Wason Test

EXERCISE

1) I have four cards. Each card has a letter on one side and an integer on the other side.

I put the cards down on a table, so you can only see one side of each card.

You can see: A, M, 4, 7

Which cards do you have to turn over to test the rule:

        If the letter is a vowel then the integer is even?

2) I have four cards. Each card has a town on one side and a mode of transport on the other side.

I put the cards down on a table, so you can only see one side of each card.

You can see: Leeds, Manchester, Car, Train

Which cards do you have to turn over to test the rule:

        If the town is Manchester then the mode of transport is Train?

3) I have four cards. Each card has a person's age on one side and a drink on the other side.

I put the cards down on a table, so you can only see one side of each card.

You can see: 16 years old, 24 years old, Beer, Lemonade

Which cards do you have to turn over to test the rule:

        If the drink is Beer then the person's age must be over 18 years old?

SOLUTIONS

We need to look for potential rule breakers.

1) A rule-breaker has got a vowel on one side and an odd integer on the other side.

We need to turn over A in case the other side is an odd integer.

We need to turn over 7 in case the other side is a vowel.

2) A rule-breaker has got Manchester on one side and not Train on the other side.

We need to turn over Manchester in case the other side is not Train.

We need to turn over Car in case the other side is Manchester.

3) A rule breaker has got Beer on one side and not over 18 years old on the other side.

We need to turn over Beer in case the other side is not over 18 years old.

We need to turn over 16 years old in case the other side is Beer.

Note: These three questions are logically equivalent. However research has shown that nearly every-one gets example (1) incