographers' hypothesis is false - this is the exact opposite of what the question asks us to find.

C. We know that the area where iron was released was already rich in nitrogen. That the supply of nitrogen did not increase, does not affect the argument.

D. CORRECT.

This indicates that although iron compounds were released into the ocean surface, they could not remain on the surface due to ocean currents. Since we know that planktons grow on the surface, they will not be able to utilize iron that is not present on the surface.

Thus, this option does not allow us to dismiss the oceanographers' hypothesis that iron is required for plankton to grow.

E. Since we are not sure if the planktons are using this iron, this does not provide much help to the oceanographers' hypothesis.

For example, the area where planktons thrive could be rich in sodium, but the planktons may not use this for their growth. However if the lack of sodium meant that the planktons were unable to grow, this would mean that the planktons needed sodium for growth.

114.

Fact 1 -> Both cattle and chicken are fed the type of feed that transmits the virus.

Fact 2 -> Animals infected with the virus take more than a year to develop symptoms of Lofgren's disease.

Fact 3 -> chickens are brought to market during their first year of life. Now let's find an option that can be properly inferred from the above.

A. Nothing in the passage indicates that human beings are immune to the disease. In fact, the mention of humans is completely out of scope.

B. This cannot be inferred by the passage. The passage only says that "Lofgren's disease has been observed frequently in commercially raised cattle but very rarely in chickens"

Observation can mean physically manifested symptoms. There maybe ways of identifying the diseases before it physically manifests itself. Whether such tests exist or not, is out of scope.

C. CORRECT.

The passage indicates that since the symptoms take over a year to manifest and chickens are usually killed for meat before their first year of life, a chicken that is infected with the virus may not show any "observable" symptoms.

Therefore the fact that "Lofgren's disease has been observed frequently in commercially raised cattle but very rarely in chickens" does not mean chickens are immune to the disease.

D. We do not know whether the disease is contagious and can be transferred from one animal to another. Nothing in the passage provides support to this option.

E. The passage clearly tells us that "Both cattle and chickens raised for meat are often fed the type of feed that transmits the virus that causes the disease" So all we know is that the feed transmits the virus.

Other sources of virus are out of scope.

115.

A. CORRECT.

By giving us alternate reasons for economic growth this provides the most logical explanation for why states with strictest environmental regulations also have the highest economic growth.

B. This indicates that environmental regulations promote growth, exactly the opposite of what the passage is trying to conclude.

C. This indicates that by weakening their environmental regulations, states can improve economic growth. This however does not help us understand why despite states, with strictest environmental regulations, recording the highest economic growth, environmental regulations do not promote growth.

D. This indicates that environmental regulations promote growth, exactly the opposite of what the passage is trying to conclude.

E. While this tells us that despite very weak environmental regulations it is possible to record some growth, it does not help us understand why despite states, with strictest environmental regulations, recording the highest economic growth, environmental regulations do not promote growth.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

This is more about correlation and causation than other things. The passage states there is a correlation between the strictness of environmental regulations and the amount of growth shown by a state. However, the way the last sentence is crafted, what do you think will most logically go into the blank? Something that will help us show that stricter environmental regulations, while correlated, are not *causal* to increased economic growth. For your knowledge, here environmental regulations are what is called a confounding variable - it merely shows correlation, there is something else in the background that is actually causing something.

With this background, if you look at Option (A), you will see that it points towards education and job training as the potential causes, and this would logically go into the blank and complete the sentence for us - to reiterate, it would be established that while in states with stricter environmental regulations higher economic growth is observed, the former is not the cause of the latter, as the latter may be caused because these states also invest in education and job training (which in turn cause the higher economic growth).

Option (C) is basically saying - regulations don't promote growth, because states with low growth are aiming to reduce their regulations, not increase them. But the fact that these states may be reducing regulations can be for any number of reasons, not just for potentially trying to increase economic growth - that is to say again our endeavor to try and show that regulations don't cause growth is not satisfactorily completed.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Our first item of business is to recognize the problem type. Fill-in-the-blank Critical Reasoning questions are notorious for obscuring what the question is asking. If you just look at the question stem, you might erroneously think that this is an Inference question type, because of the phrase "*most logically completes the argument*." However, look at the structure of the argument. Right before the blank, the problem uses the word "*since*." "*Since*" is what I call in my classes a "**Conclusion Conjunction**." While it precedes a fact, that fact is directly attached to the conclusion. (For example, if the problem says, "*X, since Y*", then **X** is the conclusion. If the problem says, "*Since X, Y*", then **Y** is the conclusion. Thus, in this question, the answer choices are additional facts, supporting a conclusion up in the stimulus. The conclusion is "*This fact [i.e., that fact that states with the strictest environmental regulations also have the highest economic growth] does not show that environmental regulations promote growth*." The correct answer would **undermine** the idea that environmental regulations promote growth. You could think of this as a "**Weaken**" question.

There is a large logical gap here, related to the fallacy "**Correlation is Not Causation**." Even though the problem says that states with the strictest environmental regulations have the highest growth, we don't know if the environmental regulations **caused** the growth. (For example, what if a third factor -- such as an abundance of natural resources -- causes both growth and environmental regulations to happen? What if the causal relationship goes the *opposite* direction -- that high growth causes states to enact environmental regulations? There is no way to tell given the limited facts in the question!) The GMAT is hoping that, because it mentioned growth and environmental regulations in close proximity that you make the assumption they are related. If we can find an answer that shows growth might be caused by something else, we have our answer.

Answer choice "A" states that states with strict environmental regulations share another attribute: they invest the most in

education and job training. Now, at first glance, this is a **weak sauce** answer. It never states that education and job training cause high growth. We have to insert extra information in order to show that this new factor could truly prove the real causal link. However -- and this is crucial for those of you taking the GMAT -- "**Strengthen**" and "**Weaken**" questions on the GMAT aren't "**Prove**" or "**Annihilate the Logic**" questions. Notice the way the question is worded: it asks for the evidence that "**most**" logically completes the argument. Answer choice "A" *does* introduce other possible factors that could be connected to high growth. If all of the other answer choices fail to undermine the assumed causal link between regulations and growth, then this answer -- as weak as it is -- still "**most**" logically completes the argument. If this question showed up on my GMAT, I would reserve judgement on "A" until I looked at the other answer choices.

Answer choice "B" does the opposite of what we want, by *reinforcing* the assumed link between regulations and growth. If (1) moderate environmental regulations are correlated with higher growth than less-strict regulations are and (2) strict regulations are correlated with highest growth, the pattern seems clear. But we don't want to prove the pattern! We are trying to find an answer this shows the assumed link isn't necessarily there. "B" can be quickly eliminated.

Answer choice "C" is a beautifully-crafted trap. It says that "*many states that are experiencing reduced economic growth are considering weakening their environmental regulations.*" (In other words, it sounds like the states are trying to fix their poor growth by reducing environmental regulations.) This seems to reinforce the idea of a linear relationship between growth and regulations. However, answer choice "C" suffers from the same problem that the original argument does: we assume that the states are "*considering*" weakening their environmental regulations **BECAUSE** they are trying to fix poor growth. But we don't know that. Remember: "**Correlation is Not Causation.**" The states could be considering reducing environmental regulations for many reasons. Plus, we are looking for an answer that undermines the hypothesis that regulations "*promote*" growth. We know nothing about what would happen if we "reduced" regulations. You can't assume a linear relationship. (To give a parallel example, you could argue that eating ice cream all day could make you fat, but that doesn't necessarily mean that eliminating ice cream from your diet will make you skinny! Studies have shown that reducing calories can actually cause your body to go into starvation mode and try to build up emergency fat reserves.) "C" doesn't truly undermine the idea that strict regulations can promote economic growth.

Answer choice "D" also reinforces that assumed causal link. Get rid of it!

Answer choice "E" is completely irrelevant to the logical gap. Just because "*states with very weak environmental regulations have experienced at least some growth,*" doesn't mean that stricter regulations couldn't promote even *stronger* growth. "E" doesn't undermine the assumed causal link. We can quickly eliminate it.

In the end, only one answer choice even gets us close to undermining the assumed causal link between environmental regulations and economic growth. Two answer choices ("B" and "D") do the exact opposite of what we want, strengthening the possibility of a causal link. Two answer choices ("C" and "E") don't mind the logical gap. These fail to come up with an alternative explanation for why states experience economic growth. Only one answer is left over. And it is a totally weak sauce. This is what I call in my classes a "**Directional Nudge.**" With Strengthen and Weaken questions, test takers often look for an answer so perfect that Aristotle himself rises from the grave and gives them a round of applause. But that approach is a deliberate trap in many GMAT questions. Don't fall for it. Notice even in the question stem that it reads, "**most logically completes...**". You just need the answer choice that does it best. And "A" is the only one that gets close.

116.

A. The percentage of people in the city who have a job has no direct bearing on whether the average pay for jobs citywide is increasing or decreasing.

B. Whether the average pay was low when mayor took office is immaterial to the conclusion.

C. CORRECT.

If the jobs that were eliminated paid much higher than the average but the new jobs that were created did not pay as much as the jobs eliminated (the pay is still higher than average though) then the overall paycheck would not have risen. Therefore by indicating that the jobs eliminated paid higher than the average, this tells us that paycheck is not getting higher as the argument claims.

D. This has no bearing on the argument since we have no information about the average pay for jobs in those declining industries

E. We are not concerned with the job situation in the suburbs.

117.

Here is the summary:

1) the market value of real estate in Altonville has steadily declined over the past four years.

2) The overall figure on which the city's property tax is based has also declined.

For example, if all of Altonville's real estate was worth \$100,000 4 years ago, and is now worth \$60,000, the assessed value of real estate is now \$60,000 on which the property tax is based.

3) The percentage of the above assessed value that was paid as property tax has remained the same. For example, if 10% of \$100,000 was paid 4 years ago, 10% of \$60,000 is paid now.

Given the above information, which option can be inferred?

A. Since we do not know whether the overall revenue of Altonville changed in the last 4 years, we cannot infer whether the percentage of Altonville's yearly revenue that comes from money collected in property taxes changed or not.

B. Same as A. Refer example below:

Lets assume that 4 years ago, Altonville's yearly revenue was \$100. Of this \$20 came from property tax and \$80 from the rest.

% of revenue from property tax : 20

% of revenue from the rest: 80

4 years later, lets say the Altonville's yearly revenue was \$50. Of this \$16 came from property tax and \$34 from the rest.

% of revenue from property tax : 32

% of revenue from the rest: 68

Therefore, although the assessed value of real estate and the subsequent tax collected from it has reduced in the last 4 years, the % of the annual revenue that comes from property tax has gone up in our example.

Unless the option tells us that Altonville's yearly revenue has remained the same or increased, we cannot comment on option A or B.



C. CORRECT.

We know that the assessed value of real estate was low and the percentage of the above assessed value that was paid as property tax has remained the same. Therefore it follows that the ~~actual~~ amount of money collected from real estate was lower.

D. Nothing in the passage indicates that taxes on other sources of revenue was increased.

E. We do not know if Altonville wants to increase its yearly revenue from property taxes. Nothing in the passage indicates it will increase the percentage of the assessed value of the property to be paid as property tax.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Let me explain this to you mathematically.

Let us assume years 1,2,3 and 4 to be the last 4 years, with year 1 being the most recent.

We know that the total market value of real estate in Altonville has steadily declined over the past four years. Now, we use the total market value to come up with the assessed value every year. Since the total market value has been declining, so will the 'assessed value'.

Let the assessed value in year 1 be A1

Let the assessed value in year 2 be A2

Let the assessed value in year 3 be A3

Let the assessed value in year 4 be A4

We know that  $A4 > A3 > A2 > A1$ . [Equation 1]

Now, the property taxes each year are calculated as a fixed percentage of the assessed value for that year. Let this factor be represented by x

So,

Property taxes for Year 1 =  $x * A1 = T1$

Property taxes for Year 2 =  $x * A2 = T2$   
Property taxes for Year 3 =  $x * A3 = T3$   
Property taxes for Year 4 =  $x * A4 = T4$

From equation 1 and from the fact that  $x$  is the same each year, can we say that "

$T4 > T3 > T2 > T1$ . [Meaning that the property taxes last year,  $T1$ , are lower than the property taxes 4 years ago,  $T4$ ]

This is exactly what C is saying. It is therefore correct.

You can use this to eliminate the other options

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

The total market value of real estate has declined over the past four years .

As a result , assessed value of that real estate has also declined .

The percentage of assessed value that was paid as property taxes to the city has remained the same .

Total property tax collected 4 years ago = Assessed value of real estate 4 years ago\* Property tax %  
Total property tax collected at present = Assessed value of real estate at present \* Property tax %

Pre-thinking: Since the assessed value has declined , the total property tax will decrease .

A. The percentage of Altonville's yearly revenue that comes from money collected in property taxes did not change over the past four years.

Out of scope - we have no information on percentage of Altonville's yearly revenue and the amount contributed by property taxes to the total revenue.

B. The percentage of Altonville's yearly revenue that comes from money collected in property taxes has declined steadily over the past four years.

Might be true - but need not be true - The total Altonville's yearly revenue might be declined by bigger % .

C. The amount of revenue that Altonville collected from property taxes was lower last year than it was four years ago.

Correct

D. During the past four years, Altonville officials increased tax rates on other sources of revenue such as retail sales and business profits.

Out of scope

E. Altonville will soon require property owners to pay a higher percentage of the assessed value of their property as property tax.

Might be true - but need not be true

118.

A. The argument indicates that the government's plan may affect bilby, an endangered native marsupial. By indicating that bilby has more chances of getting infected than domestic animals, this only strengthens the argument.

B. This slightly strengthens the government's plan by indicating that there rabbits have no natural predators onthe island. But it does not tell us whether the plan serves only in the interest of agriculture while threatening the native wildlife

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that presence of rabbits, along with agriculture, threatens the existence of bilby also by feeding onits main source of food.

Thus the conclusion that government's plan only increases the threat to the native wildlife of Numa island is not true.

D. We already know this to be true. "by using a virus that has caused devastating epidemics in rabbit populations elsewhere".

E. Once again, this strengthens the argument by stating that the bilby is indeed in danger from the plan anddoes not weaken the argument that government's plan may serve the interests of agriculture but will clearly increase the threat to native wildlife.

119.

- A. This is immaterial. The argument indicates that naltrexone maybe toxic to certain types of intestinal bacteria. As long as it reduces blood poisoning, whether it migrates to the bloodstream is of no consequence.

B. CORRECT.

This indicates that naltrexone is not toxic to certain types of bacteria. It simply inhibits their migration from the intestine to the bloodstream, thereby reducing the case of blood poisoning.

C. We know it is morphine that triggers the migration of intestinal bacteria, causing the blood poisoning. Therefore, if mice were to be given naltrexone but not morphine, this would tell us nothing.

D. This is irrelevant. We are discussing if naltrexone is toxic to intestinal bacteria.

E. We are told quite clearly that migration of intestinal bacteria due to morphine is the cause for blood poisoning in mice. Other conditions that cause blood poisoning is of no interest to us.

120.

A. This does nothing to undermine the argument. It simply tells us of a policy in place for employees seeking treatment from a drinking problem.

B. We are discussing accidents of employees in safety sensitive jobs. The comparison is between employees who drink and those who don't, in safety sensitive jobs, rather than with employees that do not hold safety-sensitive jobs.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that by barring anyone who has ever been treated for a drinking problem from holding a safety-sensitive job, the company will encourage its employees to hide their problem for as long as possible. This would greatly increase the risk of accidents rather than reducing it.

D. This indicates that safety-sensitive jobs, may exacerbate an existing drinking problem. However it does not tell us why barring anyone who has ever been treated for a drinking problem from holding a safety-sensitive job will not reduce the risk of accidents.

E. We are only discussing those accidents that are common to employees with a drinking problems i.e ones that involve employee error.

121.

The author concludes that the environmentalists are wrong, i.e. the prediction that the number of turtles will decline as a result of the spill is incorrect. The author bases this on the number of females who returned this year, 5 years after the spill, is higher than previous years.

One great way to weaken is to show that the author's evidence is irrelevant to the author's conclusion.

A. This strengthens the author's argument by indicating that there were neither Merrick sea turtles nor Merrick sea turtle eggs on Baker's Beach when the spill occurred.

B. CORRECT.

If it takes 10 years for turtles to mature to egg laying status, then looking at numbers only 5 years after the spill is irrelevant. The females returning now to lay eggs, are from the eggs laid 10 years ago. Therefore this destroys the evidence on which the author's argument is based.

C. According to the author, the chemical spill has not caused a decline in the turtle population. This option neither weakens nor strengthens the author's position.

D. This strengthens the author's argument to an extent by providing a reason for the increase in the number of turtles.

E. This is completely irrelevant and neither strengthens the author's argument nor weakens it.

122.

A. An increase in expenditure on packing material and labour might affect the company's profitability, but it would have no effect on whether items were damaged in transit.



B. CORRECT.

This statement tells us that increasing the amount of packing material actually led to more damage. This would explain why TrueSave received even more complaints than before.

C. If customers were able to remove their items just as easily from boxes filled with more packing material as from boxes using less packing material, the items would be unaffected by an increase in the amount of packing material used.

D. Since the most frequently shipped goods are the same before and after making the recommended changes, this does not explain why increasing the amount of packaging material failed to reduce the number of damaged goods.

E. Once again, loss of customers fails to explain why the consultants' recommendation failed to reduce the number of damaged goods.

123.

in this problem:

of the orders placed by subscribers in response to ads, only 30% were from the under-35 crowd.

of the orders placed by anyone in response to ads, most of them( I.e over 50%) were from the under-35 crowd.there's the discrepancy.

Now lets examine which option helps resolve the above discrepancy:

A. Irrelevant. By discussing the age of the people who have never ordered merchandise in response to advertisement, GMAC is only looking to confuse you!

B. Irrelevant. The argument discusses the % of under 35 subscribers last year. The % this year is immaterial to the argument.

C. This option is already stated by the first part of the problem which indicates that only 30% of the subscribers were under 35 years of age. Does not help solve the discrepancy.

D. We are talking of the number of orders placed and not the amount of dollars spent on these orders. That people over 25 years of age spent more on their orders is irrelevant to us.

E. CORRECT.

This option clearly explains why although only 30% of the "Subscribers" who placed orders last were less than 35 years of age, of the total number of people who placed an order most of them were under 35 years of age i.e these people were NOT SUBSCRIBERS.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Survey of Subscribers: 30% of all orders placed by them were by people under 35 (Rest 70% people were 35 or above).



Survey of Advertisers: Most of the orders placed were by people under 35.

What must be true:

(A) More subscribers to *Systems* who have never ordered merchandise in response to advertisements in the magazine are age thirty-five or over than are under age thirty-five.

Beyond the scope of the argument since it talks about "never ordered". We have information only on last year orders.

(B) Among subscribers to *Systems*, the proportion who are under age thirty-five was considerably lower last year than it is now.

Beyond the scope of the argument since it talks about "now". We have information only on last year orders.

(C) Most merchandise orders placed in response to advertisements in *Systems* last year were placed by *Systems* subscribers over age thirty-five.

Not true. Most of the orders placed were by people under 35.

(D) Last year, the average dollar amount of merchandise orders placed was less for subscribers under age thirty-five than for those age thirty-five or over.

Not known. Dollar amount is not discussed. We only know about the number of orders.

(E) Last year many people who placed orders for merchandise in response to advertisements in *Systems* were not subscribers to the magazine.

True. Most people who had ordered were below 35 years of age. And only 30% of the subscribers who had ordered were under 35. So who were the others who were under 35 but had placed orders? They were non-subscribers. Hence this is correct.

Answer (E)

124.

Lets say the base amount provided as government assistance is \$20.

According to the passage, anyone is a job paying less than \$20 get the balance from the government i.e if the job pays \$12 the government pays the balance of \$8. The government provides such assistance to enable employers to hire workers cheaply, thereby reducing unemployment.

Since everyone gets paid a minimum of \$20 ,irrespective of whether they are employed or not, the passage suggests that there is no incentive for the unemployed to take up a job that pays less than the base amount.

Lets find an option that weakens this reasoning:

A. This is good but does not tell us what the incentive for an unemployed person to take up a job that pays less than the base amount is.

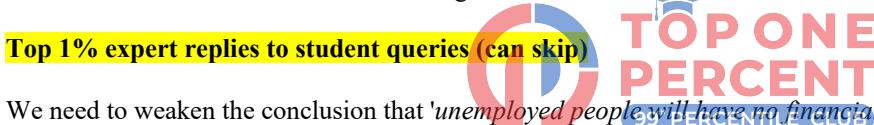
B. This indicates that the minimum wage plan maybe more effective than Ledland's plan of government assistance. But this does not weaken the argument of the editorial in anyway.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates the financial benefits for unemployed people to accept jobs that pay less than the base amount. As they move jobs, they will be paid higher than people who are unemployed and continue to exist on Government assistance.

D. This is irrelevant. It simply tells us that the unemployed people of Ledland live below the poverty level.

E. This is irrelevant. Its unrelated to the argument discussed in the editorial.



We need to weaken the conclusion that '*unemployed people will have no financial incentive to accept jobs that would entitle them to the supplement.*' So we have to look for an option that gives us a reason to believe that there might be a financial incentive.

So irrespective of whether you work or not, your total income is the government assistance. So there needs to be a financial incentive for people to accept jobs.

Look at C now. C compares the chances of employed people being offered a job that would offer them income significantly higher than government assistance would ever do if they were to remain unemployed. In other words, if employed people were to switch jobs, they would be paid significantly more compared to the government assistance they would receive otherwise if they were unemployed. Isn't this an obvious financial incentive for people to accept jobs? It is, right? So C is the right answer.

Now onto D. What is the conclusion? That '*unemployed people will have no financial incentive to accept jobs that would entitle them to the supplement.*' What are we comparing? We are comparing staying unemployed vs accepting jobs that pay less than the financial assistance (or jobs that would entitle people to the supplement). But we know that in either case, the total income will be the same, in that it will be equal to the financial assistance. So why do we even care about the average income? We don't, right? The argument is very specifically talking about people who earn less than the financial assistance. So, the argument about average income is of no use. D is completely out of scope.

125.

A. This is irrelevant to the discussion. We are analysing whether the high sales of superstores allows them to sell their goods at a lower price, thus causing many small firms to go out of business.

B. CORRECT.

This tells us directly that despite controlling a small share of the market, due to their heavy advertising of low prices, the superstores have forced down the retail prices for office supplies. This has in turn caused many small firms to go out of business.

C. This does not tell us whether the opening of superstores has had any effect on the retail prices for office supplies.

D. We are only concerned with the "recent upheaval in the office-equipment retail business".

E. This would be equally applicable to the small firms as well as the superstores.

126.

A. This does nothing to tell us whether the plan to promote SPK004 will succeed or not.

B. If the dishes look different than the traditional sweet potato dishes, the people might be less likely to eat them, in such a situation the plan's success would be less likely.

C. This gives a reason why the plan may fail. By suggesting that the existing soil conditions are not sufficient for the cultivation of SPK004, this option casts a doubt on whether farmers will be able to cultivate SPK004 successfully.

D. the comparison is between sweet potato grown in this region and SPK004 only. We are not concerned with the other varieties of Sweet Potato



E. CORRECT.

This tells us that if SPK004 were to be cultivated successfully and if it were to replace sweet potato, the people consuming SPK004 will not miss out on any nutrients that sweet potato could provide. Also, since SPK004 is rich in beta-carotene, the plan to combat vitamin-A deficiency will also succeed.

127.

This argument is relatively weak to begin with. We are told that the law is unnecessary, based only on the evidence that 1) the law is meant to help protect the trees, and

2) the trees are still being lost.

The arguer assumes that this means that the law has no effect. It's possible, though, that the trees would be lost even MORE if not for the law. We merely need to show that the law does have some effect

Note: the conclusion is that THE LAW SHOULD BE REPEALED.

Therefore, if we wish to weaken this conclusion, we should pick a statement that shows SUPPORT for the law.

A. This does not weaken/strengthen the argument. The argument is about the law restricting the use of Yucaipa tree-bark oil. Should the law be kept or repealed? Which nation contains the largest number is of no consequence here.

B. This indicates that Yucaipa tree-bark oil is used only in cosmetics. Since the presence of a law prohibiting the use of Yucaipa tree-bark oil in cosmetics has not had any effect on the number of trees being cut, this strengthens the case that the law might be useless.

C. This choice gives a good reason to KEEP the law in existence: namely, the demand for products containing Yucaipa bark is not going to go down. In other words, this statement places a MINIMUM on the demand for Yucaipa bark, and so strengthens the need for a law controlling the Yucaipa supply.

D. This should have ideally meant that the number of trees being cut in other nations should have been more. In any case, this does not answer whether the law should be kept or repealed and therefore is unrelated to the argument.

E. If this were true, this would give us all the more reason to repeal the law as it would mean that the destruction of the trees is due to natural factors. As we are looking for options that show that the law is effective, we can eliminate this option.

128.

- A. Since side effects aren't mentioned at all in the passage, this requires additional assumptions and we are not allowed to make any!

B. CORRECT

This basically just says that the results of the study will be repeated and since the passage endorses the accuracy of the study, this is our answer.

C. The 40% is the average of a large group; large-group averages cannot be narrowed down to individual members of the group. This requires additional assumptions (and assumptions that are dubious, at that).

D. There's a big difference between 2 years and the entire course of one's adult life, so this requires lots of additional assumptions.

E. 'good health' is a much more general category than what's described in the passage, so this requires considerable additional assumptions.

129.

A. This sounds good, this will help to maintain good level of accuracy, but does it not show how that will result in profit

B. This adds no value to our conclusion. That Vernon, Inc. Is an independent supplier does not mean it cannot achieve profitability through outsourcing.

C. This says that the probability of independent supplier becoming competitor is low. That is good but it does not say how Vernon can make profit now.

D. irrelevant; it merely makes a general statement about the way in which Vernon, Inc. will choose the companies to which it will outsource. note that this choice says nothing about choosing "optimal" bids; for all we know, Vernon, Inc. will actually choose the worst bid.



E. CORRECT.

If managers time and effort are spent on core business, it could be a way of boosting profit. In the premise it is mentioned that there has been a decline in profit and "THOSE parts of business" will be outsourced.

This answer explains as to why Those parts of business may have been inefficient.

Note:

the point here is the main theme of the argument, which is the effect of outsourcing on profit. the way in which the outsourcing companies are selected doesn't really pertain to that theme at all - remember that you need an answer choice that shows that OUTSOURCING WILL BE MORE PROFITABLE THAN NOT OUTSOURCING.

choice (e) requires the assumption that freeing up top managers' time will somehow contribute to profits - BUT remember that you're looking for the choice that "most strongly supports" the argument. in this case, the other four answer choices are completely irrelevant to the issue, which is the effect of outsourcing on profit.. choice (e), on the other hand, unlike the other choices, really does support the idea that OUTSOURCING WILL BE MORE PROFITABLE THAN NOT OUTSOURCING.

therefore, even though (e) requires additional assumptions, it's still the choice that "most strongly supports" the argument - because it's the only choice that even could support the argument.

130.

There's a rather large logic gap in this one. specifically:

- \* the profit of \$4b went to the industrialists.
- \* the cost of \$8b was borne by the federals.

The argument assumes - completely without justification - that the \$8b cost to the feds will somehow cancel out the industrialists' profit. there's no reason that this should be the case, or, for that matter, that the costs and revenues of those two entities should have anything to do with one another.

Therefore, to expose that flaw, we need an answer choice that demonstrates that the feds' and industrialists' ledgers are independent of each other, at least to a large enough degree that the industrialists can still make a tidy profit.

- A. This tells us that the productivity of the Distopian industries increased during war. Since we already know that the industries made a profit of \$4b, this is rather implied.
- B. This tells us that the Federal expenses were borne by those other than the industrialists. By separating the industrial profits from the federal expenses, this clearly tells us that the industrialists still had a very strong reason to encourage the war.
- C. While this tells us that the industries are continuing to make profits, this does not address the logical gap in the argument.
- D. If anything, this tells us that the industries made profit even before the war and therefore may not have had the incentive to fuel the war. This does weaken the argument or expose the logical flaw in it.
- E. The concern expressed by the public is completely irrelevant to the argument.

131.

B is CORRECT.



Option A and B seem feasible.

However,

per the directions, you're looking for the one answer choice that MOST strengthens the argument.

choice b strengthens the argument more than does choice a, because it fills in a badly needed assumption. In particular, the argument moves from a statement that no European goods were found at the site to an inference that lack of those goods indicates that they weren't present at all. That's quite an inductive leap, as not everything that was ever present somewhere leaves a trace; therefore, any choice that fills in that hole will be the best choice to strengthen the argument.

this is precisely what choice b does: by providing evidence that such traces are, indeed, left behind when the trade goods in question have been present. This tells us that the archeologist are correct in assuming the camp could not be based later than 1630 based on the absence of such goods.

While option A tells us that there is a chance that the goods could have travelled to the camp before the traders did, it does not explain the lack of these goods at the camp.

C. Ambiguous. preserved as much as possible from loss or destruction

this statement carries no guarantee that 'as much as possible' will be successful in preserving those trade goods all the way to the present day, some four hundred years later. the trade goods could have been preserved as much as possible - in accord with this statement - and still disappeared before the present.

by contrast, there is no such problem with choice b, because that choice states that the goods 'have been found' at the sites (present perfect = this is a pattern that continues into the present)

D. Irrelevant. When European trade began is irrelevant to the argument. All we are concerned with is the period during which the European traders were active in this region.

E. Irrelevant. This weakens the argument to an extent by stating that the camp was used seasonally and then abandoned, giving rise to the possibility that at the season of the existence of the camp, no European trader travelled through it.

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Let's start with choice (C):

(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.

Choice (C) is tempting because it suggests that care would have been taken to protect European goods. But does that necessarily mean that those goods would have survived until the present day? Perhaps the European goods were items that would have disintegrated over the course of a couple hundred years. Or perhaps the Native Americans took the European goods with them when they left the camp. Or perhaps the Native Americans traded the European goods for other items.

Just because the European goods were preserved as much as possible does not necessarily mean that we would find their remains at the campsite hundreds of years later. (C) doesn't hurt the argument, but without further evidence it's hard to say whether it strengthens the argument.

Now let's come back to choice (B):

(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.

Remember, the author's argument is based on the fact that no European trade goods were found at the site. European traders were active in the region from the 1620's onward. So, according to the author, we would expect to find European goods at any campsite used after about 1630.

But this argument has a huge problem:



Let's say that the camp was actually used in 1650, when European traders were active in the region. Would that necessarily mean that we should find European trade goods at the site? What if any trace of those goods simply disappeared after a few hundred years? Or what if the Native Americans took those goods with them when they moved on from the camp?

Just because we didn't find any European goods at the campsite, can we reliably say that the campsite must have existed before 1630?

Yes, choice (C) refers to ALL camps, but ALL camps in the region would include Native Americans camps in the region. European goods have been found at ALL camps in the region that have been reliably dated to the late 1620's. This evidence suggests that ANY camp in the region (INCLUDING Native American camps) that existed during the late 1620's or later WOULD in fact have remains of European goods. This eliminates the doubt described above and thus strengthens the argument.

132.

Fact:

1. the exhaust from the buses damage the buildings.
2. Idling buses produce as much exhaust as driving.

Main conclusion:

By providing parking spaces the damage to the buildings will decrease significantly.

This conclusion is based on the **assumption** that buses spend more time idling than driving (since both actions produce the same amount of exhaust) . If this assumption were to be untrue, then there is no point in providing parking spaces to curb damages to the buildings.

Let us see which option supports this assumption.

A. Weakens the argument by suggesting that the exhaust from the bus is not a significant threat to the building. This makes the argument about parking spots redundant.

B. Irrelevant. The argument is not concerned with the other sources of pollution (or the lack of it) apart from bus exhaust.

C. CORRECT. provides the new information that the buses spend 3/4 of the total time - i.e., all the time that they don't spend transporting passengers - either parking or idling. since, according to the passage, most buses idle rather than park, this means that most buses spend 3/4 of their total time idling in front of historic buildings.

D. Irrelevant. This does not indicate how parking spaces may help diminish the damage to the building.

E. Irrelevant.

This statement doesn't help the argument at all, since we already know that, if the buses can't find parking, they either idle at the curb or drive around. since there is no difference in the amount of exhaust between idling and driving around, this statement doesn't have any effect.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**



The conclusion of the argument is simply that damage to Palitito's buildings from the [tour] buses' exhaust will diminish significantly. Notice that the conclusion refers specifically to damage from TOUR BUS exhaust, not to damage from all vehicles or damage from other factors.

Let's examine the author's reasoning:

- For years, exhaust from the many tour buses coming to Palitito has damaged the Renaissance buildings there. So obviously people want to visit these buildings, but when tour buses are used to transport visitors, the exhaust from the buses causes damage to the buildings.
- There has been little parking space, so most buses have just idled at the curb (i.e. kept the engine running while stopped on the side of the road) during each stop on their tour. So instead of parking in a parking space, shutting off the engine, and letting passengers off to view the buildings, most buses simply pull over to the curb and leave the engine running until they are ready to move on to the next stop.
- Idling produces as much exhaust as driving, so idling at the curb for, say, ten minutes produces as much exhaust as driving around for ten minutes.
- Now the city has provided parking that accommodates a third of the tour buses. This seemingly gives buses the OPTION of parking in those spaces and shutting off the engines while the passengers enjoy each stop. But will that actually happen and, if so, will it SIGNIFICANTLY decrease the amount of damage from tour bus exhaust?

We need an answer choice that strengthens the argument:

(A) The exhaust from Palitito's few automobiles is not a significant threat to Palitito's buildings.

As stated above, the conclusion specifically refers to damage FROM THE TOUR BUSES' exhausts, not from automobiles. Choice (A) is thus irrelevant and can be eliminated.

(B) Palitito's Renaissance buildings are not threatened by pollution other than engine exhaust.

Again, we are only concerned with damage from the exhaust of the buses. There might be a variety of other threats to the buildings, but if the new parking spaces reduce damage from the tour buses' exhaust, then the author's argument is valid. Eliminate (B).

(C) Tour buses typically spend less than one-quarter of the time they are in Palitito transporting passengers from one site to another.

What if tour buses typically spend MOST of their time driving from site to site and only a small fraction of their time waiting at each site? In that case, most of the exhaust would be released while the buses were driving from place to place, NOT while the buses were idling at each site. If that were true, the introduction of new parking spaces might help a little but would probably not have a *significant* impact on the exhaust damage. This would weaken the author's argument. Choice (C) tells us that this is NOT the case and thus strengthens the argument. Hang on to this one.

(D) More tourists come to Palitito by tour bus than by any other single means of transportation.

Choice (D) tells us that tourists visiting Palitito use tour buses more than any other mode of transportation. This suggests that the impact from the tour buses probably exceeds the impact from other modes of transportation. But we aren't trying to show that exhaust from tour buses represents the GREATEST impact to the buildings. Even if tour buses only represent a small fraction of tourist transportation to Palitito, the author's argument could still be valid as long as the new parking spaces significantly diminish the damage from the *tour buses'* exhaust.

In other words, the level of exhaust damage before the spaces were installed does not matter. As long as the new spaces significantly reduce the level of exhaust damage from the tour buses, the author's reasoning is sound. Eliminate (D).

(E) Some of the tour buses that are unable to find parking drive around Palitito while their passengers are visiting a site.

Driving around produces just as much exhaust as idling at the curb. So choice (E) simply reinforces the idea that the buildings can be subject to exhaust damage when tour buses cannot find parking (whether the buses idle at the curb or drive around). Obviously some buses will continue to drive around or idle even after the new spaces have been installed (i.e. when they cannot find a parking space), but if the new spaces REDUCE the amount of driving around/idling, then the author's argument is valid. However, choice (E) does not provide any evidence to suggest that the new spaces will in fact decrease the amount of idling or driving around and thus has no impact on the author's argument. Eliminate (E).

Choice (C) is the best answer.

133.

Per capita income of a nation can be found out as below:  
total income of the nation/ total population.

Fact 1 → average per capita income in the country of Kuptala is substantially lower than that in the country of Bahlton

Fact 2 → poverty is relatively rare in Kuptala, over half the population of Bahlton lives in extreme poverty.

Note:

the AVERAGE of a set of data doesn't tell you anything about the SPREAD or RANGE of those data.

If I tell you that set A has a lower average than set B, this doesn't mean that the highest values in set A are lower than the highest values in set B, or even that most values in set A are lower than most values in set B.

for instance:

set A: 0, 0, 0, 0, 10 --> average = 2 (this could be Bahlton)

set B: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 --> average = 1 (this could be Kuptala)

if the poverty line is, say, 0.5, this is a nice example of the issue here.

A. This option basically says that the argument is flawed as it rejects the information about the per capita incomes of both the nation as being incorrect without offering any economic evidence to do so.

We know this is not the issue. The argument says that either the information about the per capita income is incorrect or the information about the poverty line is flawed.

B. We know that the issue here is not the vague definition of poverty. Since the same Demographers have conducted the research in both places we can assume that standard is the same.

C. Irrelevant, because absolute numbers don't have any bearing whatsoever on the argument. the argument deals only with proportions / percentages, so any objection to the argument must be based on premises that actually affect those percentages or proportions.

D. The social significance is the respective countries is irrelevant. We are dealing with facts (numbers, if you will) and therefore anything that cannot be measured, is irrelevant.

E CORRECT

If one country has lower average per cap income than another it does not mean that the income distribution in the country with lower average is as uneven as the country with a higher average income. (see example above) Answer E clearly states that this fact about the lopsided income distribution, therefore indicating that both pieces of information could be correct.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Say 360 people live in poverty in B (no loss of generality; this can be any number to test). This is say 60% of the population (no loss of generality; question tells us > 50% of the population lives in poverty). Then there are a total of 600 people in B. Now, per Option (C), 360 people live in poverty in K. This is say 5% of the population (again no loss of generality; question tells us this percentage is very less and much lower than the 60% we took for B). Then total population of K is 7,200.

So let's summarize: B and K denote countries and P and NP denote people living in poverty and not living in poverty, all respectively.

BP = 360 BNP = 240 Total population = 600

KP = 360   KNP = 6,840   Total population = 7,200

Now say BP have a total of \$800 B wealth. BNP have a total of \$1 B wealth

KP have a total of \$500 B wealth. KNP have a total of \$2 B wealth

I am taking random, but intelligently-chosen numbers. If you do the math on the above figures, you will see that per capita income in B is higher than that in K. So everything the question stem and Option (C) are true, and yet nothing the demographers are saying needs to be false, as the argument claims. So the argument is not overlooking the possibility in Option (C); even if that possibility materializes, what the demographers are saying can remain true in totality.

134.

Here is what we know:

- 1) Either Perry's faction or Tucker's faction, but not both, will win control of the government.
  - 2) If Perry's faction wins, the nation will suffer economic (will it suffer militarily? It may or may not. We do know. All we know for sure is its economic suffering)
  - 3) If Tucker's faction wins, the nation will suffer militarily. (will it suffer economically? It may or may not. We do know. All we know for sure is its military suffering)
- A. This is untrue. We know for a fact that it will either suffer economically or militarily or both.
- B. The nation could suffer economically even under Tucker. Although the passage does not state it, it doesn't rule it out either.
- C. This option contradicts itself. If it's certain that the nation will suffer either economically or militarily, then how can we be certain that it will not suffer both?
- D. CORRECT.  
There is a good chance that Tucker has won, but there is also a chance that Perry's faction won and is now causing the country to suffer both militarily and economically.
- E. Incorrect. We know that either Perry or Tucker will win.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Let's understand as follows:



Either Perry's faction or Tucker's faction, but **not both**, will win control of the government. - It means that someone (Perry or Tucker) will definitely win the election & it's not possible **both** to win.

If Perry's faction wins, the nation will suffer economically. -

This is tricky part - we can restate in other term.

(ST-1)- If Perry's faction wins, IT'S CERTAIN THAT the nation will suffer economically & IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT the nation will suffer militarily.

If Tucker's faction wins, the nation will suffer militarily.

(ST-2) If Tucker's faction wins, IT'S CERTAIN THAT the nation will suffer militarily & IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT the nation will suffer economically.

(A) It is **possible**, but not certain, that the nation will neither suffer economically nor suffer militarily. - It's not possible that the nation will not suffer either way because it's CERTAIN that either PERRY or TUCKER will win the election. This means that the country will suffer either militarily or economically at least. Thus INCORRECT

(B) If the nation suffers economically, it is **certain** that Perry's faction has won control of the government. - **MISTAKEN REVERSAL** is incorrect. Incorrect because country can suffer economically under Tucker's control as well as per (ST-2). INCORRECT

(C) It is certain that the nation will suffer either economically or militarily, and also certain that it will not suffer **both**. - Both (ST-1, 2) indicate that the government can suffer both ways. Thus INCORRECT

(D) If the nation suffers militarily, it is **possible, but not certain**, that Tucker's faction has won control of the government. - Restated (ST-2). Thus CORRECT

(E) If the nation suffers both economically and militarily, it is **certain** that neither Perry's faction nor Tucker's has won control of the government. (ST-2) indicate that the government can suffer both ways under the control of TUCKER. Thus INCORRECT

135.

A. The effort which took to confirm fullerene presence in shungite is irrelevant to the argument. What matters is whether shungite contains fullerene or not.

B. This one is close. It seems to offer an alternate explanation for the formation of fullerene. But what should be considered is, even if fullerene is formed in outer space does that change anything(temperature and pressure,for instance) if it is also formed in earth? No, it does not.

C. This one provides more evidence to the argument and thus is strengthening the argument.

D. CORRECT.

This choice undermines the argument by attacking the premise by suggesting that naturally occurring fullerene and synthetic fullerene differ in their structure. Since the objects of comparison are not similar, the comparison between the conditions these were formed does not stand.

If we're actually talking about two completely different kinds of fullerenes, then any information about the conditions precipitating the growth of one kind can't be taken to apply to the growth of the other kind.

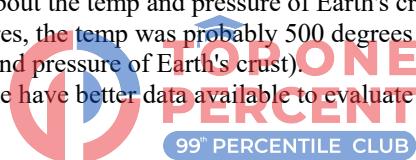
E. Shungite may require distinctive conditions completely different from that to fullerenes to form. Therefore this option neither strengthens nor weakens the argument.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Fullerenes are made in the lab under certain temp & pressure conditions (i.e to make them, we need certain conditions say temp of 500 degrees C and pressure of 100 pascal).

Now fullerenes have been discovered naturally. So if we can find the time when these fullerenes were formed (say 2 million years ago), we can say something about the temp and pressure of Earth's crust at that place where fullerenes are found (that 2 million years ago, at the fissures, the temp was probably 500 degrees C and pressure was 100 pascal. This gives us some information about the temp and pressure of Earth's crust).

That is what the argument is saying. That we have better data available to evaluate hypotheses about the Earth's crust at that time.



We need to weaken this conclusion.

(A) Confirming that the shungite genuinely contained fullerenes took careful experimentation.  
Irrelevant how it was found. They have found it.

(B) Some fullerenes have also been found on the remains of a small meteorite that collided with a spacecraft.  
Irrelevant. The same conditions could have prevailed on the meteorite too. Doesn't weaken our argument.

(C) The mineral shungite itself contains large amounts of carbon, from which the fullerenes apparently formed.  
This doesn't weaken our argument. The temp and pressure required in the lab can give us clues about Earth's crust.

(D) The naturally occurring fullerenes are arranged in a previously unknown crystalline structure.  
Correct. This weakens our argument. The structure of the lab fullerenes is different from the structure of the natural fullerenes. The conditions required to make the two types of fullerenes could be very very different then. So lab fullerene conditions are unlikely to help us figure out condition of Earth's crust. For example, both graphite & diamond are made from carbon. But their structures are different. Very diff conditions lead tot he formation of one or the other.

(E) Shungite itself is formed only under distinctive conditions

Irrelevant

Answer (D)

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Consider this:

Here's an analogous argument:

*Orange juice was first discovered in my kitchen, but orange juice has since been discovered seeping out of an orange that*

*had fallen out of a tree. Since orange juice made in the kitchen requires Tang juice crystals and cold water, this discovery should give orange farmers a test case for evaluating hypotheses about the state of the orchard when the naturally-occurring orange juice was formed.*

The suggestion here is that, when the naturally-occurring orange juice was created (after the orange fell off the tree), the conditions in the orchard might have been similar to the conditions in my kitchen (cold water and the availability of Tang). This, of course, is false, since there are at least TWO DIFFERENT ways in which orange juice is created.

The answer choice that best weakens the argument is D. It suggests that the STRUCTURE of naturally occurring fullerenes is DIFFERENT from the STRUCTURE of laboratory-created fullerenes.

Answer choice D is the same as saying "the kitchen orange juice (Tang) is structurally different from naturally occurring orange juice"

If the structures are different, it's quite possible that there are differences in the way each type of OJ is created.

A student asked me why answer choice B is not correct.

Answer choice B is analogous to saying that "some orange juice has been found in outer space"

This has no bearing on whether the "discovery" of OJ in my kitchen will help determine the state of the orchard when the naturally-occurring orange juice was formed.

136.

A. This weakens the director's argument by indicating that it is possible for him to have taken ideas from Thieves, although Thieves released after The Big Heist.

B. CORRECT.

This allows the plot of both the movies to be similar and yet strengthens the director's claim that he did not borrow ideas from Thieves. It is possible that both movies derived inspiration from older films.

C. This is irrelevant to the argument and neither helps nor hurts the director's argument.

D. Did the director of Thieves share his ideas for the movie at that time? Unless we know this, this option becomes irrelevant.

E. Since we already know The Big Heist was completed before Thieves, this is irrelevant to the argument and neither helps nor hurts the director's argument.

137.

A. Raoul does not question cigarette consumption will not be affected. In fact he agrees with the evidence Sonya presents.

B. CORRECT.

Even though Raoul agrees with Sonya's evidence, he calls into question her conclusion " government revenue from the tax will increase" by pointing out a possible effect based on the evidence Sonya presented - "so we might begin to see substantial illegal sales of smuggled cigarettes in Copeland"

If this were true then the government revenue from cigarettes may not increase.

C. Raoul disagrees with her conclusion entirely by providing another possible effect of the evidence.

D. The cause that Sonya claims will be producing a certain effect is "The government of Copeland is raising the cigarette tax" and the effect is "government revenue from the tax will increase"

Raoul's argument does not provide an alternate cause for the above effect.

E. The problem this is the 'not bold enough' part. That's a big issue, because 'not bold enough' means that the initiative must be bolder: i.e., that the government should raise the cigarette tax even more than they propose to do. But that doesn't make any sense, because a bolder initiative would be much less likely to have the effects that Sonya - "cigarette consumption will probably not be affected much".

138.

The main revenue generators for Tenare

- 1)Fishing
- 2)Tourism

if you want to weaken this argument, you want to show that killing the tiger sharks will have a deleterious effect on the other pillar of the economy - namely, FISHING.

- A. This has the opposite effect: it actually strengthens the mayor's policy, by assuring that there will be a positive effect even if the program is not carried out to the fullest.
- B. is neutral (transferring dollars from businesses neither infuses dollars into the economy nor removes dollars from the economy).
- C. strengthens the policy, because it underscores the idea that the beaches are critical to the economy (and therefore that removal of the tiger sharks is of paramount importance)
- D. CORRECT, because it shows that, while killing tiger sharks may be good for TOURISM, it will be bad for FISHING (which, the passage asserts, is ultimately a more important industry).
- E. irrelevant, because the non-beach tourists have no bearing on the issue either way.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Answer is (D) only.

This is a weaken question. There is a plan - to help the economy, kill tiger sharks within a mile of the beaches.



We have to weaken it i.e. we have to prove that killing the tiger sharks will not help the economy.

The argument tells us the following:

Tiger sharks feed on smaller sharks but sometimes attack tourists.

Tenare's fishing industry provides most revenues and tourism industry is second.

A. Even if not all the tiger sharks that come close to the beaches are killed, the existence of the program would reassure tourists.

This doesn't weaken our plan, it actually strengthens it. Tourists will get reassured and will come back. Economy will be helped.

B. Business owners who depend on tourism are willing to pay most of the cost of implementing the program.

Again, if anything, it strengthens our plan (very slightly though!). The cost of the program will not be paid by the govt and hence the revenues generated will not be lost on implementing the program. So economy will be helped.

C. Tourists come to Tenare Island for its beaches, even though the island features a number of other tourist attractions.  
Irrelevant

D. The small sharks on which tiger sharks prey feed on fish that are commercially important to the island's fisheries.

If tiger sharks are killed, small sharks will prosper which means the number of fish they feed on will decrease. Since this fish is commercially important, if their availability reduces, the revenues from fishing may reduce. Hence, actually, the economy may not be helped. This weakens our plan.

E. Not all tourists who come to Tenare Island enjoy swimming or surfing.

Irrelevant.

Answer (D)

139.

The argument summary : By banning imported steel, smaller steel companies will be able to take away (compete) more business from larger steel companies as this business will no longer go to foreign companies.

Which would weaken this conclusion?

A. Irrelevant. Unless we were told that the quality of steel produced by mini-mills is lower than that of steel produced by foreign mills, this option is irrelevant.

B. This does not tell us whether the ban on imported steel will direct business to the mini-mills. We want to assess how small mills can take away business from larger mills. This neither weakens nor strengthens the argument.

C. Will imposing a ban on imported steel cause other countries to ban export of steel from the US?

We do not have sufficient information to assume this and even if it were true, since the argument states that mini-mills will take more business from the big American steel mills, this does not directly affect our argument.

D. This actually strengthens the conclusion by indicating that the smaller companies will be able to compete better

E. states that the small mills are making "specialized types of steel that are not produced by the big American steel mills". The small mills cannot take away the big steel mills' business when they are not producing the type of steel that the big steel mills produce. They are not legitimate competitors of the big mills. Correct

### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Let's review the author's reasoning:

- In the absence of the quotas, foreign steel mills (FSM) will take SOME business from big American steel mills (BASM).
- With the quotas, small domestic mills (SDM) will take an even greater amount of business from big American steel mills.
- Therefore, the imposition of quotas limiting imports will help the big American steel mills and will help "mini-mills" flourish in the United States.

So for whatever reason, the author believes that the quotas will allow smaller domestic mills to take a bigger chunk of business from the big American mills.

(B) Foreign steel mills have long produced grades of steel comparable in quality to the steel produced by the big American mills.

We are trying to evaluate the claim made in the last sentence. In order to do so, we need to compare the amount of business taken by FSM without quotas to the amount of business taken by SDM with quotas. Choice (B) simply tells us *why* foreign steel mills have been able to take some of the business from big American mills (they make a similar product). But what will happen when the quotas are introduced? Will SDM take an even greater chunk of business from BASM? Choice (B) does not help us answer that question or evaluate the author's claim. Eliminate (B).

(E) Domestic "mini-mills" produce low-volume, specialized types of steels that are not produced by the big American steel mills.

Yes, it is true that SDM *might* also make products similar to those produced by BASM. But remember that we are looking for an answer that "would cast the *most serious* doubt on the claim made in the last sentence above." It doesn't have to PROVE that the claim is not correct, but it has to cast serious doubt.

Going back to the author's reasoning... currently, FSM take some business from BASM. If quotas are introduced, maybe it will be better for BASM since they won't have to deal with the competition from FSM. However, according to the author, if the quotas are introduced, BASM will face even GREATER competition from SDM. So, great, we've dealt with the foreign competition but now we are worse off than before because we have new and greater competition from SDM.

But what if SDM and BASM make different products? In that case, it is LESS LIKELY that the SDM will compete with BASM once the quotas are introduced. Sure, choice (E) doesn't say that SDM ONLY produces "low-volume, specialized types of steels," but it certainly implies that SDM focuses on a different type of product. Even though this doesn't DISPROVE the author's claim, it casts some serious doubt, and we would want more information to evaluate the claim.

All of the other choices can be eliminated, and (E) is the best answer.

140.

"per-capita expenditure" is the total price paid for drugs (price per pill \*number of pills) divided by the number of people.

If the per capita expenditure is increasing, either the numerator has to be increasing or the denominator has to be decreasing or both.

So, either the price is increasing, the number of pills is increasing, or the number of people is decreasing (or some combination of the above).

premise: product prices can't be raised (note: by definition, this only addresses existing products; new products not yet introduced do not yet have assigned prices)

--> So I can't raise the price of existing products, but I could introduce more expensive products.

premise: the use of prescription drugs did not increase after the price freeze

--> So the number of pills isn't changing

A. new medications = new price introductions. If these prices are higher than the prices for the old products, then that's how I can increase the numerator of my "per capita expenditure" calculation. Correct.

B. if this changes anything, it would decrease the per capita expenditure (if the new people didn't take any drugs) - though the more reasonable assumption is that the new people are taking drugs at the same rate as the old people, meaning there's no change in per capita expenditure. Either way, per capita expenditure is not increasing.

C. we're concerned with why the per capita expenditure is still increasing and profit levels don't affect that calculation

D. the government can encourage anything it wants - that doesn't mean it happened. And, anyway, if the govt were successful in this plan, that should have lowered per capita expenditure, not increased it.

E. if this changes anything, it would decrease the per capita expenditure (people aren't buying as many of the expensive drugs anymore)

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

What does per capita expenditure mean here? How much each person on average is paying for *existing* brand name prescription drugs. If the new regulations are implemented that prevent companies from increasing prices of existing brands, and they change the brand names themselves quickly, what is likely going to be the effect. Without increasing the prices of the drugs, the per capita expenditure will continue to increase, as the companies will now increase the prices of the new drugs (which are outside the ambit of the regulations)

141.

There is a literal gap we need to fill here.

European companies emerge

AND

European companies take over European market

AND

US. market emerges

AND

-----  
THEREFORE

US. companies will be able to capture the US. market sales

We currently have facts asserting that the US. firms will lose their hold on the European market. however, we have nothing asserting that the US. firms will gain a hold on the US. market, the second half of the conclusion.

therefore, we need an assertion that says, or implies, that the US. firms will gain a hold in the US. market (i.e., the European firms won't take over the US. market as well).

A. Irrelevant:

- recent increases are unrelated to maintaining production in the future
- recent increases in production have nothing to do with the main logic gap (ensuring that US. firms will have a hold on the US. market)

B. Irrelevant:

This has nothing to do with US or European companies or markets. It generally discusses a trend in the solar industry.



C, CORRECT.

This statement strongly suggests that the US. firms will dominate the US. market for the same reasons that the euro firms will dominate the euro market.

D. We know that the US. firms will lose the European market anyway, so it doesn't matter whether that market grows or not

E) WEAKENS the argument. If the US. market is very small, then it's likely that the production/revenue/etc of US. firms will decline rather than stay constant.

142.

the passage goes from  
'the loss of some export markets'  
to  
'annual exports of ... goods will ... diminish'

That's a logical leap. In particular, the hidden assumption is that no other export markets will step up to take the place of the ones that will be lost. If we can find an answer choice that contradicts this assumption, we can weaken the argument.

A. CORRECT.

It says that the new pollution-control equipment will create a new market, which will then offset the loss of the old markets. (the words 'strong worldwide demand' create a reasonable deduction that the offset will be significant enough to help make up the losses.) . The world-wide demand for this new good may result in annual exports of Risemian manufactured goods remaining the same or increasing.

B. Further strengthens the fact that stringent regulations will result cause the a price increase in Risemian goods. This strengthens the argument than weakening it.

C. Same as above. This indicates that the manufacturers will be unable to balance the cost of installing the pollution control equipment simply by recycling the chemicals the equipment captures. This indicates that the price increase of manufactured goods is inevitable.

D. Irrelevant. Irrespective of the international standards, the Risemian government will continue to impose these regulations which will in turn cause the aforementioned price increase.

E. This simply says that the manufacturers will have additional pressure from the stockholders to install the equipment. This does not weaken the argument in anyway.



143.

there's a logic gap in the passage: we're told that the house gecko is making gains in areas where humans settle, and we're then informed that the house gecko displaces the mourning gecko from feeding where insects congregate. therefore, we need an answer choice that connects these two ideas.

A. Irrelevant. As it does not speak of any concrete steps taken by the urban area population to increase the number of house geckos.

B. Irrelevant. Still does not explain why the population of geckos in rural area is more stable(i.e the house gecko and the mourning gecko are able to co-exist) than in urban areas.

C. Irrelevant. How Geckos arrived on pacific islands does not explain the difference between the gecko population in urban and rural areas.

D. CORRECT.

This reasonably links human settlement to congregations of insects indicating that house geckos while feeding on these insects prevent the mourning geckos from doing the same. Thereby explaining why the population of the 2 species is more stable in rural areas.

E. Irrelevant. Unless urban conditions are inhibitive to asexual reproduction, this option is irrelevant.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Let's understand option D as follows:

D. Places where there are lighted buildings, insects tend to gather around the light.

**This is Correct.** Because the two geckos have same eating habits, they eat insect.

As per the argument, the KEY POINT is: competing for food (insect) ==> difference in populations.

In rural areas, because of few lights, the food – “insect populations” is spread, the two geckos seem to have same opportunity to access the food source (Remember fact: house gecko does NOT attack mourning gecko). ==> The two geckos' populations

seem to be the same in rural areas.

However, in urban areas, insects gather around the light, the the “stronger” gecko will defeat the “weaker” one to get food – insect. That makes the population of house gecko in urban areas is larger than that of mourning gecko.

144.

- A. This would mean, according to the passage, that the celebrities may not linger.
- B. Irrelevant. Does not indicate how installation of tall chairs will help nor does it affect the profits of the restaurant.
- C. CORRECT. the 'generalization about lingering' is the idea that people won't sit at tall tables for as long as at short tables. Yet, according to the passage, the customers at tall tables will probably be there to gawk at celebrities, so they will probably stay for a long time - the 'exception' mentioned in this answer choice.
- D. There is no mention of the cost of meals anywhere in the passage, so, nothing in the passage could possibly support any notion about differential meal prices. (In fact, strictly speaking, the passage doesn't even state that Hollywood Restaurant serves meals in the first place! For all we know, it's just a bar.)
- E. Irrelevant. talks about a plan that is much more drastic than the plan that is actually discussed in the passage. the plan discussed in the passage only mentions “replacing some of the tables” with tall tables. however, option (e) goes much further than this: it talks about the consequences of a plan in which enough tall tables are installed to accommodate everyone who wants a tall table. this is much more extreme than the plan given in the prompt, so it's irrelevant.

145.

the argument rests on the premise that, once the leading airline raises its prices back up to 'normal' higher levels, other airlines will jump right back into the fray.



- A. IF it were illegal to adopt such tactics, then the argument in question would crumble as the airlines would not be legally allowed to cut prices to a level at which they lose money to drive off competition.
- B. CORRECT. it states that other airlines are likely to continue to stay away, even after the big mean price- cutting airline raises its prices back up. (if their executives believe that 'big air' will simply lower its prices again if they try to wedge back into the market, then they'll stay out.)
- C. IRRELEVANT. We already know what strategy the airlines plan to adopt. The argument also calls into question the sustainability of such a plan. We need an option that will weaken the argument.
- D. IRRELEVANT because the passage and its conclusion aren't at all affected by what the other airlines do if they decide to stop serving some particular route. All that matters is that they decide to stop serving the route; the subsequent decisions are immaterial.
- E. IRRELEVANT as the argument doesn't turn on what happens during the low-fare period (its most important premises concern what happens after prices are raised back).

146.

A. CORRECT

Herbicides kills weeds -> kills insects -> kills birds. This directly suggests that the herbicides are responsible for the demise of the birds and thus weakens the conclusion that "something other than herbicide use must be responsible for the population decrease"

B. This simply tells us that carefully kept records revalidate the decline in the number of partridges. This neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion but reaffirms a fact we already know.

C. Not relevant. This does not tell us whether herbicides are responsible for the death of the partridges or not.

D. Not relevant. This choice does not relate to the partridge. Moreover, it offers no additional information concerning why these populations are in decline.

E. slightly weakens: I agree that this choice does confirm a premise from the argument - that the birds actually contain little pesticide residue - but it does not add any new information to suggest that the pesticides are nevertheless responsible for the demise of the birds.

The distinction between answer choices A and E is clear. Whereas E simply confirms a fact that is already stated in the argument (no new information to weaken the conclusion), A adds new, and relevant, information to support that the pesticides are in fact responsible for the demise of the partridge.

147.

there are some languages known to have six colour terms and there are other languages known to have only three colour terms. All of the ones that have exactly six colour terms use the same six terms. All of the ones that have exactly three colour terms use the same three terms.



The author claims that the above evidence means that culture doesn't influence how we see colour or distinguish between colours. The implication is that all of these different cultures have somehow come up with the same colours - so people must have the same ability to distinguish colours regardless of the culture in which they're raised (according to the author).

A. The idea is although the languages may differ in number of colour terms, the colours they identify with each term is the same. How many such numbers languages differ by is irrelevant.

That is Language A could have 5 terms and language B could have 4 terms as long as black is called black and green is called green

B. This simply tells us that every language has mechanism to enable its users to identify differences in hue, strengthening the fact that the ability to spot these differences is not related to culture.

C. The number of colours in nature is constant. Therefore if a language has just 3 colour terms, it's obvious that most colours will fall into one or the other category. This does address the role of culture in our ability to distinguish among different colours.

D. Once again, this option does not address the role of culture in our ability to distinguish among different colours. Due to the limited number of colour terms in these languages many colours maybe called "blue". What is important is how such colours are perceived.

By telling us that both the speakers of Vietnamese and Pashto are able to refer to tree and sky to clarify their meaning, this tells us of their ability to distinguish between green and blue, irrespective of their culture.

This strengthens the argument.

E. One group, which doesn't have separate words for green and blue, has trouble visually distinguishing between the two. Another group, which does have separate words for the two colours, finds it easier to distinguish between the two.

This weakens the author's argument because the author claims that culture does NOT influence our ability to distinguish colours. But, given the evidence in E, it's possible that the fact that the one group doesn't have separate names for the colours green and blue actually makes it more difficult for them to distinguish those differences. (This is possible - but just one possibility. They could also all be blue-green colour-blind and that's both why they can't see the differences and why they don't have separate words. The correct answer only needs to open up the possibility to weaken - it doesn't need to be a slam dunk.) E is the correct answer.

### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

According to the argument:

"The way your mind identifies difference in color is not influenced by culture but actually is an innate phenomenon that is only biologically determined."

To support this the passage has given 2 facts that:

In all 6 color term languages the terms are fixed.

In all 3 color term languages the terms are fixed.

Option B says that each language has mechanism to explain subtle changes in shades i.e., Light blue, sky blue, navy blue etc... Does this option tell me that culture is the reason for this. If all the cultures have mechanisms then they might well be biological. This actually is a 180 degree answer that way.

Option C red in English is red but red in some sub Saharan culture is blue : but still the difference in color is not different for either. Revisit the conclusion, the conclusion talks about differentiating between different colors and not the absolute color identification.

The only option that talks about that is E - Tarahumara and Spanish are two distinct cultures (operationalized here through the different languages they speak; but what is clear to us from this option is that these are two different cultures). Now this option very clearly demonstrates (not just within one culture or one set of cultures as does Option (C), but *between* cultures) that the perception of colour very much depends on the culture.

### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Basically the argument is giving us information regarding two categories of languages; one which has 6 words for the 6 primary colours and one that has only 3 basic colour terms.

Now the conclusion drawn is that culture does not play a role in the way people perceive colour.

To weaken that, we'd need an argument that says that culture does indeed shape perception.

Option B does not work because it revolves around the idea of describing the differences in the colours in the language but not necessarily in identifying the differences (perceiving the differences in hues) which is what the argument hinges on.

Option C does touch upon the idea that in some languages since there are only 3 words to describe the colours, people would have different variations in their descriptions, thus letting the culture have a play in it. But since they are limited by 3 words, they can't even describe any other colour even though they may recognize it as different. For example, the fruit oranges' colour would be described by one of the three which does not actually mean that the mind is recognizing the colour of the fruit the same way. This argument is good but it does not weaken the claim.

148.

A. We do not know how many stores were added in Canada versus how many were added in the US and hence cannot make this assumption.

B. In 2000, 50 stores recorded a profit of \$50 million.

In 2005, 150 stores recorded a profit of \$72.66

We know that the profit per store has decreased but we cannot comment on whether the revenue (profit + cost of manufacture) has decreased as we do not have information about the revenue.

C. CORRECT.

In 2000, 50 stores recorded a profit of \$50 million.

In 2005, 150 stores recorded a profit of \$72.66

Profit per store (profit on an average has clearly decreased)

D. We do not know how the sixth year will work out. The profits could spike suddenly. We cannot make any assumption.

E. Once again, we do not have any facts to base such an assumption on.

149.

A. CORRECT.

This strengthens the argument rather indirectly. According to this option it is not possible to determine which the most valuable piece of art is as "The value of a piece of art is purely subjective" This would in turn make it impossible to locate the whereabouts of the world's most valuable artwork.

B. This would weaken the conclusion by indicating that the purchasers of the most valuable art collection eventually make its whereabouts known.

C. This would once again put a map on world's most valuable artwork.

D. This is once again indicates that not only are the whereabouts of the world's most valuable artwork known but so are its owners.

E. Same as D.

150.

A. Since the difference is a 11% this would not explain the difference

B. 71% responded as saying they cast their vote. Its immaterial where 15% of the respondents were living as they could have clearly not cast their votes.

C. CORRECT.

This helps us understand that there is really no discrepancy. We're getting different results because the percentages are drawn from different cross-sections of the population (eligible voters versus people inclined to respond to polls), so there is no reason why we should expect the numbers to match up.

Also this indicates that the poll respondents are a small subset of all eligible voters. We are told that this particular subgroup happens to vote more often than the overall pool of eligible voters. That would explain why 71% of poll respondents say that they voted, but only 60% of eligible voters voted.



D. Even if last minute glitches prevented many individuals from voting, the poll was conducted AFTER the voting process. Thus, those could not vote would have responded with a negative to the poll.

E. It says "Some" people - this could mean anywhere between 0.1% to all 11% (although this is highly unlikely). Please note, do not make any assumptions about figures unless it's specifically mentioned in the answer choice. Between C and E, C is the clear winner as it removes any ambiguity.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(C) - The option basically says that people who did actually vote also responded in the survey and those who did not vote did not fill out the survey.

That means the set of people who filled the survey came from the set of people who actually voted.

Now for example out of 100 people in the population, 80 are eligible to vote and 48 people end up voting. That means 60% eligible voters actually voted.

Now, the survey comes out and out of the 48 who voted, 34 people filled the survey form, which is around 71% of the respondents.

Thus, option C gives us the missing information.

## **EXTRA CR QUESTIONS – SET 1**

### **Answer Key**

73. A

74. C

75. B

76. E

77. A

78. C

79. C

80. A

81. A

82. E

83. D

84. D

85. C

86. E

87. A

88. B

89. C

90. A

91. A

92. A

93. C

94. B

95. A

96. B

97. B

98. C

99. C

100. B

101. C

102. E

103. E

104. E

105. C

106. B

107. E

108. C

109. C

110. E

111. A

112. E

113. A

114. E

115. C

116. E

117. C

118. B

119. B

120. B

121. C

122. C

123. D

124. A

125. C



## Solutions

73.

Lets look at the main conclusion of this passage:

Conclusion: Therefore, the Neanderthals who made the flute probably used a diatonic musical scale.

Only Option A and C recognise the second Bold-face as the main conclusion. Rule out B, D and E.

A. CORRECT.

BF 1 is the evidence that is provided to support the conclusion that the Neanderthals made flute that used adiatonic musical scale.

BF 2 is that conclusion.

B. WE know that BF2 states the conclusion and does not oppose it.

C. The reason that the passage is able to conclude that the Neanderthals made flute that used a diatonic musical scale (BF 2) is because of a fragment bone flute that was found at the campsite (BF1). Therefore BF1 inno way undermines BF2.

D. BF 1 is not a phenomenon but a piece of evidence that is cited.BF 2 presents the position that the argument concludes(supports)

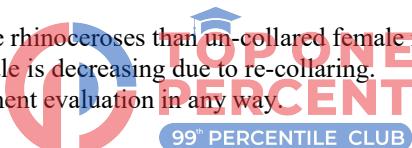
E. BF 1 is not a phenomenon but a piece of evidence that is cited.

BF 2 does not rule out any possible explanation. Rather, it accepts that the Neanderthals may have used a flutewith diatonic musical scale.

74.

A. Even if there were more collared female rhinoceroses than un-collared female rhinoceroses in the park, thiswould not tell us whether the fertility rate of the female is decreasing due to re-collaring.

Hence this does not help us with our argument evaluation in any way.



B. Our concern is how the tranquilisers are affecting female rhinoceroses, in particular. Finding the effect theymay have on either large mammals, will not tell us anything about the effect of the tranquilisers on female rhinoceroses.

C. CORRECT.

If the tranquilisers have been used for purposes other than re-collaring, then it is possible that un-collared females may have been hit by these tranquilisers more number of times than the collared ones. If this case, thefact that Female rhinoceroses that have been frequently re-collared have significantly lower fertility rates than un-collared females, would break the connection between the tranquilisers and fertility.

D. Since the comparison is only between the collared and un-collared females, this option is irrelevant.

E. We are trying to understand if some substance in the tranquiliser inhibits fertility. The various, possibly safer, methods for tracking rhinos is out of scope.

75.

year x: tax price went up by eight cents. sales fell by 10%  
Year before x: tax price constant. Sales fell by 1%

Conclusion: the reason for the sales to fall from 1% to 10% is the 8 cent increase in the tax price i.e "volume of cigarette sales is therefore strongly related to the after-tax price of a pack of cigarettes".

A.

This weakens the argument by indicating that despite an increase in taxes, the sales amount also went up.

B. CORRECT

By telling us that the drop in sales post increases in taxes could not have been due to a change in the information available to consumers on the health risks of smoking, this option provides most support to the argument.

C. This is irrelevant. The question is, how did the consumers react once the prices went up?

D. This weakens the argument by stating an external reason that could have caused a decrease in sales. If consumers had lesser income, they'd be less likely to spend.

E. This is irrelevant.

The variety of cigarettes on the market is not relevant unless we are told that a greater variety boosts/depresses sales.

Note: this is an absolutely classic type of problem: it CONFLATES CORRELATION WITH CAUSATION.

It takes a statistical correlation between cigarette tax and cigarette consumption, and postulates that one has a CAUSAL effect on the other. (here, the tax is taken to lead to decreased consumption.)

anything disrupting the CAUSAL relationship between cigarette tax and cigarette consumption --> i.e., any ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATION FOR WHY THE TWO ARE CORRELATED --> will ruin the argument.  
therefore, you can STRENGTHEN the argument by DISPENSING with such explanations.



this is what choice (b) does. one possible alternative explanation is that consumers may have become more educated about the dangers of cigarettes, leading them to smoke fewer cigarettes regardless of the tax. This choice eliminates that possibility.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The author is trying to argue that "the volume of cigarette sales is strongly related to the after-tax price of a pack of cigarettes." Why? Well, when cigarette taxes went up, sales fell sharply. So it seems as though a price increase caused sales to drop.

But (D) tells us that the income of many consumers dropped. Maybe that explains why sales fell. In other words, despite the price increase, perhaps sales would NOT have fallen if consumers' incomes had remained steady. (D) suggests that it may have been income, not after-tax price, that caused the sharp decline, so this could actually weaken the argument.

As for (B), what if "the information available to consumers on the health risks of smoking" greatly INCREASED in the period before and after the tax increase? Maybe cigarette sales dropped as people became more aware of the health risks. (B) gives us an alternative explanation for the data, suggesting that the drop in sales may not have had anything to do with the increase in price. Perhaps sales would NOT have fallen, despite the price increase, if information on health risks had not increased.

But (B) tells us that this is not the case. The information available to consumers did NOT change, so the drop in sales had nothing to do with information on health risks. By eliminating another possible explanation, (B) strengthens the argument.

76.

We are told that more shoppers would shop at Jerrod's if shopping carts were introduced i.e Jerrod's would have new customers.

Even if these new customers spent just as much money on the store, as Jerrod's did on purchasing the cart, Jerrod's would still increase its profits rather than breaking even.

Which option could explain such an increase in profit?

- A. Accommodating shopping carts will not increase profits. On introducing carts, if the new customers the cart attracts spend just as much as was spent by Jerrod's on purchasing the carts, how will Jerrod's profits increase?
- B. We are discussing the increase in Jerrod's profit. This option is not relevant.
- C. But we are told at the beginning of the sentence that Jerrod would increase it's profits. This does not explain how that will happen.
- D. This gives us another potential reason why the profits of Jerrod's may not increase rather than explaining why it would.

E. CORRECT.

This logically completes the argument by telling us that Jerrod's profits will not only come from new customers but the old customers will also spend more than before because of the shopping carts.

"In fact, even if the amount spent by these additional customers only just covered the cost of providing the carts, providing carts would still probably increase Jerrod's profits, since a customer with a shopping cart buys more, on average, than a customer without a cart"

77.

in this problem, the main line of argument is this time, the downtown shopping district WILL NOT be able to rebound, for reason X.

therefore, "reason X" (i.e., the answer to this problem) must be something that will absolutely undermine the downtown district's ability to recover from this blow.

A. CORRECT.

if this statement is true, then the other stores (which depend on the allure of these anchor stores) will also fail, creating a downward spiral that will seriously imperil (if not outright destroy) the downtown district's ability to recover.

B. This statement is true even of the time when the downtown shopping district bounced back. This does not tell us why the shopping district will be unable to bounce back this time.

C. We are not told that failed businesses may be taken over by a business that is of a different kind. So there is nothing in the passage that indicates that this might not happen this time also, allowing the downtown businesses to bounce back.

D. is completely irrelevant. the magnitude of profits for Savemart has no apparent relationship to the future of business in the downtown shopping district.

in order to connect those two concepts, you would have to make a whole truckload of assumptions that have no concrete justification.

E. This actually tells us that the shopping district may not be able to bounce back from the losses it's suffering by indicating that the downtown shopping district could shrink substantially.

Remember that the passage is only talking about the collapse of 20% of the downtown stores and not a total collapse.

78.

- A. This option simply gives us more details about the plan being implemented. It does not tell us whether the plan will succeed or not.
- B. This simply indicates that a majority of the people will end up paying taxes on all the accumulated interest at the time of withdrawal. While this would increase the revenue for the government, this does not tell us how it would improve the long-term savings rate of the citizens of Levaska.
- C. This directly supports the argument by suggesting that people of Levaska will indeed invest in such a savings account before they turn 65.
- D. This option indicates that long-term saving accounts were not very popular 10 years ago. This gives us no information on whether the new plan will succeed.
- E. Since the plan is only looking to improve the long-term savings rate of the citizens of Levaska, this is irrelevant.

79.

Option C is the correct answer.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Conclusion: It was human migration and not climatic change that precipitated (caused) the extinctions of large animal species.

(y)humans moved from one place to another because of climate changes (more specifically climate becoming warmer) but animals stayed at that place only and became extinct because of climate warming (my assumption)

The main question stem, though takes a different stance. It <sup>99<sup>th</sup></sup> PERCENTILE CLUB says:  
It was human migrations and not climate warming that caused extinctions

I need an answer choice that makes above conclusion more believable.

(A) Many animal species, such as deer and bison, continued to thrive in Europe even after humans migrated there.

I need to LINK human migrations with extinctions, not break the link.

This if at all weaken the conclusion.

(B) Several periods of marked climatic warming have occurred in Europe, during which many large animal species that lived there became extinct.

This makes me think climate warming caused extinctions of animal species, not human migrations. I am looking for other way round.

(C) Many animal species that became extinct in Europe survived longer in areas that were isolated from human populations but that experienced intense climatic warming.

Here first THAT refers to animal species and second and third THAT refer to AREAS. Now I am linking areas in which animals lived to both climate warming and human isolation. How can this strengthen my argument?

(D) In some areas of Europe, only a few archaeological sites have yielded evidence that shows an overlap between the arrival of humans and the extinction of large animals

ONLY word catches my eye and makes this choice incorrect.

(E) Some large animals had become extinct in Europe even before humans migrated there.

Nope, this breaks the connection between extinction and humans migration.

Incorrect.

(D) In some areas of Europe, only a few archaeological sites have yielded evidence that shows an overlap between the arrival of humans and the extinction of large animals.

First of all, (D) is only talking about SOME areas of Europe. Regardless, (D) only tells us that there is some evidence of an OVERLAP. We already know from the passage that there was an overlap. We need evidence that human migration CAUSED the extinctions. (D) doesn't help us.

(C) Many animal species that became extinct in Europe survived longer in areas that were isolated from human populations but that experienced intense climatic warming.

Let's compare two areas in Europe:

- Area A experienced climatic warming and the arrival of humans.
- Area B experienced climatic warming but NO arrival of humans (i.e. Area B was isolated from human populations).

Both areas had large animal species. Choice (C) tells us that many of the animals that became extinct in places like Area A survived LONGER in places like Area B. Both areas had climatic warming, but only Area A had humans. This evidence suggests that it was the humans, not the climatic warming, that caused the extinctions.

80.

the problem gives two possible explanations for the scientists' loss of creativity: (1) they're too old, (2) they've been working in the same field for too long.

therefore, we need some sort of thing that DIFFERENTIATES between these two -- in other words, a situation in which one of them would be true, but not the other.



A. CORRECT.

This option will tell us two things:

- 1) Whether it is possible for scientists to do creative work after 40.
- 2) Whether scientists who do creative work after 40 entered the field at a later age than common - this means that they may not have the average 15 years experience. This indicates that since they have spent less time in that field, they have not exhausted all their creative avenues as yet.

B. This makes a connection between a scientist's expectation and creativity. This is not supported by the passage. Nor does it address the explanation that scientists burn out creative avenues after 15 years in the same field.

In fact this option offers a third, completely different explanation for why scientists do their most creative work before age forty.

C. This seems to indicate that scientists lose interest in research post 40 and that they cultivate other interests. This does not help us choose between one application or another.

D. While this tells us that scientists over 40 maybe more favoured for grants, it does not address the question of "creative capacity". Has the creative capacity of these scientists reduced? Is creative work a criteria for receiving the grant? We do not know.

E. The passage already tells us that the finding is true in many scientific fields. The variations in the average age at which scientists are most productive will not help us choose between the two options.

81.

The summary of the business man's argument is due to the economic benefits, we HAVE to put up with the pollution being caused by snowmobiles.

Now to counter this, the environmentalist needs an argument that attacks the conclusion that snowmobiles are improving the economy.

A. CORRECT.

This indicates that while snowmobiles may bring out-of-towners to Milville, it is losing out the revenue it was generating from cross-country skiers. This counters the Business Spokesperson's argument on the same premise of economy.

B. As long as there are people from out of town that snowmobiling attracts, this option will not make an effective case.

C. The business spokesperson has already admitted to the pollution caused by snowmobiling and says that the economic benefits will balance the pollution caused.

So this option does not help us counter the spokesperson's argument.

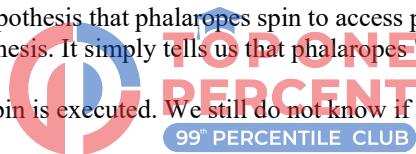
D. Since the measures adopted to reduce industrial pollution will not be the same, it is irrelevant to bring this up. The environmentalist cannot bring this up without supporting evidence on how pollution in Milville can be reduced without affecting the economy.

E. The spokesperson is implying that the fees paid by the out of towners to use the park will benefit Milville. This makes option E irrelevant.

82.

A. We need an option that supports the hypothesis that phalaropes spin to access planktons that are just below the surface. This option does not support such a hypothesis. It simply tells us that phalaropes "rarely" feed on land.

B. This option simply explains how the spin is executed. We still do not know if the spinning allows better access to food or not.



C. This weakens the hypothesis by suggesting that perhaps the spinning does not have anything to do with gaining access to food.

D. Once again, this does not connect the spinning to feeding in any way.

E. CORRECT.

By telling us that Phalaropes do not usually spin when food is abundant at the surface, this suggests that the spinning might have something to do with gaining access to food that is not on the surface, thereby strengthening the hypothesis.

83.

1. Lake Paqua is land locked i.e water cannot flow in and out of the lake and neither can the food for salmon.
2. scarcity of food for salmon there has caused a decline in both the number and the size of the adult salmon in the lake.
3. To remedy this and increase the number of salmons in the lake the officials plan to introduce shrimp as a source of food for the salmon.

Which option indicates that the above plan may not work as expected?

A. This is immaterial. The passage tells us that the region's revenue from fishing have declined and this is the situation that the officials are looking to remedy.

It is irrelevant to the argument if fishing is done for local consumption or sale outside the region.

B. This is irrelevant. we know that fishing has declined and this would affect both commercial fishing and fishing as a sport. Which of the two earns more revenue is immaterial.

C. This would mean that all of those shrimps would be available as food for the salmon, strengthening the officials' plan.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that baby salmons and shrimps will be competing for the same kind of food, which is already declining. This would mean either the shrimps' population will decrease, which will in turn lead to the decline of salmons due to the lack of food, or the baby salmon population will die out, also cause a further decline in the salmon population.

E. Irrelevant. Our issue is saving the fishing industry. The regulations imposed by the industry once the fish has been caught is irrelevant.

84.

All factors for the nicotine patch have remained the same:



The only thing that has changed is that it can now be purchased without a doctor's prescription.

Lets look for an option that tells us why this might boost sales.

A. This does not tell us how the patches' new non-prescription status will boost sales.

B. We know that the price of the patch will remain the same. Therefore this is irrelevant to our argument.

C. We are specifically discussing the nicotine patch and how its non-prescription status will boost sales. Non-prescription aids that already exist in the market are irrelevant to us.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that there is a large sector that wants to quit but cannot afford to visit a doctor. This means that nicotine patches were previously unavailable to such people.

Therefore patches' new non-prescription status will definitely boost sales among such people.

E. Whether other aids are just as successful as the patch is not our concern. We only want to know why the patches' sales will increase upon changing its status from prescription to non-prescription.

85.

We need an option that indicates that the best way for companies to function is to use the titles externally but not within the company.

A. This tells us that the big companies will not be able to preserve atmosphere of mutual respect and high regard without using titles. Therefore this indicates that titles must be used within the company also.

B. This tells us that use of titles is beneficial even within an organisation. Therefore there is no need for a company to compromise.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that knowing an executive uses titles outside the company does not hinder communications within the company as long as he does not use titles within the company.

This provides maximum support to the compromise by stating that it will work as expected.

D. This option supports a rigid hierarchical structure by stating that it promotes efficiency.

Since in a rigid hierarchical structure titles are used both within as well as outside the organisation, there is no need for the compromise mentioned above.

E. This once again, provides no support to the compromise. It indicates that a vast majority of the executives do not mind using titles both inside and outside the organisation although they disapprove of rigid hierarchies.

This implies that such executives do not think that titles inhibit communication.

86.

Summary:

the government increased all the elderly people's pensions. but, for some reason, the elderly people don't actually have any more money now.



our challenge is to find the "some reason" here.

we need a reason why the increase will have NO EFFECT on the elderly people's income. in other words, we must find some factor that will immediately cancel out the effect of the increase, since we know that the elderly people are indeed getting the money.

A. This would mean that an increase in pension would definitely result in better financial status for the old people.

B. We know that the 20% increase happened 2 years ago. Despite the 3 week delay, the pensioners must have got the increased pension, thereby contributing to their financial welfare.

C. But as the inflation is almost constant so we can safely assume that these prices are also same.

D. Note that we are trying to assess why the elderly are NOT financially better off now than they were before the increase. Even if this were true, given the 20% increase, the elderly below the poverty line must be in a slightly better state now than they were before.

E. CORRECT

if the elderly's income is supplemented by their children - up to a FIXED amount ("a comfortable living") - then it makes absolutely no difference how much pension those elderly people are receiving, as long as the pension is less than "a comfortable living". in other words, their children are just going to pay the difference anyway.

Example:

Person A needs \$ 200 per month for "comfortable living".

Previously pension was \$100, so Person A used to take \$100 for his livelihood from his/her children.

Now the increased pension is \$120, so that person takes \$ 80 from his/her children. But the net income is still \$200, therefore their financial condition continues to remain the same.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

This is a paradox question. The paradox being the pension has increased, and the increase has been passed on to the retirees, inflation is negligible, but still they are not financially better off.

Process of elimination will be our friend here.

Option (A) - If pension has increased by 20%, even if their entire source of income is the pension, if the pension was \$x and it is now \$1.2x, 1.2x is monotonically greater and better than x, for any positive x

Option (B) - There is nothing to indicate that 3 weeks delay has any negative effect, especially since the increase is definitely being passed on to the retirees

Option (C) - This is irrelevant, as inflation has been said to have been negligible

Option (D) - Even if this is true, again, any positive increase of nominal income will result in higher real purchasing power in absence of inflation, so retirees receiving the increased income will be financially better off

Option (E) - By POE we have reached here, and this has to be the answer. Even then, let's understand why that is so. Whatever is the level of comfortable living upto which children supplement the income, that is the same level they will continue to do so. IF the income their parents earn increases, they will decrease how much they provide to their parents, and the overall financial level will remain the same

87.

This is very similar to the previous question.

1) most pensioner live in rural areas -> to stimulate the rural economy, government provided pension to pensioners increased by 20%.

2) Result: no increase in economic activity in rural areas ; noticeably more spending in the urban areas.

Which option could explain the result?

A. CORRECT.

Once the pension was increased, the pensioners stopped receiving support from their children.

This means that total amount of spending money for the pensioners in the rural areas has not changed -> this would explain why the rural economy is not stimulated.

Since the children in the urban areas no longer support their parents, their spending power has gone up -> this would explain why there is noticeably more spending in the urban areas.

B. This does not explain the result. Why did the spending capacity of the rural area stay the same while that of the urban regions increased?

C. Same as above.

D. The pension was increased 2 years ago. Even if there was a 3 week delay in post, it should have reflected in the economy by this time.

E. This does not explain why the overall spending capacity of the rural areas continues to remain below that of urban areas. We know that most pensioners live in rural areas.

Also this option provides no explanation for why the spending capacity of the urban areas has suddenly increased when the pension was increased.

88.

Prediction: opening Martin's Cafe, will cause Wildflower to suffer losses

Actual income: Average number of meals served pre night has increased at Wildflower, which indicates that the business has increased.

Note: Riverville has only two restaurants. Martin's cafe and Wildflower.

A. This does not help explain why Wildflower is serving more meals on an average. It simply tells us that Wildflower serves more meals on the weekend than on a weekday.

B. CORRECT.

This option has two parts.

1) Most of the customers of Martin's Cafe had never dined in Riverville before this restaurant opened -> this means that all of Martin's customers are new customers i.e they were not Wildflower's customers before Martin's opened.

2) on most days Martin's Cafe attracts more customers than it can seat -> this indicates that there is chance people coming to Riverville to dine at Martin's may go over to Wildflower due to the lack of seats at Martin's.

Also, since most of Martin's customers are new, the opening of Martin's has not adversely affected Wildflower.  
Rather it has given Wildflower more customers.

C. We are not concerned with comparing profits of Wildflower against profits of Martin's. Our concern is, is Wildflower doing better business since Martin's opened?

D. This does not help explain why Wildflower is serving more meals on an average.

E. Same as D.

89.

A. Irrelevant. We are only concerned with the usability of the importation agency



C. CORRECT.

If this were true, then the reason why the board does not receive substandard cheese is because of the presence of such a board. Removal of the agency may then cause amount of substandard cheese imported to rise and this would in turn cause the health costs to go up.

If this were untrue, then the evaluation is correct.

D. This does not help evaluate the usefulness of the agency. The number of such exporters could range from 0.1% to 100%

E. Irrelevant. This does not help evaluate the usefulness of the Cheese Importation Board in anyway.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The passage explicitly states that the agency's actions have a negligible benefit ("the health consequences and associated costs of not rejecting that one percent would be negligible"). In other words, the benefit of those actions is essentially zero.

C. Does the possibility of having merchandise rejected by the Cheese Importation Board deter many cheese exporters from shipping substandard cheese to Goronia?

If the answer to this is NO, then it affirms the idea that the agency isn't really helping and should be eliminated.

If the answer to this is YES, then it shows that the mere existence of the agency is significantly helping in that it is keeping exporters from sending bad cheese. Without the agency, a significant quantity of bad cheese may enter the country and harm the population.

90.

The argument indicates that since three trailer trucks have lower accident rate than the single- and double-trailertrucks, shippers must be asked to shift to the three trailer trucks to reduce the accident rate in Partoria.

A. CORRECT.

This indicates that the reason triple-trailer trucks are involved in fewer accidents is because they are only used "for long trips using major highways, which is the safest kind of trip for large trucks".

This severs the connection between triple-trailer trucks and safety by indicating that the reason for safety is not the truck itself but the routes the triple-trailer trucks usually take.

B. This is out of scope. We are simply discussing whether replacement of single- and double-trailer trucks with triple-trailer trucks will help.

C. We do not know if there is a connection between the number of miles driven and the accident rate.

If large trucks account for a smaller proportion of all miles driven on Partoria's roads, will this lead to lesser accidents? We do not know. It is possible that the number of miles covered could be less and the number of accidents could be the same or more.

D. The overall safety record is irrelevant to us. We are discussing the safety record of using single- double- and triple-trailer trucks versus using only triple-trailer.

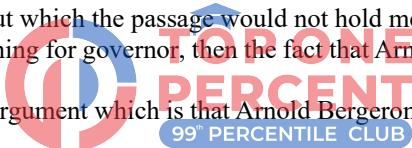
E. This may or may not have an effect on the overall accident rate. Even if it did reduce the number of accidents it is irrelevant to the argument since it does not discuss triple-trailer trucks.

91.

A. CORRECT

BF1 is the pre requisite information without which the passage would not hold meaning. If the importance of releasing financial disclosures was not linked to running for governor, then the fact that Arnold Bergeron made one would not mean he is running for the governor.

BF2 is clearly the main conclusion of the argument which is that Arnold Bergeron will finally run for governor.



B. BF1 -> correct

BF2 -> this is not an intermediate conclusion but the main conclusion itself.

C. BF1 -> the merits of filing financial disclosures for candidacy is not under discussion. The journalist is not defending or de-meriting such a practise.

D. BF1 is not evidence against the conclusion. It simply provides context for the conclusion.

E. We know that BF2 is the main conclusion of the passage and BF1 simply sets the context for the argument. Since neither of the bold face is an intermediate conclusion, we can eliminate this option.

92.

Kate: Decline of Bird → because of loss of tree cover in coffee tree plantation.

Scott: Decline of Bird → because of decline in warbler's favourite prey, budworm.

We need to find options that weaken Scott's hypothesis. That we need to find an option that might tell us that the decline in warbler's population is not due to the decline in budworm population.

**A. CORRECT**

This tells us that another bird that is dependent on coffee tree plantation but is not affected by the declining budworms, is also declining.

This statement is direct evidence against the idea that budworms are the source of the problem, since it provides an example of a species that doesn't eat budworms but has experienced exactly the same decline.

**B. Why the bud worm population has dropped is irrelevant to us.**

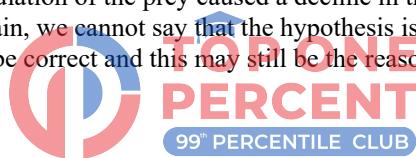
**C. This is immaterial. What has happened to population of warbler before and after the decline is the question.**

**D. This would be relevant if the option told us that the birds were migrating to a place with more tree cover. Since we do not know what the migration is happening, this becomes irrelevant.**

**E. This piece of information tells us nothing about the reason for this decline.**

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option (C) is irrelevant because whether the decline in the population of the prey is temporary or not, does not have any bearing on whether the decline in the population of the prey caused a decline in the population of the predator. The second guy's hypothesis is this latter part, and again, we cannot say that the hypothesis is weakened if the drop in the population of the prey is temporary (it might very well be correct and this may still be the reason why the population of the Warbler is decreasing)



93.

**A. The question is not whether the lengthy televised political message of the candidate was effective but the question is whether people are interested in watching such a message.**

**B. This strengthens the argument to an extent by stating a large proportion of people knew the message was being broadcast (due to the wide publicity) and voluntarily tuned in to watch it.**

**C. CORRECT.**

This opens up the possibility that people may not have tuned in "At the beginning of the half-hour slot" with the intention of watching the political advertisement.

The viewers of the popular show probably tuned in to watch the show and were subjected to the advertisement instead.

This weakens the conclusion that the fact that many people tuned in at the beginning of the political advertisement means that they are interested in watching such a commercial.

**D. This talks of short political advertisements. Since we are discussing the lengthy ones, this is out of scope.**

**E. This is immaterial. A television program that features debate about current political issues is different from lengthy televised political messages.**

94.

We need to find an option that supports the notion that age does not have anything to do with the loss of creative capacity. Rather, scientists who have worked for 15 or more years exhaust all creative avenues.

A. While this tells us that scientists over 40 do good work, it does not address the question of "creative capacity". Has the creative capacity of these scientists reduced? Is creative work a criteria for receiving the grant? We do not know.

B. CORRECT.

This option does two things:

1) Tells us that it is possible for scientists to do creative work after 40.

2) Implies that scientists who do creative work after 40, entered the field at a later age than common - this means that they may not have the average 15 years experience. This indicates that since they have spent less time in that field, they have not exhausted all their creative avenues as yet.

C. This makes a connection between a scientist's expectation and creativity. This is not supported by the passage. Nor does it strengthen the explanation that scientists burn out creative avenues after 15 years in the same field.

In fact this option offers a third, completely different explanation for why scientists do their most creative work before age forty.

D. Once again, this does not strengthen the explanation that scientists burn out creative avenues after 15 years in the same field. It seems to indicate that scientists lose interest in research post 40.

E. This supports the explanation that "aging carries with it a loss of creative capacity".

95.

A. CORRECT. Conclusion states that "Clearly, therefore, insurance companies are making a greater profit on collision-damage insurance in Greatport than in Fairmont." If it costs more at Greatport to repair damages than it does at Fairmont, then despite there being a lower number of collisions at Greatport, the companies may not make greater profit.



B. Let's consider the negation of this:

There are more motorists in Greatport than in Fairmont.

We know the number of collisions in Greatport are fewer. Therefore if there were an increased number of motorists and all other factors remained constant between Greatport and Fairmont, then this would STRENGTHEN the conclusion rather than weaken it.

C. This actually weakens the conclusion as more people reporting the accident = more money the insurance company has to pay.

D. Irrelevant. The comparison is between G and F.

E. Irrelevant. This assumption neither weakens nor strengthens the conclusion.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Since post negation Option C can both strengthen and weaken the conclusion, this option cannot be the correct assumption choice. The correct option will only weaken the conclusion, post negation.

Also, reporting to the Insurance Company is different from claiming the Insurance (option C).

96.

Summary:

- 1) In Partoria, large trucks are involved in 12% of highway deaths.
- 2) Of all large trucks, those with three trailers have been involved in the least number of accidents (less than a third of the accident rate of single-and double-trailer trucks)

Conclusion: By encouraging shippers to use three-trailer trucks, Partoria can reduce the number of highway deaths.

Which option weakens this conclusion?

A. This is clearly irrelevant to argument. On roads that trucks are off limit, the plan becomes completely out of scope.

B. CORRECT.

This indicates that the reason the triple trailer trucks are involved in fewer accidents is not because they are safer but because they are driven by the most experienced drivers. This means that allowing all drivers to use the triple trailer trucks (including the not so experienced ones) may not lead to a reduction in the number of accidents.

C. The collision need not be between two trucks. Since we already know large trucks are involved in 12% of highway deaths, this option neither weakens nor strengthens the conclusion.

D. While this is good to know, the fact that of all large trucks, those with three trailers have been involved in the least number of accidents still remains. This option does not weaken the conclusion to increase the use of three-trailer trucks as a way of reducing highway deaths.

E. We do not know if there is a connection between the amount of payload and highway deaths. Since we cannot assume any such connection, this option becomes irrelevant.



97.

This editorial begins with a grudging admission that the town would not need to spend as much removing trash if *all* the residents sorted their own garbage. The argument continues to explain why that expectation is not practical in the town. While many people would follow the order to sort their own trash, others would not and would resent it. It continues to explain that the town should continue with having residents voluntarily sort their own trash, as the number of people who sort their trash would be about the same in a non-voluntary system, but the non voluntary system would cause more negative consequences.

The question stem asks us what role the first sentence plays in the argument. As described above, the first sentence is a fact that the argument grudgingly accepts, but then argues that it should not change current policy. We will want to find an answer choice that in some way describes the grudging way in which the editorialist grants that fact.

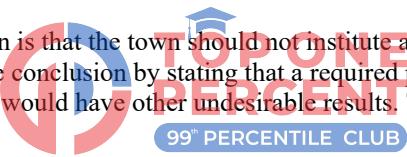
Answer choice (A): The author does not claim that the fact is false, but that even though it is true, we should not act on it. The author agrees that the town would save money if all the residents sorted their trash, but states there are reasons to not change policy even in light of that fact.

**Answer choice (B): This is the correct answer choice.** The author is willing to grant the fact as true. It supports that the town should force residents to sort their own trash, even though the author concludes that this is not true. This answer choice accurately describes the role the phrase plays in the argument.

Answer choice (C): The sentence is not a difficulty facing the claim, and as stated in answer choice (A), the author does not attempt to refute the claim, or state that it is false. The editorialist accepts the claim, but then argues that it should not change the town's policy.

Answer choice (D): The author does not need the first sentence to reach the conclusion that the town should have trash sorting as a voluntary activity. The first sentence is a concession to those who oppose his viewpoint. However, the author does not need to address the possibly troublesome fact in order to draw the conclusion.

Answer choice (E): The author's conclusion is that the town should not institute a mandatory program requiring residents to sort their trash. The editorialist supports the conclusion by stating that a required program would not have the desired effect of all residents sorting their own trash, and would have other undesirable results. The information at the beginning of the argument is thus, not the conclusion.



#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The town would not need to spend as much as it does on removing trash if all town residents sorted their household garbage.  
- a fact supporting complete segregation (non voluntary) by residents

However, while telling residents that they must sort their garbage would get some of them to do so, many would resent the order and refuse to comply.

- what would happen if non voluntary system is established

The current voluntary system, then, is to be preferred, because it costs about as much as a nonvoluntary system would and it does not engender nearly as much resentment.

- why an alternative - voluntary system - is better. Author's opinion and hence the conclusion.

We need to establish the role of the first sentence in the argument.

**(A)** It is a claim that the editorial is trying to show is false.

No. The editorial does not try to say that the first sentence is false.

**(B)** It is a fact granted by the editorial that lends some support to an alternative to the practice that the editorial defends as preferable.

Practice that editorial defends as preferable - voluntary system  
an alternative - non voluntary system  
fact that lends some support to alternative (non voluntary system) - sentence 1

Correct.

**(C)** It is an example of a difficulty facing the claim that the editorial is attempting to refute.

Sentence 1 is not an example of anything. It is a fact stated.

(D) It is a premise that the editorial's argument relies on in reaching its conclusion.

Sentence 1 supports an alternative, not the conclusion.

(E) It is the conclusion that the editorial's argument purports to establish.

Sentence 1 is not the conclusion.

Answer (B)

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The right answer is **B**. This is a structure based CR question, and very similar to bold-faced questions except for the fact that they only ask us about the role of one statement. The crux of any structure based CR question is to correctly identify the premises and conclusion. Remember that we need NOT care about outside info (assumptions) or whether the argument as a whole 'works' or not.

In this argument, the conclusion is that we should stick to the voluntary system (*The current voluntary system, then, is to be preferred*). The statement in question is simply a fact, not a conclusion, and it goes **against** the overall conclusion of the argument. So all we're really looking for in the options is anything that satisfies *premise/fact/data + against overall conclusion*.

**Option A** - The statement is indeed a claim, but the argument never says that it is false. It merely goes on to give an alternative line of reasoning. **OUT**

**Option B** - The key words are "fact" and "lends support to the alternative". This clearly shows that the statement is a premise, and one that supports a different conclusion to author's. **CORRECT**

**Option C** - The editorial isn't actually trying to refute anything. It only gives its own line of reasoning as to why the decision should go the way it does. **OUT**

**Option D** - The statement is indeed a premise, but the words "relies on" are what makes this option incorrect. The author does not rely on this premise, since it doesn't support her argument. **OUT**

**Option E** - This statement is not a conclusion. Stating data outcomes is always a premise, making a decision from those outcomes is what makes a conclusion. **OUT**

The words used in the options of such questions are designed to confuse you, so the way to avoid that confusion is to simplify each term into:

1. Premise or conclusion
2. Support or attack the main conclusion

98.

Premise: a technology for preventing leaks of oil pipelines is being installed

Conclusion: as long as the above technology is effective, there will be no leaks and hence no danger to the fish.

Assumption: Are the leaks the only thing that may endanger the fish population when oil pipeline is constructed?

A. The conclusion talks of the dangers of constructing oil pipelines only. This is out of scope.

B. This is already stated in the conclusion "provided the technology is effective" so we know that the conclusion is subject to the condition that the anti leak technology is successful. This neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion.

C. CORRECT.

Negation: The bottom of the lake contains toxic remnants of earlier pollution that will be stirred into the water by pipeline construction.

This would mean that even if the anti leak technology was successful it would still destroy the fish population due to the toxic remnants from earlier pollution, thereby causing the conclusion to fall apart.

D. Irrelevant. We are not concerned about other damages.

E. The passage discusses fish population in general and this is not specific to a certain species.

99.

Premise:

the idiomatic expression "thanks to" means "because of".

also, "largely" means "almost entirely".

so, translated, we have:

their sales revenue from Denoma models actually grew, almost entirely because of some innovative and popular models that Denoma introduced.

A. The situation that must be explained is why Denoma's revenues went down even though retailers reported that their revenue from the sale of Denova's products rose. The whole argument is about revenues, not profits, so any expenses Denoma had such as advertising are not relevant to explaining this odd situation.

B. We are discussing Denoma's revenues only. The comparison of its revenue with that of its competitors is not relevant here.

C. CORRECT.

In this case, the "surprising result" we are trying to explain is the fact that, simultaneously, Denoma's sales revenues decreased while the retailers' sales from Denoma increased (largely because of NEW models).

This provides a good rationalization: the other part of Denoma's revenue (the part from making parts for other companies) decreased. This would not have affected the retailers' revenue from Denoma products, because the retailers don't sell the parts. This perfectly explains why, although Denoma's new models sold well, the overall revenue of Denoma still decreased.

D. We are not concerned whether Denoma can increase its revenue by expanding to markets outside consumer electronics. Irrespective of whether this option is true or not, it does not explain why, although Denoma's new models sold well, the overall revenue of Denoma still decreased.

E. Even if this were true, these deep-discounted models accounted for only a small fraction of the retailers' sales revenue - because, as stated in the passage, the clear majority of that sales revenue came from the "innovative" new models. Note, this option discusses the "remaining models"



100.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Brochure: Convert your landscape to a water-conserving landscape - you reduce your outdoor water use, its natural and attractive, and it also saves you money.

Criticism (against the brochure claim of 'saves you money'): Conversion would save less than twenty dollars on a homeowner's yearly water bills. This saving cannot justify the expense of new landscaping.

(Say new landscaping costs \$1000 which is an extra expense one needs to change. The saving per year on water bill would be just \$20 per year so even in 30 years, it will add up to only \$600. Hence, the added expense right now is not justified. With the regular yard, current expense required is nothing)

We need to rebut the criticism. So we need to say why changing to water-conserving landscape does save you money.

(A) Even homeowners whose yards do not have water-conserving landscapes can conserve water by installing water-saving devices in their homes.

We need to rebut the criticism which focusses on saving money.

(B) A conventional landscape generally requires a much greater expenditure on fertilizer and herbicide than does a water-conserving landscape.

Here is another reason why water-conserving landscape will help save money. So the \$600 saving could become \$1200 (just as an example). Hence, this helps rebut the criticism.

(C) A significant proportion of the residents of the city live in buildings that do not have yards.

Irrelevant

- (D) It costs no more to put in water-conserving landscaping than it does to put in conventional landscaping.

The point is that CHANGING the yard will cost money. The argument talks about conventional landscaping getting REPLACED by water saving one. If both landscaping cost the same, it is a good idea to install water saving one in the beginning. But changing will require \$1000 extra. Hence it doesn't help rebut the criticism.

- (E) Some homeowners use more water to maintain their yards than they use for all other purposes combined.

Irrelevant.

Answer (B)

101.

- A. It need not eliminate the possibility. We know it can reduce the number of occurrences.  
B. If this were true then Salcor would have no incentive to encourage Garnet employees to get tested either.

C. CORRECT.

Garnet recruits significant number of Renco employees and Renco employees are not treated early for highcholesterol. Then if the high cholesterol results in heart disease at later stage then the insurance company, Salcor, have to pay for it. By investing the cost of early treatment up front (when these employees are still working at Renco), Salcor reaps the benefit of not having to pay the increased costs of delayed treatment (when the employees go to work for garnet).

- D. Since we already know Renco employees generally remain with Renco only for a few years, the fact that both companies have the same number of employees is immaterial.



102.

- A. This does nothing to tell us whether the plan to promote SPK004 will succeed or not.  
B. If the dishes look different than the traditional sweet potato dishes, the people might be less likely to eat them, in such a situation the plan's success would be less likely.  
C. This gives a reason why the plan may fail. By suggesting that the existing soil conditions are not sufficient for the cultivation of SPK004, this option casts a doubt on whether farmers will be able to cultivate SPK004 successfully.  
D. the comparison is between sweet potato grown in this region and SPK004 only. We are not concerned with the other varieties of Sweet Potato

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that if SPK004 were to be cultivated successfully and if it were to replace sweet potato, the people consuming SPK004 will not miss out on any nutrients that sweet potato could provide. Also, since SPK004 is rich in beta-carotene, the plan to combat vitamin-A deficiency will also succeed.

103.

Fact 1 -> overall more tourists stay at hotels in Springfield than Harristown

Fact 2 -> more tourist stay at the largest hotel in Harristown than in Royal Arms hotel in Springfield.

Now lets assume both facts are true.

If Fact1 and Fact2 are true, which option CANNOT be true?

A. We are not concerned with the length of stay but with the number of tourists staying. This option could be true and both Fact 1 and Fact 2 would still hold good.

B. Once again, this fact could be true and Fact 1 and Fact 2 could still follow.

C. This is simply restating Fact 2. We already know it is true.

D. Maybe. This would mean that the largest hotel in Harristown has more people than the largest hotel in Springfield. However, it is still possible that overall more tourists stay at hotels in Springfield than Harristown. Therefore both Fact 1 and Fact 2 are true.

E. CORRECT.

This option cannot be true. IF Royal Arms were the only hotel in Springfield and Fact 2 was true, then it would automatically make Fact 1 false. Springfield must have more than one hotel for both the sources to be correct.

104.

Paradox : Donia's capital has a higher proportion of new cars (that come with catalytic convertors post 1993)than other cities.

Yet the nitrogen dioxide levels have not reduced significantly in the capital while it has in other cities.



A. This is completely opposite of what is stated in the passage. The passage clearly tells us that the "proportion of new cars in Donia's capital city has always been comparatively high<sup>199<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUB</sup>".

This means that the proportion of new cars in Donia's capital is higher when compared to other cities. And so, we are left wondering why the nitrogen dioxide emission has not reduced in Donia's capital while it has in other cities.

B. Irrelevant. We are talking about the cars in the capital city in particular.

C. This is irrelevant. Our concern is cars with catalytic convertors and their effectiveness.

D. This would mean that the pollution should have most definitely gone down. Does not help explain the paradox.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that despite there being a high proportion of new cars in Donia's capital, the catalytic convertors are unable to function as the short trips do not allow the cars to reach effective temperature.

This would mean that even the new cars are emitting nitrogen dioxide and therefore nitrogen emission has showed only an insignificant decline since 1993

105.

We need to evaluate if rubbing the millipede is a random action of the capuchin monkeys, *that happens* to act as a mosquito repellent or Is it intended by the monkeys to have this effect? Any option that strengthens the idea that the monkeys do so deliberately, is our option.

A. This does not tell us anything except that maybe a single millipede contains enough secretion for many monkeys. It does not help us evaluate why the monkeys are doing so in the first place?

B. Irrelevant. Unless we are told these insects are harmful to the capuchins that the capuchins use millipedes to get rid of such insects, this option is irrelevant to the discussion.

C. CORRECT.

This tells us that Capuchins rubbing millipedes on their body is not a random habit.

The fact that capuchins only do so in the rainy season, when the mosquito population is at its peak, means that there is a connection between the monkeys rubbing the millipede and repelling mosquitoes.

D. This is good information but once again, it does not make any connection between the monkeys rubbing the millipedes and repelling mosquitoes.

E. Irrelevant. This is implicit in the passage. Had it been carcinogenic, the monkeys would not have rubbed it on their bodies.

We already know that the chemicals in the millipedes help capuchins repel mosquitoes. The question is, do the monkeys know it too?



106.

The main conclusion of the argument is that the investor's accusations are not justified.

Boldface1 states this conclusion and Boldface2 provides the reason why it can be so concluded.

Lets see which options address this.

A. The conclusion of the argument is not why the investor's accusations are not justified (as stated by BF2).

Rather it is the fact that the investor's accusations are not justified.

B. CORRECT.

BF1 states the main conclusion of the argument.

BF2 provides support to the main conclusion. ". In Burton's case it indicates no such thing, however:" makesthis an intermediate conclusion as well.

C. The argument does not oppose the fact that investor is wrong; in fact this is supported by the argument.

D. Please note that the overall conclusion is that Burton investor's sniping at management is clearly not justified. This is because, chronologically this is the last in the chain of events.

Based on the evidence given in BF2, the argument finally concludes that the investor is wrong (BF1).

E. We know that BF1 is the main conclusion.

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Argument:

Investor's claim: Company is mismanaged

Investor's supporting data: company failed to slow production even when inventory rose



Author concedes a point to Investor: It is true that an increased inventory of finished products often indicates that production is outstripping demand,

Author's supporting data: In case of Burton, increase in inventory is entirely attributable to products that have already been assigned to orders received from customers.

Author's intermediate conclusion : In Burton's case, increase in inventory does not indicate production is outstripping demand

Main point of the author: Investor's claims of mismanagement are not justified.

Note – The sentence tells us that it is doubtful that an investor's sniping can ever lead to anything good (there is a small doubt though), but here it is CLEARLY not justified (so here there is no doubt even ... it is very clear that it is not justified, let alone whether it will be productive). So there is an element of contrast here.

107.

- A. This is irrelevant. The question we are trying to address is by using nasal spray to prevent influenza in children, will we be able to greatly reduce the spread of influenza across the population?
- B. We already know that the nasal spray is effective in children. The question is by stemming the spread in children, will we be able to greatly reduce the spread of influenza across the population?
- C. We are not discussing the old vaccines that were used on adults but the new nasal spray being used on children.
- D. This would weaken the argument by stating that adults do not contract influenza from children. So the nasal spray will only help check influenza in children and not the entire population.

E. CORRECT.

This indicates that the nasal spray will be more effective in checking the spread of influenza as more children will be vaccinated against it than when vaccination required an injection.  
Since we already know that children are significantly more likely than adults to contract and spread influenza, this would check the spread of influenza among the population.

108.

here's a simplified version:

magazine's got a conservative review, but then waited until they got a liberal review. They say they were being balanced.  
they say that they DON'T have a bias in favor of liberal views.

we need to pick an answer choice that will DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THESE TWO POSSIBILITIES.

- A. What other magazines do is immaterial. The option needs to help evaluate the position of the magazine in question.
- B. Irrelevant. What do unsolicited reviews have to do with whether the magazine is liberal biased or not?
- C. CORRECT. Incase the first review was liberal and the magazine did not bother to find a second, more conservative review then we can conclude that the magazine is liberal biased.
- D. This is irrelevant. We are strictly dealing with reviews here.
- E. Irrelevant. The question isn't about readership. Rather we are evaluating the claim that the magazine is unbiased.

109.

The argument concludes that since Zinc gel(applied nasally) is more effective than zinc lozenges, cold viruses tend to concentrate in the nose, not the mouth.

Lets see which option weakens this conclusion.

- A. The comparison is not between zinc gels and other kind of gels. This is out of scope.
- B. This is irrelevant. Irrespective of how zinc affects the virus, why is application on the nose more effective than sucking lozenges?
- C. CORRECT.  
This tells us that the reason lozenges are not effective is not because the virus is not present in the mouth but the citric acid used in the lozenges interferes with the chemical activity of zinc.
- D. Since this is true for both lozenges and gel, this is irrelevant to the argument.
- E. This is out of scope. The comparison is between the gel and lozenges.

110.

- A. We are discussing patients who are over 65. The below this age group do not matter.
- B. We already know that only 75% of the patients benefited from the surgery. We need an option to prove that in case of the remaining 25% the surgery was not just prescribed by doctors more interested in an opportunity to practice their skills and in their fee than in helping the patient.
- C. Since 25% did not receive any benefit from the surgery, this slightly strengthens the assumption that such patients were misled by their doctors.
- D. The risk of undergoing the surgery is irrelevant. The question is why were they advised to undergo the operation in the first place?

E. CORRECT.

This would mean that people who benefited from the surgery as well as those who didn't exhibited the same symptoms and therefore the doctors were unable to distinguish who would benefit more from the surgery.  
The argument assumes that the doctors KNEW that the patients wouldn't have benefited from the surgery. This option shoots down this assumption.

111.

The main conclusion here is by offering a rigorous fitness program of jogging and weight lifting to all employees, and requiring employees who are out of shape to participate, the company will save doctor bills and longer hospital stays that less fit employees usually incur.

Therefore it's more profitable for the company to invest in a fitness program. Let's see which option strengthens this conclusion.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that even fit people who participate in the program will have lowered health bills than fit people who do not participate. We definitely know that the bills of unfit people will also decrease after the program. Therefore this makes the plan extremely beneficial for reducing our ~~health-insurance costs~~ <sup>99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUB</sup>.

- B. This weakens the conclusion by suggesting that the program may lead to more health bills.
- C. By suggesting that fitness programs outside the office are more effective, this weakens the personnel officer's proposal.
- D. Once again this option weakens the personnel officer's proposal by suggesting that there is no need for a rigorous fitness program.
- E. Same as B.

112.

A. The passage states the "If the ban can be successfully imposed" . The conclusion is subject to this happening.

The argument is "If these countries can successfully enforce this legislation,....."

"If X happens Y will happen for sure" In this argument, no one is assuming that X could be successfully made to occur. So, that is not a flaw.

B. Irrelevant. We are only concerned with the tigers here.

C. Irrelevant. The success rates of hunters does not matter.

D. Past efforts of the government is not relevant here.

E. CORRECT.

Argument says if legislation is enforced, survival will be ensured. And we are asked to find the flaw in the reasoning.

Extinction could be caused by many factors and one of them is hunting. E correctly identifies the flaw: takes the removal of an impediment to the tigers' survival as a guarantee of their survival.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option (C) has nothing, let me write it out again, absolutely nothing, to do with the argument. Irrespective of what the hit rate tiger hunters are getting, were getting or will get in the future, it has been established that hunting (with that rate itself) is enough to kill off all tigers over the course of time. So legislation has to be brought in to prevent poaching (again, with whatever, doesn't matter, the hit rate of hunters is)

However, poaching may be one impediment. If that is removed, the argument says tigers will definitely survive. This may not be true - there may be other factors that are playing / will play into the disappearance of tigers, other than poaching.



113.

Main conclusion of the Argument:

"So clearly, the number of new jobs created this year will fall short of last year's record."

A. CORRECT.

BF1 is indeed a fact on which the argument is based.

BF2 provides evidence to support the conclusion stated above.

B. BF1 is indeed a fact on which the argument is based.

BF2 is not an objection but rather evidence that the argument accepts.

C. BF1 is indeed a fact on which the argument is based.

We know that "So clearly, the number of new jobs created this year will fall short of last year's record." is the main conclusion of the argument.

D. The argument is not trying to establish that any new manufacturing job is created either within an existing company or by the start-up of a new company.

Rather, it's trying to establish that the number of new jobs created this year will fall short of last year's record. Also BF2 is evidence that supports the position the argument accepts.

E. Same as above.

Bf2 does not challenge BF1. Rather, it accepts it as a fact on which the argument is based.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

In option E, the first boldface is not a generalisation that the argument seeks to establish. The argument takes the first boldface to be true and uses it to connect the facts and the conclusion. In other words, the first bold face is already established.

114.

Vaccines are not used for the following reasons:

- 1) Too expensive.
- 2) The vaccines take effect only a month after they are administered making it useless if there is already a Rift Valley fever break-out.

Despite the above reasons, the use of vaccines is expected to rise. We need to find an option that would explain such a rise.

A. This simply tells us how Rift Valley fever spreads and why it is uncontrollable. This does not answer why the vaccines, despite their shortcomings, will be in sudden demand.

B. This gives us further reason to control/prevent a break-out. However, this does not answer why the vaccines, despite their shortcomings, will be in sudden demand.

C. While this tells us that the makers of the vaccine will probably be capable of meeting the demand, we are not told why the vaccines are in the demand.

D. This would mean that most farmers whose cattle is prone to an outbreak, live away from the access of such a vaccine. This further deepens the divide and we do not know why the vaccines are expected to be in demand soon.

E. CORRECT.

This option tells us that the farmers are able to predict when such an outbreak may occur almost 5 months in advance. If such is the case, they maybe able to prepare for it beforehand and vaccines that take a month to be effective will be useful to curb an outbreak.

115.

A. Irrelevant. We are trying to evaluate the most cost effective way for new plants to deal with sulphur emissions.

B. Same as above. We are not interested in making a comparison between the old and the new plants.

C. CORRECT.

If the answer to this were yes, it would mean that cleaning equipment is not a good idea as filtering would save more money and vice-versa.

D. Irrelevant. We are trying to evaluate the most cost effective way for new plants to deal with sulphur emissions notwithstanding what is best for the environment.

E. Same as B.



116.

We need to evaluate whether there has been a decline in television since the popularity of computers has increased viewing despite the survey which states otherwise.

The thing to keep in mind is, the passage states due to increased amount of FREE time spent on the computer, there isn't sufficient FREE time to watch TV.

The report however says that the persons in the survey spent an increasing amount of time in TOTAL on the computer and managed to watch the same amount of TV.

A. The amount of money spent watching TV is irrelevant. We are concerned about the total amount of FREE time spent and we know that hasn't changed.

B. Irrelevant. Once again we are concerned with decline in TV viewing due to increased use of Computer in FREE time.

C. Irrelevant. The content of TV viewing is irrelevant to us.

D. the report already states this to be true.

E. CORRECT.

A-ha! If the answer to this is yes, it would tell us that the people in the survey spent increasing amount of time on the computer at work. Since we wouldn't know if the use of computers has increased during people's free time, the report would become meaningless.

If the answer is no, then report would be accurate and would have found a surprising result indeed.

117.

Governor's Goal: to reduce crime rate

Governor's Plan: be harsher with the inmates by denying them access to college level courses.

Argument Against the Plan: the people who took college level courses in prison committed fewer crimes once they were released from prison. So Governor's plan will backfire.

Assumption: it is clear that the argument assumes the prisoners committed fewer crimes BECAUSE they took college level courses in prison. This argument would crumble if we were told that the prisoners who are less likely to commit crimes are the ones who opt for the college-level courses.

A. Incorrect. If this were true, then the governor's plan for removing college-level courses would not have met with any resistance.

B. Irrelevant. The argument discusses whether inmates who have taken the courses are less likely to commit a crime than inmates who have not taken these courses. The comparison is not with the general population.

C. CORRECT. Lets negate this.

"The group of inmates who chose to take college-level courses are **already** less likely than other inmates to commit crimes after being released"

If the above is true, then implementing the governor's plan will not have any counter effect, as the prisoners taking up the college level courses that are being scrapped are **already** less likely to commit crimes.

Therefore, the necessary assumption we need to make for the argument to hold is that all prisoners have an equal tendency to commit a crime before they take on the college level courses.

D. Irrelevant, We are not discussing High school courses here.

E. Irrelevant to the argument.

### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The negation of option A would be: Not being able to take college-level courses while in prison is likely to deter some people from crimes that they might otherwise have committed. ... DOESN'T HELP BREAK THE CONCLUSION .. in fact, if the presence/absence of college courses will NOT DETER crime, then that is essentially saying that it has no effect. therefore, since there's no effect, this action will NOT be "counter to the governor's ultimate goal".

hence (a) is not only a wrong assumption; it actually undermines the argument!

NEGATION OF C: The group of inmates who chose to take college-level courses were already less likely than other inmates to commit crimes after being released. THIS BREAKS THE CONCLUSION

118.

premise : few of Nubian skeletons show the usual evidence of typhus disease despite living in an area where typhus occur

premise : skeletons do show deposits of tetracycline, an antibiotic produced by a bacteria

premise : This bacterium can flourish on the dried grain used for making two staples of the Nubian diet, beer and bread.

conclusion : tetracycline in their food probably explains the low incidence of typhus.

A. Infectious diseases other than typhus to which the ancient Nubians were exposed are unaffected by tetracycline. OUT OF SCOPE we are only considered about typhus

B. Tetracycline is not rendered ineffective as an antibiotic by exposure to the processes involved in making bread and beer. If we negate this statement then the conclusion falls apart. If tetracycline is rendered ineffective then it would not prevent Typhus and it could be the reason for low incidence. **Correct answer.**

C. Typhus cannot be transmitted by ingesting bread or beer contaminated with the infectious agents of this disease. We are dealing with tetracycline preventing typhus, thus transmission of typhus is irrelevant.

D. Bread and beer were the only items in the diet of the ancient Nubians which could have contained tetracycline. if we negate this statement : bread and beer were not the only item which contained tetracycline. This does not undermine the conclusion that tetracycline prevented typhus

E. Typhus is generally fatal out of scope

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The question asks for a necessary assumption; so that means if this particular assumption did not exist (if we negated it), the argument would literally fail to stand.



The answer here is Option (B) - if this assumption did not exist, it would mean that Tetracycline is rendered ineffective in the process of making bread and beer. If that were the case, then it is not possible to say Tetracycline in the food of the Nubians resulted in them not getting this disease.

You can check the other answer choices and you will see that if any of those assumptions did not exist, the argument could still stand.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

B. Tetracycline is not rendered ineffective as an antibiotic by exposure to the process involved in making bread and beer. CORRECT! In the argument, the author is assuming that the tetracycline in their diets protected them from Typhus. The argument talks about "less amount of typhus" due to "presence of tetracycline". Since the diet mainly consisted of bread and beer, the tetracycline must be effective as an antibiotic in their diets.

C. Typhus cannot be transmitted by ingesting bread or beer contaminated with the infectious agents of this disease. Even if the typhus is transmitted, this is no reason to find NO typhus on the skeleton.

D. Bread and beer were the only items in the diet of the ancient Nubians which could have contained tetracycline. Even if there were more items, there is no effect on the argument which talks about "less amount of typhus" due to "presence of tetracycline "

A. Lets negate this:

"The "Thank you" messages would not have the same impact on regular patrons of a restaurant as they would on occasional patrons of the same restaurant".

This means that the message must have a positive effect on group and a negative effect on the other.

Even if the messages do not have the same impact on regular patrons as they do on occasional patrons, the average income from tips would still increase. The group on which the messages have had a positive effect will continue to tip more.

B. CORRECT.

Lets negate this:

"Regularly seeing "Thank you" written on their bills would lead restaurant patrons to revert to their earlier tipping habits." This means that the reason the patrons tipped more was because the messages were a one off thing. Seeing the message with the bill regularly will not have the same impact anymore.

Therefore the assumption that seeing the message regularly will not cause the patrons to revert to their previous tipping habit is essential to the conclusion.

C. We already know that the patrons are tipping more. The reason that they are doing so is not relevant to the conclusion and is definitely not the assumption on which the argument relies.

D. The argument says that the "Tips on these bills were an average of three percentage points higher than tips on bills without the message."

Since the comparison is within the same hotel, between bills with messages and bills without, even if rate at which people tip food servers in Pennsylvania varied with how expensive a hotel was, it still does not destroy the conclusion.

E. We know that there was an average three point increase in the tips. Even if this option weren't true i.e "Not all patrons of the Pennsylvania restaurants in the study who were given a bill with "Thank you" written on it left a larger tip than they otherwise would have." the conclusion still holds.



120.

1973

number of people: 100

Number of cigarettes consumed : 500

Per Capita Consumption:  $500/100 = 5$

Total sales of chewing tobacco: 50

Per Capita Consumption:  $50/100 = 0.5$

1976

number of people: 105

Number of cigarettes consumed : 517

Per Capita Consumption:  $517/105 = 4.9$

Total sales of chewing tobacco: 59

Per Capita Consumption:  $59/105 = 0.56$

Now lets look at the options:

A. We know nothing of the profits. All we know is that sales of tobacco went up.

Since we do know if the retail price and cost of manufacture have remained constant, we cannot comment on the profits.

B. CORRECT

We can see from our calculation that this is clearly true. Per capita consumption of cigarettes has indeed gone up.

C. We do not have any information about the proportion of non smokers.

Lets assume that the reason the number of cigarettes consumed in 1976 went up was because people who were already smoking increased the number of cigarettes they smoked per day.

In this case, the proportion of non smokers will remain constant and the sales of cigarettes will continue to rise.



D. Once again, we are not told about the profits of tobacco or cigarettes and cannot make any assumptions only based on the sales figures.

E. We do not know if this is true.

Sales of tobacco could have gone up for any of the following reasons:

- 1) non-smokers and non-tobacco chewers started chewing tobacco.
- 2) tobacco chewers started chewing more tobacco.

Therefore, its not necessary for smokers to have switched from cigarettes to chewing tobacco to improve tobacco sales

121.

The crux of this argument is as below:

Public advocacy groups can directly pass on information to the public. This means that information services (the internet) present a more balanced picture of the complexities of political issues than any traditional news source presents

A. the argument does not discuss the reach of information services or newspapers. It simply says that through information services a more balanced picture can be given to the public.

B. This actually weakens the conclusion by stating that an unbiased view can also be obtained by sorting through several papers.

C. Correct. Lets negate this:

Information on political issues disseminated through information services comes almost entirely from advocacy groups that share a single bias.

This would mean that despite using information services the information will still be as (or more) biased than the ones got in the papers, defeating the purpose. This would effectively destroy the conclusion.

D. We already know this to be true.

E. Once again this weakens the conclusion by indicating that there is no need for an unbiased source.

122.

The main conclusion here is by offering a rigorous fitness program of jogging and weight lifting to all employees, and requiring employees who are out of shape to participate, the company will save doctor bills and longer hospital stays that less fit employees usually incur.

Therefore it's more profitable for the company to invest in a fitness program.

A. This is irrelevant to the conclusion. We know already that less fit people incur higher medical bills.

B. This weakens the conclusion by stating that somehow the people asked not to participate in the program incur heftier medical bills. This is a complete contradiction of what's stated in the passage.

C. CORRECT.

Lets negate it:

The strenuous activities required of out-of-shape employees by the program would by themselves generate medical expenses greater than any reduction achieved by the program.

This means that the fitness activity for our of shape employees will cost the company a whole lot more in terms of medically bills and more importantly, would be "greater than any reduction achieved by the program"

This completely destroys the conclusion

D. We already know this to be true.

E. While this is a good thing, it says the lesser fit employees will be at work more than the more fit employees (not required to participate in the program) This does not directly explain why the health insurance cost for the company will go down.

123.

The argument is looking at a decrease in the proportion of interstate retirees who are moving to Florida, and interpreting this as something that is going to hurt Florida's businesses.

The only reasonable way to process this argument is to realize that the author is confusing a percentage/proportion decrease with an absolute decrease (i.e., decrease in the actual number of retirees moving into the state), since a decrease in that actual number is the only thing that would reasonably lead to bad times for these businesses.

99<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE CLUB

therefore:

\* anything that separates the percentage/proportion from the actual number will be a weakener.

A. irrelevant, because nothing about the size of the number itself, either in absolute terms or in comparison to other states' numbers, matters -- we are only concerned with whether the number decreases.

B. We are concerned specifically with the number of retirees moving to Florida.

C. has nothing to do with this argument, since tourists (and so, businesses catering to those tourists) are irrelevant -- the argument deals only with the interests of businesses that deal with retirees.

i.e., businesses dealing with tourists are no more relevant than businesses dealing with, say, children or disabled people.

D. CORRECT

Now assume that last year 1000 people retired and moved to another state. Out of these 1000 people, 100 of them move to Florida. That means, 10% of the people moved to Florida.

This year, the % of the people moved to Florida decreased by 3%. That means, only 7% of the total people moved to Florida.

Now, choice D states that the total number of people who retired and moved to other states increased significantly. Let us assume that a total of 10,000 people moved this year (whereas it was 1000 people last year).

Now, 7% of 10,000 = 700 is the number of people who moved to Florida. Even though the % decreased, the actual number of people moved to Florida increased. This would weaken the argument.

We already know the total number of people retiring to Florida has decreased

124.

Shoppers coming out of FoodBasket were asked to show the items they purchased. The argument states that when the prices of these items were compared with those of ShopperKing, the prices of the items from ShopperKing was 5% higher. Despite this, we need an option that will explain why shopping at FoodBasket may not save money for those customers that shop at ShopperKing.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that the shoppers at FoodBasket had chosen to shop at this store as it offered low prices on the items they purchased most often.

It is possible that ShopperKing offers lower prices than FoodBasket on certain items. If a customer were to purchase this item most often, he would save money shopping at ShopperKing than FoodBasket.

A customer has probably picked ShopperKing because it offers the lowest prices on the items he buys most often.

B. This further weakens the argument that customers of ShopperKing will not save any money by shopping at FoodBasket.

C. This maybe. But the argument is specifically concerned about money only, making this option irrelevant.

D. This does not explain why the customers of ShopperKing will not save any money by shopping at FoodBasket.

E. While this tells us that there was no bias while conducting the research, we are still not told why customers of ShopperKing will not save any money by shopping at FoodBasket.

125.

A. The goal of Trancorp's plan is to reduce shipping time. ~~This might lower costs~~ – but whether or not it does so is not relevant to whether or not the plan's goal is achieved.

B. Maybe they can but it has nothing to do with whether the current plan will reduce shipping time.



C. CORRECT. This properly identifies something that would be important in determining whether TranCorp's plan for reducing shipping time will achieve its goal – that is whether loading the freight cars onto barges will use up all the time saved by not using trucks.

D. Regardless of variation in traffic we know that the bridge is typically congested and causes delays.

E. The state if trucks returning to mainland is irrelevant to our evaluation.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Shipping is the physical moving of goods from one point to another, such as the moving of merchandise from the warehouse to the customer. Shipping time is the amount of time a package will take to reach its intended destination.

(B) The conclusion states only that train and barge shipping would be faster than shipping by trucks. Other shipping methods, such as boats, are not relevant to this comparison.

## **EXTRA CR QUESTIONS – SET 2**

### **Answer Key**

69. B

70. B

71. B

72. A

73. A

74. C

75. A

76. E

77. B

78. C

79. D

80. A

81. D

82. C

83. A

84. E

85. C

86. E

87. C

88. E

89. C

90. A

91. C

92. E

93. A

94. D

95. E

96. C

97. D

98. D

99. C

100. B

101. D

102. E

103. E

104. C

105. D

106. D

107. C

108. E

109. C

110. A

111. E

112. A

113. D

114. E

115. **A**

116. C

117. A

118. A

119. A

120. C

121. B

122. D



## Solutions

69.

This is fairly direct.

If fossilised remains exist from before and after mastodon population began to decline, and if the age at which those fossilised mastodons reached reproductive maturity can be determined, then we determine the cause of their extinction.

The fossilised remains before extinction will give an approximate age at which mastodons generally matured when not threatened either by food scarcity or hunting.

We need an option that states the same.

A. We know that both hunting and food scarcity could be a possible cause for extinction of the mastodons and we need an option which tells us which of the two is responsible. Knowing which weapons were used to kill the mastodons will not answer this question.

B. CORRECT.

This tells us that we have mastodons' tusks from different periods. This will allow us to establish what the average age for reaching productivity for the mastodons was, before they were threatened by extinction.

Once the average age is established, we can determine the average age of the mastodons during the time of extinction and thereby determine if this is earlier (in case they were threatened by hunting) or later (in case they were threatened by food scarcity).

This would tell us the reason for their extinction.

C. Determining the time of mastodons extinction will not tell us the cause for extinction.

D. We are not concerned about whether the female and male Mastodons reached maturity at different ages. We are only concerned with what caused their extinction.

E. Even if it were possible to determine the period when the mastodon tusks and bones come from, it will not tell us what caused their extinction.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



Question: Whether the primary cause of the gradual disappearance is diminished food resources or human hunting can be found, since \_\_\_\_?

There are two possibilities: diminished food resources or extensive hunting. According to the author, if we have extensive hunting, then we should see lots of individuals who reached maturity at a young age. If, on the other hand, we have diminished food resources, then we should see lots of individuals who reached maturity at a later age.

That information in option E (whether earliest human dwellings constructed from mastodon tusks) is USELESS if we cannot determine the age at which the mastodons reach maturity. The information in the passage tells us how to interpret the evidence, but without (B) we don't have any evidence in the first place!

So (B) doesn't give us the final answer to the question, but it tells us that it is possible to apply the given information to the fossil evidence. Thus, (B) is the best answer.

70.

Insect Infestation of cotton has lead to decreased prices which has in turn has caused the cotton prices to goup.

Soybeans farmers want to switch to cotton cultivation. Which option calls this into question?

A. This would strengthen the plan of the farmers. We know that the price of soybeans has long been stable. Ifthe cost of cultivation has been rising, it means that the profit margins of the farmers is getting slimmer.

B. CORRECT.

This tells us that there is a cheap way of combatting infestation. This means that by the time the farmers switch from soybeans, the cotton-growing regions that are infested would have got rid of the infestation using thesecheap pesticide and cotton prices would have once again, come down.

This would mean that the farmers will not be able to take advantage of the high price of cotton to increase theirincome significantly at least over the next several years.

C. We know that the prices of cotton will rise not due to the increase in demand but due to the fall in supply. Therefore this option becomes irrelevant.

D. This would further back the plan of the farmers by stating that consumers will continue to buy cotton goodseven if it means paying higher prices for it.

E. This is irrelevant. The question is will soybeans farmers shifting to cotton work to their advantage?

71.

The plan is to improve long term savings.

(A) Irrelevant. Whether the banks/ financial institutions lobbied hard or not is irrelevant to the success of government's plan.

(B) Correct. If workers are already saving money in tax free account, then why will they save in special savings accounts from Government. This weakens the argument as there is no additional benefit other than tax-free account.

(C) Incorrect. Irrelevant. Relationship between the plan's success and performance of deposits in the past 10 years cannot be established.

(D) Irrelevant. Doesn't talk about savings. Doesn't affect the argument in any way.

(E) Incorrect. Can be a strengthener in fact because it gives people incentive to put money in govt. account so will contribute to success of government's plan.

72.

The argument clearly indicates that smoking cigarettes causes depression. We need to find an option thatstrengthens this assumption.

A. CORRECT.

This option simply says that people who were already depressed when the study began were no more likely to take up smoking than students who were not depressed.

If the students who took up smoking did so because they were depressed, it would throw out the conclusion thatsmoking causes depression. In fact, this would mean that students were smoke to alleviate their depression - theexact opposite of the conclusion.

B. This is irrelevant. We are trying to establish that nicotine contributes to depression. Therefore the distinction isjust between smokers and non smokers.

C. This is completely irrelevant to the argument as it does not connect nicotine to depression in any way.

D. Whether the students emerged from depression is irrelevant. Our main concern is did smoking causedepression in these students?

E. This would only be relevant if use of alcohol was known to cause depression. Since we do not have that information, this becomes irrelevant.

73.

The advertisement tells us that since Duratex carpets have outlasted the competitor, when both the hotels have had the same number of people walking through their lobbies, Duratex is clearly more durable.

Note, the carpets that have worn out are the ones near the lobby entrance.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that Cormond hotel has 5 different entrances while the other hotel has just two. This clearly means that the traffic at the entrance of the lobby for Cormond hotel was distributed among 5 entrances while the other hotel had just two. This clearly tells us that the reason the other hotel is having to replace the worn-out carpeting near its lobby entrances is not due to poor quality but due to excessive use. This clearly weakens the advertisement that Duratex is more durable.

B. This is out of scope. Even if there are more durable carpets the comparisons currently is between Duratex and the competitor's carpet in

C. Since we know the amount of foot traffic in both the hotel lobbies has been the same, this is irrelevant.

D. Once again, this is out of scope. The competitor may pick any carpet as a replacement but we need to establish that Duratex is not the more durable carpet based on the advertisement.

E. This to an extent strengthens the advertisement's pitch. However, since we do not know the amount of foot traffic through this hotel, this becomes largely irrelevant.

74.

Last week

Thursday -> 5 specially ordered shipments all of which were building supplies. Other shipments could have also been sent.

Friday -> no building supplies.

Sat and sun -> no shipments.

Total shipments to Truax construction -> 4  
Building supplies -> 0



A. Not necessarily. It is possible that building supplies that were not specially ordered could have been shipped out on other days such as Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

B. We know that no building supplies were shipped on Friday and that Truax did not receive any building supplies either. Therefore, it is possible that the supplies were shipped to Truax on Friday.

C. CORRECT.

The passage says "The five specially ordered shipments sent out last week were sent out on Thursday, and each of those specially ordered shipments consisted entirely of building supplies."

This means that all THE specially ordered shipment was shipped on Thursday and all of them were building supplies. Note the importance of the article "the" here.

Ray and Steve are the two witnesses to the crime --> no one saw the crime except these two guys. Ray and Steve are two witnesses to the crime --> it is possible that there are other witnesses.

Therefore, since we have established that all the specially ordered shipment that week were building supplies, we can safely assume that none of the shipments sent by Comcorp to Truax Construction last week was specially ordered.

D. There's nothing in the passage that suggests that the truax packages couldn't have been sent out on Thursday. the information in the passage states that Thursday's SPECIAL orders all consisted of building supplies, but that doesn't mean that EVERY order on Thursday consisted of building supplies (an assumption you'd have to make for choice (d) to follow).

In other words, there may have been other orders on Thursday, about which the passage simply doesn't say anything; the passage only describes the special orders on that day.

E. There is nothing in the passage that suggests that all the building supplies were sent out on Thursday. They could have been sent out on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday also.

All we are told is that they weren't sent out on Friday.

75.

Government's stand : If the tariffs were removed, the processing plants might have to buy cashew for a higher price causing them to lose their profit margins. This would in turn increase urban unemployment

To logically complete why urban employment may in fact increase, we need to find an option tell us how the policy above is increasing unemployment in the cities.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that removing tariff is causing farmers (who are unable to make a profit on cashews) to move to the city in search of a job. This would then drive up the urban unemployment rates defeating the purpose of lowered tariffs.

B. This would strengthen the Government's plan to increase the rate of employment in the urban area as it tells us that industries other than the cashew processing industry are also dependent on cheap supply of unprocessed cashew.

C. This is out of scope. We are only discussing unprocessed cashews here.

D. This is no way tells us how the policy is contributing to urban unemployment.

E. Once again, this does not tell us how the policy is contributing to urban unemployment.

76.

A. This maybe. But the goal was to decrease the hazardous waste by half. This option does not tell us anything about hazardous waste.

B. is irrelevant, as we have no information about how much waste is produced PER JET - not now, not then.

C. once again , this is irrelevant. The goal was to “reduce by half the total yearly amount of hazardous waste generated by its passenger-jet division”.

The other divisions are irrelevant to our argument.



D. We are discussing the waste output per pound *per worker*. The amount of time they spend working is irrelevant

E. CORRECT.

the production company's GOAL was to lower the TOTAL AMOUNT of hazardous waste produced.  
the EVIDENCE is stated in terms of the amount PER WORKER, not the total amount.

Lets negate this option

“The number of production workers assigned to the passenger-jet division was significantly less in 1994 than it was last year”

This tells us why the amount of waste per worker may have gone down despite the amount of hazardous waste being produced having remained the same or increased. This would cause the conclusion to crumble.

77.

A. The argument says that even if the plan succeeded in keeping teenagers at home, it still will not affect the problem that concerns the citizens.

Therefore, this option becomes irrelevant as the conclusion of the argument is based on the condition that the plan will succeed in keeping teenagers at home and despite this, the plan will not succeed.

B. Now the passage tells us that the main concern is the increased frequency of "Serious crimes" committed by local teenagers.

The passage also tells us that the plan to keep teenagers home at late night will not work as most crimes are committed in the afternoon.

By telling us that the crimes committed in the afternoon are mostly "small thefts and inconsequential vandalism" i.e not so serious crimes, this option opens up the possibility that the more serious crimes are committed at night and therefore the plan to keep the teenagers home at night might actually reduce the "serious crime" rate.

C. the plan will only keep them at home at night, and the argument tells us that most of the crimes committed by teenagers occur between 3 and 6pm. Thus, keeping them home during a time in which they are unlikely to commit a crime will probably not reduce the incidence of serious crimes.

D. The plan looks to reduce the crime rate by keeping the teenagers at home. By telling us that the patrol cars in the afternoon will not increase, this option in no way weakens the argument that the plan will not have its intended effect.

E. Even if such programs are available, we do not know whether the teenagers will participate in them. Since we are not told anything about the enrolment rate, we cannot make any assumptions.

78.

The argument concludes that since the evaluated cookware is superior to all other cookware advertised in Kitchen, lending the magazine name to the line of cookware will DECREASE the revenue of the magazine as the reputation of the magazine will not suffer.

The argument assumes that reputation alone is responsible for generating revenue.

Lets use the negation technique to find which option destroys the conclusion.



A. Negation:

Other line of cookware is superior to that which carry the Kitchen name.

This does not affect the conclusion. We are clearly told that among all the cookware advertised in Kitchen, the one Kitchen is lending its name to is of the highest quality. Therefore it is unlikely that the readers of Kitchen will be put off by a product that is not advertised in Kitchen if it's of a superior quality.

B. Negation:

Kitchen will license the use of its name for any products other than the line of cookware.

Unless we are explicitly told that the quality of these products is below the expected standard, it does not affect the conclusion.

C. CORRECT

Negation:

Makers of cookware will find Kitchen a less attractive advertising vehicle because the magazine's name is associated with a competing product.

This gives us a reason why the revenue of Kitchen might decrease despite the line of cookware it is lending its name to being of superior quality.

If the competing cookware lines refuse to advertise in the Kitchen, it will lose its advertisement revenues from those companies.

D. Negation:

Consumers who are regular readers of Kitchen magazine will be attracted to the cookware by the Kitchen name. This would further strengthen the conclusion rather than weaken it.

E. Kitchen is not one of the most prestigious cooking-related magazines.

This neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion. We are simply concerned with how Kitchen's plan offending its name will affect revenues.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**

A: Doesn't matter even if some other cookware is superior to the one using kitchen's name. In fact I see a scope shift "other line of cook ware" vs "other line of cookware advertised in kitchen". Eliminate.

B: Again who cares.. if it does lic to brand of shaving cream as long as it can get revenues. It may or may not work. So this is not an assumption. Eliminate.

C: Well now if C is true, then then the other makers of cookware who have till now advertised in kitchen might stop advertising in Kitchen. This could lead to loss of revenue. So C could be the answer.

D: What if this is not true.... no harm done. u will not increase revenue but u may/may not lose revenue.. Eliminate.

E: Who cares is kitchen is not the most prestigious mag.. Eliminate.

So C is my answer.

79.

Fact 1-> Per Capita income of Baurisia has increased -> this has lead to an increase in the meat consumption.

Fact 2 -> it takes several pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat.

Fact 3 -> per capita income in Baurisia is almost certain to rise further(leading to increased consumption of meat) but increases in domestic grain production are highly unlikely.

Conclusion: Baurisia will have to import grain.

Let's see which option weakens this argument.

A. This further strengthens the conclusion that Baurisia will have to soon start importing meat.

B. Since we know that with the increase in per capita income the per capita consumption of meat has also increased and we also know that the per capita income is going to increase further, this will mean that the per capita consumption of meat will also increase.

This is the premise and we cannot argue against it.

If this were true, it does not matter whether the per capita consumption of meat in Baurisia is roughly the same across all income levels as this will increase uniformly with the increase in income levels.

C. This is completely irrelevant to the argument. We are told that Baurisia is going to import grains. So the state of affairs in the country it is importing meat from becomes irrelevant.

D. CORRECT.

This clearly destroys the conclusion. We know the only reason Baurisia wants to import grains is so it can manufacture meat, the demand for which is steadily rising in the country. Therefore if it's more economical to import meat, then Baurisia might as well import meat directly.

E. This is irrelevant to the argument. We are concerned with the growing income and growing meat consumption. Population of Baurisia does not concern us.

80.

Although the productivity of the employees who worked from home was higher than before, we need to find an option that tells us why this may not be such a sound plan to implement.

A. CORRECT.

This clearly tells us that only the most self-motivated and independent workers participated in the trial. Thus their efficiency did not change (and probably improved as they were away from constant disturbances). This cannot be extrapolated to all the workers at XYZ and casts most doubt on the success of the plan.

B. This strengthens the implementation of the plan in terms of expenditure by totally discarding the effect on efficiency.

C. The conditions at the workers of XYZ maybe completely different. We cannot assume that just because the plan worked for one company it will work for XYZ too.

Even if such an assumption were to be made, this option in no way weakens the plan.

D. This slightly strengthens the plan by stating that working from home did not cause any mis-communication between the employees.

E. This simply tells of a previous (completely different) plan that failed. This neither strengthens nor weakens the merit of the new plan.

81.

The main conclusion of the argument is that the increased level of lead in the blood of children can be attributed to lead in gasoline (which continues to remain in the soil) rather than to lead based paint.

Let's see which option strengthens this conclusion.



A. Just like lead from gasoline (which was banned in 1990) continues to remain in the soil, lead from paint could also have left a residue behind.

Although this seems unlikely, it is possible and we cannot make such assumptions based on the information provided to us.

B. We know that lead-based gasoline were banned in 1990 and the lead is entering these children through soil. Therefore a present increase in traffic becomes irrelevant.

C. This does not strengthen the conclusion that the lead is from gasoline rather than from paint.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us two things:

1) In Arumville, children's blood-lead levels typically rise during the warm summer months when children frequently play outdoors -> this would mean that there is a very real chance for the lead in the soil to enter the children's bodies.

2) lead level does not rise in the winter when children spend more time indoors. -> this rules out the possibility that the houses which contain lead-based paint could have lead to an increase in their blood levels.

E. Since we do not know if the removal was improperly carried out, we cannot assume this to be the reason for the increase of lead in children's blood levels.

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

Here we have an apparent discrepancy. Converting solar energy directly into electricity has become far more cost-efficient in the last decade. If that is the case, why hasn't the threshold of economic viability for solar power gone down? Let's make sure we understand what they mean by economic viability ("the price per barrel to which oil would have to rise in order for new solar power plants to be more economical than new oil-fired power plants").

We can infer that new oil-fired power plants are currently more economical than new solar power plants. If the cost per barrel of oil goes up, that would make the oil-fired option less and less economical compared to the solar option. Eventually, if the price per barrel of oil rises high enough, the oil-fired option will become LESS economical than the solar option (i.e. crossing the "threshold of economic viability for solar power").

Imagine that the two options are economically equal (so we're sitting just at the threshold of economic viability). If the cost of converting solar energy into electricity goes DOWN, solar will become the more economical option. However, if the price per barrel of oil also decreases OR if the cost of converting oil to electricity decreases, the two options could become economically equal once again.

Now back to our example... oil plants are currently more economical than solar plants. If the price per barrel of oil goes above \$35 per barrel (the threshold of economic viability), solar will become the more economical option. The cost of converting solar energy into electricity has gone DOWN, so we would expect the threshold of economic viability to DECREASE from \$35 per barrel. However, the threshold has not changed. We need an answer choice that helps explain why that might be the case:

(A) – The actual cost of the oil doesn't change the *threshold*. Rather, the price of oil simply determines whether we are above, below, or at the threshold. For example, if the threshold is \$35 per barrel and the cost of oil falls from \$30 per barrel to \$5 per barrel, that would take us further away from the threshold but would not CHANGE the threshold itself. Eliminate choice (A).

(B) – We are only concerned with the cost of solar-power equipment, not the individual components of that cost. Even though the cost of the raw materials has increased, the overall cost of solar-power equipment has decreased. Thus, we would expect the threshold of economic viability to also decrease. Choice (B) does not explain the apparent discrepancy and can be eliminated.

(C) – If the cost of converting solar energy into electricity goes DOWN, we would expect the threshold of economic viability to decrease. However, if the cost of converting oil into electricity goes down, we would expect the threshold to INCREASE. Thus, if the cost of converting solar AND the cost of converting oil BOTH decrease, the expected changes to the threshold could cancel each other out (one makes the threshold go up, the other makes the threshold go down, so the threshold could remain the same). Choice (C) describes such a situation, so hang on to it.

(D) – This passage is only concerned with comparing oil-fired and solar power plants. Other types of power plants are not relevant to the author's argument. Eliminate (D).

(E) – As with choice (A), we only care about the threshold of economic viability. The source and the actual price per barrel of the oil do not affect the threshold. Eliminate (E).

Choice (C) is the best option.

### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

It is a good tricky CR question. People with a quantitative bent of mind would love it, I am sure.

Let me put some numbers here to make it clearer. You need the numbers to understand that a paradox exists. Once you do understand that, resolving it is very simple.

Sunlight is free. Infra needed to convert it to electricity is expensive. Say for every one unit of electricity, you need to spend \$50 in a solar power plant (this \$50 is the infra cost for solar power).

Oil is expensive. Infra needed to convert it to electricity, not so much. Say for every one unit of electricity, you need to spend \$40 in an oil fired power plant. Say, the split here is \$25 + \$15 (\$25 is the cost of oil used and \$15 is cost of infra for a unit of electricity here).

Oil based electricity is cheaper. But if the cost of oil rises by \$10 (from \$25 to \$35), solar power will become viable. Now, at

both places, cost of one unit of electricity will be \$50.

This \$35 = the threshold of economic viability for solar power = the price per barrel to which oil would have to rise (mind you, this isn't the actual price of oil)

What happens if you need to spend only \$45 in a solar power plant for a unit of electricity? Would you expect 'the threshold of economic viability for solar power' to go to 30? Yes! Now, for solar viability, 'cost of oil + cost of infra in oil power plant' should be only \$45. 'Cost of infra in oil power plant' = 15 so we need the oil to go up to \$30 only. That will make solar power plants viable. So the threshold of economic viability should decrease.

But the threshold of economic viability for solar power is still \$35! It doesn't decrease. That is the paradox! How do you resolve it? By saying that 'Cost of infra in oil power plant' has also gone down by \$5 and is only \$10 now.

This is what the scene is like now:

Sunlight is free. Infra needed to convert it to electricity is expensive. For every one unit of electricity, you need to spend \$45 in a solar power plant.

Oil is expensive. Infra needed to convert it to electricity, not so much. For every one unit of electricity, you need to spend \$35 in an oil fired power plant. The split now is \$25 + \$10 (\$25 is the cost of oil used and \$10 is cost of infra for a unit of electricity).

You still need the oil price to go up to \$35 so that cost of electricity generation in oil power plant is also \$45. So you explained the paradox by saying that "Technological changes have increased the efficiency of oil-fired power plants." So, option (C) is correct.

If you think about it now, the actual price of the oil has nothing to do with 'the threshold of economic viability for solar power'. This threshold is \$35 so you need the oil to go up to \$35. Whether the actual price of oil is \$10 or \$15 or \$20, it doesn't matter. It still needs to go up to \$35 for solar viability. So option (A) is incorrect.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



What do oil-fired power plants do?

They take oil as raw material and produce electricity. So the price per barrel of oil is a cost for the oil-fired power plant (that times the number of oil barrels that are needed give an estimate of the raw material cost).

The question tells us what the threshold of economic viability means for solar powered plants (plants that convert solar energy to electricity) - it is the cost per barrel of oil at which the cost of producing electricity from solar energy would be lesser than the cost of producing electricity from oil. This threshold is at \$35 and the price of oil needs to rise to this threshold - i.e. the price of oil right now is lower than this threshold. What does this mean? It means that the cost of producing electricity from solar energy is higher than the cost of producing electricity from oil.

What is the total cost of producing electricity (you don't need to know this, the passage and the answer choices tell you) - it is the cost of raw material + the cost of running the plant / the process that converts solar or oil to electricity (in case of solar, the cost of raw material, sunlight, is obviously zero). The first line says the cost of running solar plants has reduced over the years. The crux of the passage is that even so, the cost of producing electricity from solar is higher than from oil.

Now, the price of oil can never be lower than the price of sunlight - the latter is free. This is also the reason why Option (A) cannot be the answer - price of oil can fall as much as it wants, it can never be negative / lower than the price of sunlight. Then the entirety of the cost paradox is hidden within the cost of the process that converts the respective raw material to electricity. If cost of oil is always higher than the cost of sunlight, but yet the total cost of production of electricity from oil is lower than that from sunlight, the cost of the process of converting oil to electricity must be cheaper than the cost of converting sunlight to electricity. While the latter's efficiency has increased in recent times, the former's must be even better / must have gotten even better.

Note that Option (B) tries to confuse you by bringing in raw materials. The distinction is that the equipment that goes into solar plants has its own supply chain, and raw materials. The cost there may have increased, but that is irrelevant to us as long as the final price of the equipment has gone down

83.

This problem may seem tough only due the way its been worded. The summary, simply put, is this:

There are some people who are allergic to sulfites. Several wine makers do not add sulfites as preservatives to their wines. Conclusion: therefore people suffering from allergic reactions can drink wine from such makers to avoid allergic reactions.

Let's see what weakens the conclusion.

A. CORRECT.

This tells us that sulfites occur on wine naturally. Therefore even though winemakers do not add sulfites as preservatives, such wine is still not safe for those people suffering from allergic reactions to sulfites.

B. This is irrelevant. The argument only discusses wine to which sulfites are not added as preservatives.

C. This is out of scope. Price is not the issue here as long as such wines can be safely consumed.

D. This is out of scope. We are only discussing people who are allergic to sulfites and whether drinking wine without sulfite preservatives is safe for such people.

E. Since there are several winemakers already producing such wine, we know it is possible to create wine without sulfites as preservatives.

Also the option says "sometimes becomes undrinkable". This does not translate to is undrinkable all the time.

84.

**Alternate sol from gmatclub**



The general availability of high-quality electronic scanners and color printers for computers has made the counterfeiting of checks much easier. In order to deter such counterfeiting, several banks plan to issue to their corporate customers checks that contain dots too small to be accurately duplicated by any electronic scanner currently available; when such checks are scanned and printed, the dots seem to blend together in such a way that the word "VOID" appears on the check.

A questionable assumption of the plan is that :

**Conclusion : To void counterfeiting, banks are using small dots which cannot be duplicated accurately by the scanners.**

**Questionable assumption -> Is any assumption of the argument. So essentially the question is asking for assumptions.**

A. in the territory served by the banks **the proportion of counterfeit checks** that are made using electronic scanners **has remained approximately constant over** the past few years

**We need to find the option which supports the conclusion. This option is giving a general observation which doesn't concern the argument. Whether proportion of checks has remained constant or not is immaterial.**

B. most counterfeiters who use electronic scanners counterfeit checks only for **relatively large amounts of money** **Small amount of money or big sums of money is not the scope of the argument. The Scope of the argument is about counterfeiting the checks.**

C. the smallest dots on the proposed checks cannot be distinguished visually except under strong magnification **The argument concerns with the scanners. If suppose dots are visible or not under strong magnification is not context of the argument. The context of the argument is whether scanners can read the reproduce the small dots.**

D. most corporations served by these banks **will not have to pay more for the new checks** than for traditional checks **Cost of the security measure is not in the context of the argument.**

E. the size of the smallest dots that generally available electronic scanners are able to reproduce accurately will not decrease significantly in the near future.

**This option says size smallest dot that scanners can read and reproduce is going to remain unchanged and this is the**

**assumption because if this is not the case, the scanners can read and reproduce the small dots and doing so breaks the argument and hence this is the assumption - Correct**

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

What plan is being employed here? *In order to deter such counterfeiting, several banks plan to issue to their corporate customers checks that contain dots too small to be accurately duplicated by any electronic scanner currently available.*

It is clear that this plan depends on the assumption that currently available electronic scanners will not be able to duplicate these dots. But what if they were able to duplicate these dots? Then it is possible that these scanners are able to counterfeit checks. This will break down the entire plan.

That is exactly what option E is saying.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

**Conclusion : To deter counterfeiting, banks plan to use small dots which cannot be duplicated accurately by the scanners**

Option E: Negate - the size of the smallest dots that generally available electronic scanners are able to reproduce accurately will decrease significantly in the near future

If the electronic scanners are able to accurately reproduce the small dots then banks won't be able to deter counterfeiting by this method. The entire premise was that **electronic scanners can't reproduce the small dots**, hence when the checks are scanned & printed, the dots will blend together to spell VOID. **This won't happen if the small dots can be reproduced.** Hence, it **weakens** the conclusion

85.

we need a choice that DIRECTLY speaks of the jay's lack of navigational ability.



A. where the jays lay their eggs has nothing whatsoever to do with navigational ability. (this may just mean that they're clever enough to take advantage of others' nests, like cuckoos, rather than going to the trouble of building their own.)

B. Irrelevant. We are discussing just the jays here.

C. CORRECT.

This indicates that the jays are unable to migrate to north by themselves and is a direct attack on their navigation abilities.

D. Irrelevant. Same as B.

E. But what about jays? How and when do they migrate?

86.

The argument simply concludes that while hiring and promoting Junior biomedical researchers, the people are more influenced by the impact of the candidate's scientific publications rather than the number of such publications.

A. We know that in order to be hired, Junior biomedical researchers need to have published work that has had significant impact on their field. The argument agrees with this claim.

B. This maybe. According to the argument, while evaluating such work, people hiring Junior biomedical researchers look at which has a greater impact rather than which candidate has more publications.

C. The argument does not say anything to indicate if this is true. At the same time we are not told its false either.

D. This is implicit in the argument. In fact it's one of the assumptions the argument makes and not a claim it argues against.

E. CORRECT.

This would mean that the impact of the work is the same while its simply fragmented to show more numbers. This is precisely what the argument argues against and tells us in such a case, the researches will not chances of promotion by fragmenting.

87.

The paradox is clear.

Wolves do not usually attack domestic sheep.

Yet they did, prior to 1910.

Farmers attributed this to a large number of wolves (which would mean that the competition for wild prey was higher) However, killing wolves only increased the wolf attacks.



We need to find an explanation for this paradox.

A. IF this were true, it would mean that the prey for the wolves in the wild had increased significantly. So why did the wolves encroach human settlement? (something they usually avoid?)

B. This is irrelevant. We already know that a large number of wolves were killed between 1910 and 1915. The laws on hunting prior to 1910 does not help the argument in any way.

C. CORRECT.

This tells us that during the 1910-1915 period a great number of wolves were wounded. Unable to prey on wild animals they probably started preying on the domestic sheep (that are much slower). Therefore the more the number of wounded wolves, the higher the attack on the sheep.

D. This is true both before 1910 and after. So why did wolves, who had usually avoided human settlement, suddenly start to look for easy prey? Option C explains this perfectly.

E. This would be all the more reason for the number of attacks on the sheep to decrease. But we know that the opposite is true.

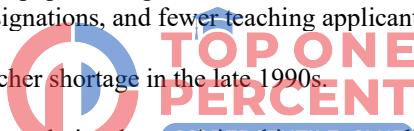
88.

- A. The number of students who graduated is irrelevant. It does not explain the discrepancy in any way.
- B. We already know that the student population is increasing. This does not explain why despite the number of applications for the teaching position being lower, there are not shortage of teachers.
- C. Even if the ratio were the same, we know that the student population is increasing and so is the number of teacher resignations. This would widen the student teach ratio further.
- D. This could be one of the reasons why the number of applications are decreasing. But this does not help explain the discrepancy.
- E. This indicates that despite an increasing number of teachers resigning and the number of applicants for the position being lower than in 1985, the number of applications received was still 40% more than what was needed.  
It is possible that 5.9% more applicants were received in 1985 because the requirements were greater.  
Our concern is only with why is there no shortage of teachers in 1990?  
This option clearly explains why by telling us that the number of applications is till much more than the requirements. This is the only statistic we need. Everything else is just to confuse you.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

First, let's take a look at the structure of the passage:

- The number of teaching applicants in Newtown decreased 5.7% from 1985-1993 and 5.9% from 1985-1994. This means that teaching applications declined a little over .2% from 1993-1994.
- Throughout the late 1990s, the student population grew and more teachers resigned.
- With more students, more teacher resignations, and fewer teaching applicants we would EXPECT a teacher shortage towards the end of the decade.
- BUT, Newtown DID NOT face a teacher shortage in the late 1990s.



The question asks that we identify an answer choice that ~~explains this apparent~~ discrepancy. In other words, how can we have more students, more teacher resignations, and fewer teaching applicants, but at the same time not face a teacher shortage?

- A. The fact that many of Newtown's public school students do not graduate from high school does not help explain why Newtown does not face a teacher shortage in the late 1990s. Even if the graduation rate were in some way connected to the number of teachers needed, (A) still provides no information on how the number of students who graduate has or has not changed over the course of the decade. Eliminate (A).
- B. (B) explains why Newtown's student population continued to grow in the late 1990s, but the question asks us to explain the **discrepancy**. Because (B) does not explain why Newton did not face a teacher shortage in that time period, we can eliminate it.
- C. The passage has already indicated that the number of students has grown in the 1990s. Thus, if the Newtown school board were to increase the ratio of students to teachers, it could keep constant or decrease the number of teachers. But (C) indicates that the school board will not increase this ratio. This means that the school board will have to hire more teachers than ever to keep pace with the growing student population. Therefore, rather than explain why Newtown does not face a teacher shortage, (C) gives us all the more reason to find the lack of a teacher shortage perplexing. Eliminate (C).
- D. If teachers' colleges in the area began to produce fewer graduates, we would have all the more reason to expect a teacher shortage. Fewer graduates means a smaller pool of teachers to hire from. If anything, (D), like (C), gives us more reason to expect a teacher shortage. So, we can eliminate (D).
- E. We are trying to explain how, despite a decrease in applications, an increase in resignations, and an increase in students, Newtown did not face a teacher shortage in the late 1990s. If, in 1993, Newtown began with 40% more applications than positions available, then it had a significant surplus of teaching applicants. That means Newtown could afford a slight decrease in the number of applications and still be able to hire enough teachers to cover a growing student population and increasing number of resignations. Therefore, (E) explains the apparent discrepancy and is the best choice.  
(E) is correct.

89.

The argument indicates that the according to studies, people who spend more time on the computer watch less television. This indicates that computers are responsible to less TV viewing.

We need to find an option that severs this connection.

A. The argument says that "people who own computers watch less television" this is entirely different from "many people who watch little or no television do not own a computer"

B. This option actually indicates that computers are responsible for reduce television viewing time by stating that majority of the people who own computers watch less television than the national average.

C. CORRECT.

This completely severs the connection between owning a computer and reduced television time by telling us that people who are pre-disposed to watching less television are the ones who own a computer.

So in the sequence of events watching less tv comes first and owning a computer next. the argument indicates the exact opposite.

D. This maybe. However we still have the recent statistic to contend with which indicates that "people who own computers watch, on average, significantly less television than people who do not own computers".

E. Same as D.

90.

This is about as straight forward as Critical Reasoning will get.

A. CORRECT.

Y's only point of contention is that by getting rid of plastic, we will lose the "safety features that plastic offers, chiefly tamper-resistant closures and shatterproof bottles."



Now, if were to find an alternate material that could provide the above safety features, Y's argument would crumble.

This is precisely what A tells us.

B. This is completely out of scope. Economic considerations are not considered by X or Y.

C. Y does not mention the legislators in his argument. This is clearly irrelevant.

D. Y cites one of the big advantage of plastic as its safety features and does not mention manufacturers or their concerns.

E. X is clearly not defending the rights of the manufactures but rather those of the environment.

91.

A. Irrelevant to the conclusion. The safety of the rangers is out of scope here. We are discussing the tranquilisers' effect on safety.

B. Increasing fertility rates are once again, irrelevant. We want to know if the fertility rates are affected by the material in the tranquiliser.

C. CORRECT. Lets Negate this:

Any stress that female rhinoceroses may suffer as a result of being immobilized and handled has negative effect on their fertility.

This would give us an alternate reason for the fertility of the female rhinos decreasing on being immobilised. As you can see, with the negation, the conclusion "Probably, therefore, some substance in the tranquilizer inhibits fertility" instantly crumbles.

D. Since we are discussing fertility, we can safely ignore the male rhinos!

E. Since we do not have any information about the fertility rates in these mammals, this option does not help/harm the conclusion.

92.

Since describing any plan in the Gardening Magazine spurs its sales among new gradners, the magazine hasdecided to discontinue mentioning rare wildflowers.

This is because these plants cannot be cultivated and therefore if there is a demand for them, plant sellers pluckthem from the wild.

The plan to discontinue mentioning wildflowers should help halt the this yearly plundering of native plantpopulations.

Now we need to find an option that will tells us why this plan may result in saving the native plan population.

- A. This actually suggests that the new gardeners may not constantly buy rare wildflowers even if the magazine recommends it. It slightly weakens the need for such a plan.
- B. This simply tells us that plant sellers cannot make a profit any other way than by selling the new gardenersthese wildflowers. This strengthens the reasoning that the above plan is needed and may work.
- C. By telling us that there is a great demand for wildflowers, this option actually tells us that there is a need forthe policy being adapted by the magazine and that such a policy may work.
- D. This is irrelevant. It tells us the conditions required for the propagation of wildflowers and has no bearing onthe effectiveness of the plan.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that rather than leading to the plundering of native population, a demand for wildflowers mayactually need lead to wildflower cultivation and propagation, thereby saving these plants.

#### **Alternate sol from gmatclub**

There are some great observations above--I wanted to point out a couple of things.



The magazine's goal is to help "half this yearly plundering of our native plant populations"--to decrease the theft of native plants from the wild.

I agree completely that all four of the incorrect answers are out for "scope" reasons...the conclusion deals exclusively with trying to decrease the theft of plants from the wild. We're therefore looking for an answer that would make us WEAKEN the conclusion that abstaining from the publication of rare-wildflower articles would help prevent wildflower plundering.

(A) What happens to the plants once people buy them is largely irrelevant, since these people have already bought the plants (and therefore the plundering has already occurred). If the people are less likely to buy those plants again, that fact would--if anything--decrease the number of wildflowers plundered down the road (although not immediately, since these people already bought the plants once). At best this answer choice has no effect, and at worst it actually strengthens the conclusion. **Eliminate.**

(B) Who cares about the expense? The reason given for the flowers being plundered is that they cannot be cultivated, not that they are expensive. Out of scope. **Eliminate.**

(C) We don't care if there aren't enough plants that can be stolen--we want them not to be stolen in the first place! Out of scope. **Eliminate.**

(D) This choice gives the reason that wildflowers are difficult to propagate in non-wild circumstances, but doesn't affect how we might prevent their theft. Out of scope. **Eliminate.**

(E) At first glance, this choice doesn't seem directly applicable-- the plants have already been collected (stolen). However, if the rare wildflowers can eventually be grown in non-wild conditions ("propagated in nurseries"), there will be less demand to "collect"(steal) them from the wild. So, counter-intuitively, the current collection/theft of plants from the wild could slow the future collection/theft of those same plants. That possibility runs counter to the magazine's conclusion, so this is our answer.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Wildflowers don't propagate under cultivation and hence are plundered from the wild.

Articles in Magazine often spur sales of the plants they describe, particularly among people new to gardening.

Aim - To halve the plundering of native plant populations

Plan - Don't print articles on wildflowers

(Since it is a new plan, the assumption is that till now the magazine was printing articles on wildflowers. Hence not printing articles may reduce the demand)

One of the options needs to describe why the plan may not lead to the aim.

(A) When people new to gardening buy plants, they often fail to take adequate care of the plants that they buy and become discouraged from buying those varieties again.

If people new to gardening have bought the plants once, the plundering is done. Even if they do not buy again, there will be more "new" people who will buy. Hence curbing the publication of articles may reduce the number of "new people" who buy wildflowers. It doesn't explain why the plan MAY NOT lead to the aim. Hence not the answer.

(B) Plant sellers who sell rare wildflowers have no reasonably inexpensive alternate way to offer their wares directly to new gardens.

If anything, it strengthens the plan. The sellers do not have any other inexpensive way to reach out to people new to gardening. So if the articles are stopped, possibly the demand of wildflowers will reduce and hence the aim will be fulfilled.

(C) The demand for rare wildflowers rarely exceeds the number of such plants that can be collected in the wild by plant sellers.

We want to REDUCE the demand so that plundering from the wild REDUCES from current numbers. Information in (C) is irrelevant to our plan.

(D) The propagation of rare wildflowers often depends on the plant's interaction with other organisms in their environment such as plants that create suitable soil conditions or insects and birds that disperse seeds.

The conditions for propagation are irrelevant. They propagate in the wild and we want to reduce the plundering there.

Whether they survive in the gardens of people who are new to gardening is immaterial. If the new people have bought the plants once, plundering has happened. They may not buy the plants again but there will be other new people.

(E) Revenues from sales of plants collected in the wild are supporting the discovery of new low-cost techniques enabling rare wildflowers to be readily propagated in nurseries.

Revenues from sales of wild plants are supporting the discovery of tech to grow wildflowers in nurseries. If the revenues reduce, the technology may not get developed and the plundering may continue. The current plundering may actually lead to reduced plundering in the future so the plan of not printing articles may actually work against the aim.

Answer (E)

93.

A. CORRECT.

doesn't matter: we don't care about any other revenue, besides advertising-sales revenue. and even if we did care about those types of revenue, the proportion still wouldn't tell us anything at all about whether, or by how much, advertising sales revenue has gone up or down. either of these two reasons is enough to eliminate this choice; the combination of both is absolutely beyond alldoubt.

B. If the circulation has increased this could lead attract more advertisers and thereby lead to increased advertisement sales. In this case , the increased sales will not be because of reorganisation.

Therefore B is definitely relevant.

C. If the number of advertising employees increased, this means that there were more people involved in advertising and this could have increased the ad sales. This is relevant.

D. This is clearly relevant. If this were true, then a reorganisation would have helped them cope better.

E. Relevant. If the economy has been booming than the increased sales can be attributed to the economicgrowth rather than reorganisation.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The reason Option (A) is the answer is the total percentage of sales that advertising revenue constituted before and after the reorganization is immaterial. What matters is that in absolute terms, compared to before the reorg, the total sales volume in this segment has increased after the reorg. Say the percentage of advertising sales among total sales has decreased / increased. That does not matter when it comes to evaluating whether the reorg caused the increase in absolute value of the sales (which is what we are trying to evaluate).

Option (B) is not the answer because this will be a valid thing to evaluate in our quest to find the above answer - if, for example, total circulation has increased substantially, we may potentially attribute the increase in advertising sales to the increased circulation (both absolute numbers), and not specifically to the sales org restructuring. Similarly, Option (D) is also relevant. One of the reasons the reorg was done was to make the sales rep more skilled in particular areas / industries / verticals of customers. Then evaluating Option (D) is relevant in figuring out if the reorg was useful, and if it was useful in increasing advertising sales.

94.

A. It doesn't matter what lead to the increase in price. We already know now that a cereal manufacturerreduced the wholesale prices of its cereals by 20 percent and most other manufacturers will follow suit.

B. This is irrelevant too. We are told that the sales of cereals have dropped due to increase in price. Now the manufacturers have reduced the prices so the sales must go up again. The brand loyalty among consumers isirrelevant to evaluating this argument.

C. Once again, this is out of scope. Even if more varieties are available, so what? We are concerned only withits price.

D. CORRECT.

If the answer to this were no, then despite the manufactures slashing their prices, the supermarkets would stillcharge the same price as before and the sales would continue to fall.

E. We are concerned with the overall sales of cereals and not a specific type.

95.

We need an option that tells us why, despite the various medicinal substances being far too low in lakes to harm humans, eliminating these trace amounts of medicines from the water will have public health benefits.

A. This tells us there is definitely no need for elimination as the medicines, whether consumed in large quantity or small, are harmless.

B. This once again tells us the benefits of having such substance in the lakes.

C. This is out of scope and talks of people that are being treated with these medicines. We want to know why despite these medicines not being harmful, it's desirable to eliminate them from lakes and rivers.

D. Once again, this removes the need for eliminating these substances from lakes and rivers.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that in people consuming such medicines in small quantities (while drinking or bathing) there may be some disease-causing bacteria that become resistant to these medicines. In this case when a person suffering from such a disease is treated he will be resistant to the medication being administered.

96.

1) Price of corn is expected to spike.

2) Corn is used to feed livestock (reared for meat).

Conclusion: Since the money spent on feeding the livestock constitutes a very small portion of the money charged for their meat, despite a rise in the feed prices, the price of meat is expected to remain constant.

What option weakens this conclusion?



A. The connection is between rising corn prices and its effect on the price of meat.

If the price of meat increases through other factors, it becomes irrelevant to our argument.

B. This further strengthens the argument that a rise in corn prices may not cause an increase in the price of meat.

C. CORRECT.

This clearly tells us that although a very small portion of the RETAIL PRICE (price at which meat is sold to consumers) reflects the rising feed costs, the increase in the price of corn is causing the livestock farmers' profit margin to decline and they are leaving business. This will lead to a shortage of meat which will definitely cause the retail prices to go up.

D. This is irrelevant. The connection is between corn and meat only.

E. Same as D.

97.

The passage states that bacteria from a different planet will have a substantial difference in the protein structure. No two types of bacteria have enough difference to have arisen from a different planet.

What would weaken this argument the most?

- A. Irrelevant. We want to know if any bacteria from mars was transported here.
- B. We already know this to be theoretically possible.
- C. Irrelevant. The means by which bacteria was transported is not relevant to the argument.

D. CORRECT.

If this were true then there would be hardly any difference in the protein structure and the bacteria could have still come from mars.

This is considered in the passage

98.

Crime Rate at Meadowbrook → 60% higher than 4 years ago

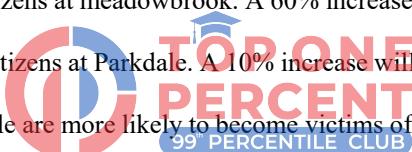
Crime Rate at Parkdale → 10% higher than 4 years ago.

The argument concludes that people of Meadowbrook are more likely to become victims due to 60% increase.  
This obviously fails to take into account the initial rate of crime 4 years ago.

Lets say the rate was 5 crimes per 1000 citizens at meadowbrook. A 60% increase will mean 8 crimes per day.

Lets say the rate was 10 crimes per 1000 citizens at Parkdale. A 10% increase will mean 11 crimes per day.

In this case, clearly the residents of Parkdale are more likely to become victims of crime.



- A. Since we are discussing the increase in crime **rate**, this is irrelevant.
- B. since the argument uses as evidence the number of violent crimes per 1,000 residents, not the total number of crimes, this is incorrect.
- C. The passage does talk about non violent crimes rates. We are discussing violent crimes only.
- D. CORRECT. Look at the example above. As long as the violent crime rate in both places was not the same 4 years ago, the conclusion is flawed.
- E. The prevention and money spent on it is out of scope.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Say Meadowbrook's crime rate 4 years ago was 10 / 1,000 residents. Now it has become 16 / 1,000 residents. Now say Parkdale's crime rate 4 years ago was 600 / 1,000 residents. Now it has become 660 / 1,000 residents. Are residents of Meadowbrook more exposed to crime or are residents of Parkdale. The argument says the former, but we clearly see any such conclusion also needs to take into account the crime rates 4 years ago in each of the two places.

99.

The boldface basically indicates that selling water with extra oxygen would not improve physical performance as the muscle of someone who is constantly exercising is already saturated with oxygen

A. irrelevant. We are not just discussing World-class athletes. The bold-face indicates that such water would be useless for anyone who exercises.

B. This indicates that water with extra oxygen maybe useful. This is exactly the opposite of what boldfaceindicates.

C. CORRECT. If this were true then the main conclusion of the argument “ water would be useless in improvingphysical performance” would still remain true.

D. That maybe. This is irrelevant as long as oxygen is still a factor.

E. This does not discuss how selling water with extra oxygen would not improve physical performance.

100.

Here is the essence of the argument.

1)Lyme disease -> caused by a bacterium contained deer ticks.

2) deer ticks pick up this bacterium when they feed on infected white-footed mice in the larval stage.

3) The other species that the larvae of deer ticks feed on do not contain this bacteria.

Conclusion: If the other species were increased, thereby providing more food for the larvae to feed on that is notinfected, of ticks acquiring the bacterium will decline.

what helps evaluate the above conclusion?



A. Even if this were true, since we plan to increase the population of the other species, the number of deer ticksfeeding on infected white-foot mice should decrease.

B. CORRECT.

If this were true then it tells us that the current population of ticks is limited due to the lack on animals to feedon and hence they feed on infected mice.

If the presence of uninfected hosts were to increase, the ticks feeding on such hosts would also increase therebyincreasing not just the tick population but also the population of ticks that do not carry the bacterium.

C. The plan is to increase the animals the ticks feed on rather than increasing the animals that feed on white-footmice.

D. Even if this were true, if the number of infected larvae itself were few, then the number of adults contractingthe disease from such larvae would also decrease.

E. We are concerned only with curbing the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. Other disease are irrelevant tothe argument.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

Premise: Deer ticks pick up bacteria from white-footed mouse, but not from other species.

Conclusion: Increasing the population of other species would reduce the number of ticks picking up bacteria.

First consider option B:

Answer Yes: Size of the deer tick population is currently limited by the availability of animals for the tick's larval stage to feed on.

This implies that increasing the other species on whom the ticks can feed would increase the total number of ticks, but the increase would only be for uninfected ticks. There would not be any change in the number of ticks that feed on white-footed mouse. Therefore though the number of uninfected ticks would increase, the number of infected ticks would remain unchanged.

Answer No: Size of the deer tick population is currently NOT limited by the availability of animals for the tick's larval stage to feed on.

This implies that there is already more food for the ticks than required. Increasing other species would not increase the total number of ticks - introduction of other species would distribute the existing ticks more sparsely on the white-footed mouse, because some of the ticks who used to feed on the white footed mouse may now feed on the other species because of higher availability of the latter.

Answering yes implies that the number of infected ticks would not change, but answering no implies that the number infected ticks would decrease. Hence option B is correct.

The argument is about the deer ticks that pick up bacteria in the larval stage. Whether the ticks may pick up the bacteria in adult stage is not within scope of the argument. Hence option D is wrong.

#### **Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

So let's get to the absolute crux of the argument being presented here - deer ticks (a type of flea let's say) in the larval stage feed on infected white-footed mice (that carry Lyme disease bacterium) and are able to pass this bacterium / disease to human beings. There are some other species that do not carry this bacterium, so the argument is if we can get deer ticks to feed on these other species more (other than white-footed mice), then lesser and lesser population of deer tick larvae will contract the bacterium. Specifically, (and focus on the next italicized words) *if the population of these other species can be increased, then more and more of deer tick larvae will feed on these uninfected specimens*, and the population of deer tick larvae carrying the disease will arguably decrease.

If we think about the above argument another way, what is something that we need to check / evaluate to see the veracity of the argument (whether the argument actually stands) - is the population of deer tick larvae that feed on these other species limited by the population size of these other species? If that is so, then there is a possibility that as the population size of these other species increases, the population of deer tick larvae feeding on these species will increase and the argument will hold.

That way Option (B) is our best choice. Note that Option (D) may induce a bit of confusion and seem like the right choice, but it is not primarily because the stem of the questions states as a fact that deer ticks pick up the bacterium at the larval stage, so picking it up as an adult and passing it to humans (while a possibility) is not *the most important* evaluation we need to carry out (as the question specifically states)

101.

- A. This is irrelevant. Despite this, we already know that the subway ridership will increase by 20 percent.
- B. This will not make any difference to the crowding. In fact it might make access to the subway easier and further increase ridership.
- C. Irrespective of whether the number of Mooreville residents who commute to work by automobile will increase, we already know that over the next 10 years subway ridership will increase by 20 percent. This does not explain why only 5% increase in the daily train trips is sufficient to combat this rise.
- D. CORRECT.  
This tells us that the increase in ridership is not during the peak hours and therefore there will not be any incidence of crowding(as the trains are sparsely used). Therefore delays due to crowding will not increase beyond what is present currently.
- E. We are not concerned with costs but in evaluation whether delay due to crowding will increase.

102.

Before we begin, population density refers to number of people per square kilometer of land. It is derived as below:  
total area population / land area in square miles (or square kilometers)

Now we know that the county with vast expanses of land is better suited for wind farms.

The argument tells us that since Country X has a higher population density than County Y, it is better suited to build wind farms.

But this may not be true.

lets assume that the total number of people in County X is 2000

total amount of land 200 square kilometers.

Population Density = 10

lets assume that the total number of people in County X is 1000

total amount of land 200 square kilometers.

Population Density = 5

Although County Y is more sparsely populated, lets say all the 2000 people of County X lived in 100 square kilometers, leaving another 100 kilometers of vast, empty expanse.

In contrast, if the population in County Y were evenly spread out, there would at least 5 people and their settlement per square kilometer, leaving no uninterrupted land.

The conclusion would crumble.

A. This is irrelevant as the comparison is between County X and County Y.

B. Even if this were true once again the same logic mentioned above could apply. County Y could have vast uninterrupted lands while County X could have evenly distributed settlements. Just interchange the numbers in the example above.



C. We do not have any evidence to indicate that the same may not happen at County X or that the wind farms at County X will be less profitable than those at Y.

D. This neither weakens nor strengthens the argument. We already know wind farms require vast expanse of land.

E. CORRECT.

This explains the example above and tells us why County X maybe a better choice, despite high population density

103.

5 key difference between electronic and micro-mechanics chips:

- 1) speed of EC (electronic chips) > Speed of MMC (micro-mechanics chips)
- 2) number of Switches in EC > number of Switches in MMC
- 3) EC cannot withstand intense radiation where as MMC can.

Now we need to find an option which makes MMC redundant for example: in a scenario where chips are not required to withstand intense radiation, the use of high speed EC chips would make more sense.

A. This tells us that speed is not an issue in which case consumers may prefer the radiation resistant MMC chips.

B. This tells us that EC chips that use only 12,000 switches (i.e chips with the same speed as MMC) are vulnerable to radiation damage. In such cases, since the speed is the same, MMC would be the obvious choice.

C. Such scenarios would obviously require MMC chips.

D. This tells us that there is market for devices where the components may have to withstand radiation and such components already exist. This makes a case for a market where MMC chips will be used.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that for devices that maybe exposed to radiation, manufactures have a way of protecting the chips from radiation. Since the only advantage of MMC is its ability to withstand radiation, EC chips that can be protected from radiation will be a better choice given their higher speed.

104.

- 1) healthy Lungs produce natural antibiotic -> protects from infection by killing bacteria
- 2) People with Cystic fibrosis -> unable to fight off such bacteria, even though their lungs produce normal amounts of the antibiotic.

Therefore some other symptom associated with cystic fibrosis retards the working of the antibiotic

Conclusion:

people with cystic fibrosis has an abnormally high salt concentration -> this makes the antibiotic ineffective.

We need to ascertain it is indeed the high salt concentration that is making the antibiotic ineffective and nothing else that may be present in a person with cystic fibrosis.

A. Irrelevant as we are not told whether raising the salt concentration in a normal person makes the antibiotic ineffective.

B. Once again, we are not told how the antibiotic would react in high concentration of salt.

C. CORRECT.

By placing a tissue affected with Cystic fibrosis in normal concentration of salt, we are only changing one condition i.e the concentration of salt. Since the antibiotics work well in normal concentration we can confidently say it is the high salt concentration that mars the effectiveness of the antibiotic.

D. This is irrelevant. We need to know why the natural antibiotics are not working in the first place.

E. We are specifically interested in the effect high salt concentration has on the natural antibiotic produced by the lungs. This option tells us the ability of high salt concentration to heal making it irrelevant

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



**A causes B: HIGH SALT CONCENTRATION (CAUSE) ----> ANTIBIOTIC TO BE INEFFECTIVE (EFFECT)**

Option C Shows that when the cause does not occur, the effect does not occur. **Strengthener- No A happened, so no effect happened.**

Using the reasoning in the previous point, any scenario where the cause does not occur and the effect does not occur supports the conclusion. This type of answer also can appear in the form of an example.

Since the environment created here has **normal salt concentration** and NOT **high salt concentration**, the point that high salt concentration in the lungs of such individuals is what has resulted in the antibiotic not being affected, is supported.

105.

1) lungs produce a natural antibiotic -> kills harmful bacteria on airway surfaces.

2) People with cystic fibrosis -> produce normal amount of antibiotic but are unable to kill such bacteria.

Conclusion: antibiotic becomes ineffective at killing harmful bacteria in high-salt environments that are present in lungs of people with cystic fibrosis.

Which option weakens the conclusion?

A. But we already know that the salt concentration of people with cystic fibrosis is high. This does not help determine whether antibiotic becomes ineffective at killing harmful bacteria in high-salt environments.

B. Since we are talking of the effectiveness of the antibiotic at high-salt environments and not low-salt environments, this becomes irrelevant.

C. Once again, we are discussing whether antibiotic becomes ineffective at killing harmful bacteria in high-salt environments. By telling us that people with cystic fibrosis are unable to maintain salt levels typical of healthy lungs, this is only reinstating what we already know.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that even when the main condition for the ineffectiveness of the antibiotic as stated by the conclusion is removed, the antibiotic is still unable to function normally in people with cystic fibrosis. This weakens the conclusion (that high salt environment is responsible) considerably.

E. This is out of scope. We are discussing people with cystic fibrosis where the salt concentration is higher than normal.

106.

A. This would actually strengthen the plan as it not only reduces shipping time but does not cost more as well.



B. This also slightly strengthens the plan by telling us the congestion on the bridge will not ease up in the coming years.

C. This also strengthens the plan by telling us that not only is the bridge congested but the road leading up to it is in poor condition as well. All the more reason to use trains and barges.

D. CORRECT.

This tells us that anytime saved in traffic will be compensated by waiting for several hours to unload the barges. Therefore the goal of plan, to reduce shipping time, may not be met.

E. This is irrelevant to the argument. The return journey of the trucks does not contribute to the shipping time.

107.

Crux of the argument:

Although the reclamation technology has not improved, the cost of reclamation of mined out land has decreased by more than half.

How?

A. This is irrelevant. We are not concerned with the operational costs of coal mines. WE are looking at why hasthe reclamation cost decreased so drastically.

B. Once again, the popularity of fuel is not in question. Reclamation of a mined out land and its cost are independent of the demand for the fuel being mined.

C. CORRECT.

This tells us why the average reclamation costs may have gone down over the years. Once the law was passed,mining in the mountainous areas of Balzania ceased where the reclamation costs had been particularly high(and this had driven up the average).

D. This makes a distinction in the price of coal produced from surface mines and those from underground mines.All this tells us is that maybe the surfaces mines had a higher profit margin that allowed them to absorb the reclamation costs. This is irrelevant to why the reclamation costs have decreased over the years.

E. This is completely out of scope as it does not discuss reclamation at all.



108.

1980

amount of fish consumer -> 50

amount of poultry products consumed -> 50

number of people -> 100

number of fish per person 0.5

number of poultry per person -> 0.5

1989

amount of fish consumed-> 52.5

amount of poultry products consumed -> 54.5

number of people -> 106

number of fish per person 0.49

number of poultry per person -> 0.51

Based on our calculations lets see which option is true:

A. This option talks of rate of increase of profits. This means that the rate at which the profits for poultry increased from 1980 to 1989 must be higher than the rate at which profit increased for fish. We do not know the profit margins of fish or poultry. Although the consumption of poultry seems to have gone up while that of fish has decreased, we do not have sufficient information to conclude that distributors of poultry increased their profits at a higher rate.

B. While we know that the amount of fish consumption has decreased, we do not know if this because of the migrating population. It is possible that the immigrated people ate a lot of fish and the locals reduced their consumption.

C. Based on our calculations, we clearly know this to be false.

D. Since we only know the relative increase in consumption (i.e the consumption of fish went up by 4.5% ), the initial value could have been 50 fishes for a 100 people or 5 fishes for a 100 people. So we do not know how much of the population consumed fish and poultry.

E. CORRECT.

Based on our calculation, we can clearly see the per capita (per head) consumption of fish was lower in 1989.

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	1980	1989
Fish -	180x	104.5z
Poultry -	100y	109y
Population -	100z	106z

Per capita fish consumption -  $\frac{x}{z} = \left(\frac{104.5}{106}\right) \frac{z}{z} = \left(\text{something} < 1\right) \left(\frac{x}{z}\right)$

It doesn't matter what the values of x, y, z are. They all have to be positive, and if so, the second line holds good.  
Again, x, y, z can be very large, very small etc - it does not matter.

109.

the manager states that the added cost of the new fancy packing materials will make up for no more damage claims.the assumption is that IF we use the advanced packaging, then there WILL BE no more damage claims.

A.

This doesn't matter. The comparison is not outside truesave. Irrespective of whether this was true or not it doesn't help evaluate the above.

B. Since Truesave only ships electronic products, this is irrelevant.

C. CORRECT.

If this were true, then despite using advanced packing, the items will still be returned. Thus the company will spend both on packing as well as replacing damaged goods.

If this were incorrect, then the manager's plan will work.

D. There maybe such cases. But how we are only concerned with products that are returned.

E. Since this does not tell us that the damage is caused by shipping companies, it is irrelevant.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

The manager's plan is only viable if it saves the corporation money. The manager believes that better packaging will lead to less broken merchandise and thus less money on replacement. To determine if this plan will work, we have to determine whether there isn't a possibility that, if true, could foil his plan.

**A. Whether the products shipped by TrueSave are more vulnerable to incurring damage during shipping than are typical electronic products.**

The focus is on whether the packaging will prevent damaged products and thus replacements. Even if TrueSave packages are more vulnerable to incurring damage, better packaging could prevent damage.

**B. Whether electronic products are damaged more frequently in transit than are most other products shipped by mail-order companies.**

We care only about electronic products, and not other products.

**C. Whether a sizable proportion of returned items are returned because of damage already present when those items were packed for shipping. ANSWER**

If there was already damage, then no amount of packaging can prevent damage. Think of it this way, even if you pack a broken DVD player in an iron safe (hardly a cost-effective shipping method), it will still arrive damaged, and the recipient will very likely ask for a replacement. So, in order to determine how effective the manager's plan will be, we have to determine what percent of goods were already damaged before packing.

**D. Whether there are cases where customers blame themselves for product damage that, though present on arrival, isn't discovered until later.**

If customer's blame themselves, they are unlikely to return the product.

**E. Whether TrueSave continually monitors the performance of the shipping companies it uses to ship products to its customers.**

If a customer asks for a replacement, TrueSave will have to provide it, and thus lose money. Whether the company is monitoring the shipping company is moot if the packaging is flimsy.

#### Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

What is the effect on cost per the manager? Cost of new shipping material will be roughly equal to cost of replacing returned (damaged) goods from customers - implicit here (and also mentioned in the passage) is that with the new shipping material, there will be no damage to the goods in transit (i.e. *they will arrive to the customer in perfect condition*). If we are to check the veracity of this claim about cost, we need to find an option that will tell us something about potential costs that we are missing. To that end, whether TrueSave monitors shipping companies or not has no effect whatsoever on the cost it incurs due to either shipping material or due to goods getting damaged in transit and arriving damaged to the customer.

However, in Option (C), if a sizable portion of goods right now are *packed damaged*, they will still *arrive damaged* even with the new shipping material, and thus *these goods will still be returned and this will be an extra cost that the manager is not accounting for*. This is what we needed to find in our answer choice.

Option (C) is correct

110.

ALL this really says is:

the average coal output per miner, for ALL of tribinia, has doubled over the last 5 years.

that's it.

this means that there could be vast differences between miners; this is only a national average. in particular, it is totally possible that some miners, and some mines, are LESS productive than they were 5 years ago.

...and no new mines have opened.

however, the existing miners could have added, or laid off, miners. there is no information in the passage about the # of workers at each mine.

in fact, there could now be 100 times as many miners as there were before, at every mine or 1% as many as before. we have no idea at all.

A. CORRECT.

this choice deals with the WHOLE NATION of tribinia, so we can use the quoted statistic.

5 years ago, there were N number of miners, and their production rate was X units of coal per miner. that's a total of NX.

now, there are still N number of miners, but their production has increased to 2X units of coal per miner. that's a total of 2NX.

B. you can't assume that the NATIONAL trend applies to INDIVIDUAL mines.

also, it's entirely possible that this result could have come from adding miners to the mine's work force.

can't prove the statement.

C. totally hypothetical. no grounds whatsoever to prove (or disprove) this one.

D. it's possible that the mines added workers.

if a mine added workers, then its TOTAL OUTPUT could increase despite a decrease in the per-worker output.

(i.e., think about 100 workers producing 3 units each, vs. 200 workers producing 2 units each.)

can't prove the statement.

E. totally unrelated to anything in the passage



111.

If the tariffs were removed, the processing plants might have to buy cashew for a higher price causing them to lose their profit margins. This would in turn increase urban unemployment

- A. Irrelevant. We are discussing removing tariff on unprocessed cashew. The by products and its manufacture is irrelevant.
- B. Irrelevant. We are discussing Kernland only.
- C. The argument talks of reducing urban unemployment and not improving the general economic situation of Kernland. So we need to deal with this from the perspective of urban unemployment only.
- D. This strengthens the argument slightly by indicating the advantages of lowered tariffs for processing plants.

E. CORRECT.

This tells us that removing tariff is causing farmers (who are unable to make a profit on cashews) to move to the city in search of a job. This would then drive up the urban unemployment rates defeating the purpose of lowered tariffs.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Farmers produce cashew (obviously unprocessed) -> That unprocessed cashew has high export tariffs which makes its international price much more than world markets (uncompetitive) -> This disincentivizes the export of cashew from Kernland -> Cashews are sent to processing plants (most of which are in urban areas) -> This helps prop up employment numbers in urban areas.

If the tariffs are removed, more cashew will be exported, less will be processed domestically, more urban processing plants will be negatively affected, urban employment will be negatively affected - this is the argument the passage establishes.

Now if this happens, cashew crop will become profitable. The negation of Option (E) will happen - farmers will not move en masse to cities any more. Production of cashew will not fall (what you were thinking), and this gives the best chance for unprocessed cashew to continue going to plants to be processed.



112.

- 1) helping ppl -> release of endorphins -> feeling of well-being
- 2) regular release of endorphins -> longevity
- 3) statistics show adults with regular voluntary work -> live longer ON AVERAGE than adults who are not involved in voluntary work

Now for the confusing part, "However, that statistic would be what we would expect even if volunteering does not boost longevity, because "

this means that step 3 would hold true even if volunteering does not increase longevity. So what is the connection between volunteering and adults living longer?

A. CORRECT.

This simply indicates that most adults who volunteer are women and women tend to live longer than men. Therefore on average adults who volunteer tend to live longer than adults that don't.

- B. This maybe. But will the young adults who volunteer live longer than young adults who don't?

- C. Indicates that volunteering might actually help mask certain diseases.

- D provides no correlation between volunteering and adults living longer.

- E. not explain why the statistics stated in step 3 will hold good

113.

Conclusion: Therefore, if the attrition problem cannot be successfully addressed, Hatchnut should discontinue the sponsorship program.

A. The first describes a practice that the argument seeks to justify → false. This is the opposite of what the conclusion states.

B. The first describes a practice that the argument seeks to explain → false. The first BF describes a practice that the argument evaluates and eventually rejects.

C. The first introduces a practice that the argument seeks to evaluate → correct.

the second provides grounds for holding that the practice cannot achieve its objective → incorrect. The second does not give us any reason for why practise cannot succeed. It simply informs us of alternate means to achievethesame goal(of international exposure and finding worthy candidates for a management position)

D. CORRECT.

E. The first is THE policy the argument is evaluating and not simply a consideration.

#### Alternate sol from gmatclub

When dealing with boldfaced questions, start by COMPLETELY IGNORING the boldface and finding the conclusion: "Hatchnut should discontinue the sponsorship program." Now, let's make sure we understand the author's logic, and THEN we can see how the boldfaced portions fit in with that logic:

- Hatchnut is a large corporation in a small country and wants its managers to have international experience.
- In order to give its managers international experience, **Hatchnut sponsors management education abroad for its management trainees each year.**
- In addition to giving its managers international experience, Hatchnut also uses trainee performance during the program as a criterion in deciding among candidates for management positions. So the program has two purposes: to provide international experience and to differentiate candidates for management positions.
- The author explains a problem with the current program: many of the management trainees who graduate from the program leave Hatchnut to join competing firms soon after completing the program.
- According to the author, **both of the desired purposes could be achieved in other ways**. Therefore, if the current attrition problem cannot be successfully addressed, Hatchnut should discontinue the sponsorship program. In other words, if there are other ways to accomplish the goals of the program and the current program has a problem that cannot be addressed, Hatchnut should discontinue the current program.

Now let's see which option best describes the roles of the boldfaced portions:

A. The first describes a practice that the argument seeks to justify; the second states a judgment that is used in support of a justification for that practice.

The first BF portion does describe a company practice, but the argument seeks to EVALUATE this practice, not to JUSTIFY it. Furthermore, rather than justifying the practice, the second BF portion suggests that the practice is not needed. (A) can be eliminated.

B. The first describes a practice that the argument seeks to explain; the second presents part of the argument's explanation of that practice.

The argument seeks to EVALUATE the practice rather than EXPLAIN it. Furthermore, the second BF portion does not serve to explain the practice, so (B) can be eliminated.

C. The first introduces a practice that the argument seeks to evaluate; the second provides grounds for holding that the practice cannot achieve its objective.

The first BF portion does introduce a company practice that the argument seeks to evaluate, but the second simply states that there are other ways to achieve the goals of that practice. The second does not necessarily imply that the current practice

cannot achieve its objective, so (C) is off the mark.

D. The first introduces a policy that the argument seeks to evaluate; the second provides grounds for holding that the policy is not needed.

The first BF portion does introduce a company policy that the argument seeks to evaluate, and the second states that there are other ways to achieve the goals of that policy. If there are other ways to achieve the goals of that policy, then one could argue that the policy is not needed. Choice (D) looks good.

E. The first introduces a consideration supporting a policy that the argument seeks to evaluate; the second provides evidence for concluding that the policy should be abandoned.

The first BF portion is the policy itself, not a consideration supporting the policy. The second is evidence for concluding that the policy COULD be abandoned (because there are other ways to achieve the policy's goals), but it is not necessarily evidence for concluding that the policy SHOULD be abandoned. Eliminate (E).

Choice (D) is the best answer.



114.

A. Reverse this assumption:

The Sepphoris mosaics are composed exclusively of types of stones found naturally in teh Sepphoris area This is consistent with the conclusion. Note that the passage says the mosaics were “*created*” by travelling artisans which means that they could have used the locally available stones at Sepphoris to create the mosaics.

B.

reverse this assumption: let's say all the species are indigenous to some common region.

this doesn't destroy the argument; it's perfectly consistent with the idea of traveling artisans (who presumablywould have come from that common region).

wrong answer.

C. reverse this

motifs that appear in the Sepphoris mosaics that also appear in the mosaics of someother Roman city

This actually strengthens the conclusion rather than destroying it.

D.

reverse this assumption: let's say that there are some animal figures that are not readily identifiable.

this has no effect whatsoever on the argument, which is concerned only with some of the animal figures (i.e., theones that weren't native to the local area).

wrong answer.

E. CORRECT

reverse this assumption: let's say there was a common repertory of mosaic designs.

in this case, that repertory - since it was a common repertory - would have included animal figures from all overthe place. (at the very least, it would be quite unreasonable to expect a common repertory to have been restricted to animal figures from the sepphoris area in particular.)

this destroys the argument, because, were there such a repertory, then artists local to sepphoris would havefollowed it as well, creating the exotic designs despite their status as natives in the area.



**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

the negation of Option (E) is 'There *was* a common repertory of mosaic designs with which artisans who live in various parts of the Roman empire were familiar'. If so, this could indicate that the artisans in Sepphoris themselves drew the motifs based on this common 'template', and that the motifs were not created by traveling artisans as the argument posits. With the negation of this option, the argument doesn't stand anymore - so this option has to be a required assumption.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

B) Firstly, we are not concerned whether all species which are depicted are found in single region or not.

Secondly and importantly - Even if it belonged to a single native region then can be created by travelling artisans.

"There is no single region to which all the species depicted in the Sepphoris mosaics are native." – Use **negation**. If there is a single region, say City Y, to which all the species in the mosaics are native, can't these mosaics be built by travelling artisans? Even if that were so, these mosaics could still have been built by travelling artisans, possibly from City Y. So, again, the conclusion does not shatter.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

X A - talks about stones, irrelevant

X B - again talks about the "specific" location of the species, irrelevant

X C - even if the motifs from Sepphoris appeared in other regions so what, point is why they are in Sepphoris - irrelevant

X D - all of the animals may or may not be identifiable, we know that at least some of the identified ones were not local

E - even if it states a new fact not included in the original statement, if this assumption were not true, then the "travelling" artisan conclusion would be negated.

E it is.

115.

The conclusion is: "These commentators are, however, wrong to draw the further conclusion that in the countries with the higher rates of reported whiplash injuries, half of the reported cases are spurious."

Notice that the second boldfaced portion is the conclusion drawn by "these commentators", not by the author of the passage.

- In the first sentence, the author presents a finding whose implications are in question: "In countries where automobile insurance includes compensation for whiplash injuries sustained in automobile accidents, reports of having suffered such injuries are twice as frequent as they are in countries where whiplash is not covered."
- According to some commentators, "since there is presently no objective test for whiplash, spurious reports of whiplash injuries cannot be readily identified." - This argument, which the author does not dispute, supports the conclusion drawn by those commentators "that in the countries with the higher rates of reported whiplash injuries, half of the reported cases are spurious." So the author disputes the conclusion of those commentators but not the argument supporting their conclusion.
- The author then claims that "in countries where automobile insurance does not include compensation for whiplash, people often have little incentive to report whiplash injuries that they actually have suffered." This claim is presented as an argument against the conclusion drawn by those commentators.

(A) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument criticizes; the second is that conclusion.

The first BF portion supports the conclusion of the commentators, who the author clearly believes are "wrong". The second BF states the conclusion of those commentators. Choice (A) looks spot on.

(B) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument criticizes; the second is the position that the argument defends.



The first half of this choice is correct, but the second is a conclusion (drawn by some commentators) that the author criticizes, not a position that the author defends. Eliminate (B).

(C) The first is a claim that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument accepts; the second is the position that the argument defends.

The first supports the conclusion of the commentators, which the author rejects. The second is the conclusion of the commentators, which the author certainly does not defend. Eliminate (C).

(D) The first is an intermediate conclusion that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument defends; the second is the position that the argument opposes.

The first BF is EVIDENCE that supports the commentators conclusion, and the author criticizes that conclusion. Thus, even though the second half of this choice is okay, choice (D) should be eliminated.

(E) The first presents a claim that is disputed in the argument; the second is the conclusion that has been drawn on the basis of that claim.

The author does not dispute the evidence presented in the first BF portion; rather, the author disputes the conclusion drawn by some commentators based on that evidence. Thus, even though the second part of this choice is okay, choice (E) should be eliminated.

116.

A. Irrelevant. The comparison is between jobs that require a degree and jobs that don't. Double, triple degreetholders and their income is not relevant here :)

B. the comparison is between now and four years later. Not several years ago and the present.

C. CORRECT.

If the negation of this were to be true then once the scarcity no longer exists the high paying jobs wont existeither and the average salary may not increase.

D. let's say the average salary for non-degree jobs will increase over the next 4 years.

this would actually STRENGTHEN the argument (!), because it would provide another reason that the averagesalary would increase.

this is the complete opposite of the effect you're looking for; reversing the assumption should destroy theargument.

E. Irrelevant. Where the degree was earned is irrelevant to the argument.

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Option C-This is the correct one. Negating this sentence would mean that higher salary is because of scarce workforce and if that is the case, then with the increase in the number of people with college degree, the average would go down. This shatters the argument. Hence this has to be the ASSUMPTION.

While using negation technique, you should negate the main verb (adding or removing 'not' is part of negation).

Option D- It could remain constant but that does not impact the conclusion

**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**



Very simple. The negation of Option (C) is that the higher wages obtained by people with college degrees is due to scarcity in their numbers. If this is the case, then as the number of such people increases in the next four years (as a percentage of the workforce), the scarcity will decrease. If that is the case, then the wages will not increase (because the higher wages were dependent on scarcity in the number of workers). The argument is significantly weakened, and hence Option (C) is the answer

117.

Premise: a technology for preventing leaks of oil pipelines is being installed

Conclusion: as long as the above technology is effective, there will be no leaks and hence no danger to the fish.

Possible weakener: Are the leaks the only thing that may endanger the fish population when oil pipeline is constructed?

A. CORRECT.

This directly weakens the conclusion by suggesting that even though the oil pipeline does not leak, the building of such a pipeline would release water toxic pollutants that have settled at the bottom of the lake. This would inturn endanger the fish population.

B. We are discussing the side effects of installing an oil pipeline. This is completely irrelevant.

C. This strengthens the argument to an extent by endorsing the effectiveness of the leak prevention technology.

D. This neither strengthens nor weakens an argument but simply tells us the after effects of a leak.

E. This is out of scope. The question is how will these fishes be affected by building of the pipeline, if at all.

118.

A. CORRECT.

We are told that rats when "briefly exposed to the substance aflatoxin tend to develop liver cancer when fed casein, a milk protein".

We already know that the natives were being fed casein through the milk powder they were given. Therefore we need to find an option that tells us that they were exposed to aflatoxin as well.

This is precisely what A does.

B. If this were true, it does not explain how the natives were exposed to aflatoxin.

C. This is completely irrelevant. The result indicates that exposure to aflatoxin + casein leads to liver cancer. We do not care about the other proteins.

D. This does not tell us how the lab results are relevant to milk powder causing liver cancer.

E. Once again, this does not connect milk powder to liver cancer nor does it tell us what makes the lab results relevant.

119.

Summary:

1) In Partoria, large trucks are involved in 12% of highway deaths.

2) Of all large trucks, those with three trailers have been involved in the least number of accidents (less than a third of the accident rate of single-and double-trailer trucks)

Conclusion: By encouraging shippers to use three-trailer trucks, Partoria can reduce the number of highway deaths.

Which option weakens this conclusion?



A. CORRECT.

This indicates that the reason trucks with three trailers have been involved in the least number of accidents is not because these trucks are safer but because they are used only on major highways with less traffic.

If these were to be used all over Partoria, there is no way of knowing whether it will reduce the number of accidents or not.

B. This is clearly irrelevant to argument. On roads that trucks are off limit, the plan becomes completely out of scope.

C. The collision need not between two trucks. Since we already know large trucks are involved in 12% of highway deaths, this option neither weakens nor strengthens the conclusion.

D. While this is good to know, the fact that of all large trucks, those with three trailers have been involved in the least number of accidents still remains. This option does not weaken the conclusion to increase the use of three-trailer trucks as a way of reducing highway deaths.

E. We do not know if there is a connection between the amount of payload and highway deaths. Since we cannot assume any such connection, this option becomes irrelevant.

120.

Author is talking about 2 things here:

1) Yeast used to be accidentally mixed into the dough before 3000 B.C, despite this, Egyptians could not discover its ability to leavened the bread.

2) The Egyptians discovered a new type of wheat, which did not require pre-toasting of the grain. Soon after yeast was discovered.

So, The only difference between the new wheat and old wheat is that, New one doesn't need toasting.

A. This is irrelevant.

B. We do not know if stone-lined grained pits were in any way responsible for discovering yeast.

C. CORRECT.

This clearly tells us that the reason Egyptians did not discover yeast before 3000B.C was because they were toasting the wheat which would destroy gluten. Therefore even the presence of wheat in the dough did not lead to leavening, Only when they discovered the non toasting variety could yeast leaven the bread.

D. Irrelevant. Who consumed it is irrelevant to our argument.

E. The by products of the new variety is irrelevant here.

121.

We need to find an option that tells us that just because the number of students enrolled in college has increased, this will not translate to a large number of students entering the job market armed with a degree in the next few years.

A. The argument does not care how much people with multiple degrees earn.

The question is will there be more number of Kravonians entering the job market who have at least the qualification of a college degree in the next few years than in the past? This option does not weaken or strengthen this argument.

B. CORRECT.

This tells us that although the number of students enrolled in college has increased, the number of years they remain enrolled for is also increasing. This means that not all the enrolled students will necessarily graduate in the next few years, weakening the argument's conclusion.

C. The comparison is within Kravonia itself. We are comparing the number of people who entered the job market with the degree in the last few years and the number of people who will do so in the next few years.

D. While this explains why the number of students enrolled in college is increasing, it does not tell us whether there will be more number of Kravonians entering the job market who have at least the qualification of a college degree in the next few years.

E. This is irrelevant since we already know that the number of students enrolled in college is increasing.

122.

We know the following:

- a) Parents are reluctant to subject children to the pain of injections
- b) adults, who are at risk of serious complications from influenza, are commonly vaccinated
- c) A new influenza vaccine, administered painlessly in a nasal spray, is effective for children

From the above the author concludes that since nasal spray can be used effectively only on children and since children do not develop any serious complications from influenza, the widespread use of nasal spray vaccine does not have any serious health benefit.

This conclusion will hold true ONLY IF we can be sure that adults do not contract influenza from children. Only then will there be **no significant health benefit** in using the nasal spray.

A. Irrelevant. We know that this vaccine is effective only on children. Therefore even if this weren't true, it would not make any difference to the conclusion.

B. Irrelevant. Once again, assumptions about the working of the vaccine is irrelevant to the conclusion.

C. Irrelevant. We are discussing the benefits of using nasal spray vaccine. The price of the injectable vaccine does not concern us.

D. CORRECT. Let's try the negation of this. Adults contract influenza primarily from children than have influenza. IF the negation were true, then the conclusion would become incorrect as there would then be a huge benefit to using nasal sprays for kids.

E. We already know this to be true in the passage. "A new influenza vaccine, administered painlessly in a nasal spray, is effective for children." Therefore this becomes a fact and not an assumption.

Alternate sol from gmatclub



Premise 1: injectable vaccines are painful so Parents do not vaccine the child. However, Adults who have serious complications are commonly vaccinated.

Premise 2: A new influenza vaccine is painless and can be used to vaccine children.

Conclusion: As children rarely develop serious complication, there is no health benefit for this new vaccination.

The conclusion is quite strong in that There is NO health benefit for this medicine. It means it doesn't help at all but the stated reason is only for children (they seldom develop serious complications) but what about adults?

As this is an assumption question, we need to fill a gap between premise and conclusion.

Now the options:-

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

A. Any person who has received the injectable vaccine can safely receive the nasal-spray vaccine as well.

**Incorrect: Irrelevant. Conclusion is regarding health benefits. Argument doesn't compare the safety of any of the vaccines.**

B. The new vaccine uses the same mechanism to ward off influenza as injectable vaccines do.

**Incorrect: Irrelevant. Argument is about the health benefits of the vaccine not the mechanism by which it achieves that.**

C. The injectable vaccine is affordable for all adults.

**Incorrect: Irrelevant. Argument is about the health benefits of the vaccine not its cost**

D. Adults do not contract influenza primarily from children who have influenza.

**Correct: Lets negate it. If Adults do contract influenza primarily from children who have influenza, then we need to vaccinate the children otherwise Adults will contract. So there are health benefits for this vaccine.**

**As described above. If this option is not true, then Argument is not true. Hence it is the necessary assumption.**

E. The nasal spray vaccine is not effective when administered to adults.

**Incorrect: Out of scope. Argument doesn't compare the effectiveness of any vaccine. If we take this option as true, It weakens the conclusion because if it is most effective then there will be benefits of this medicine.**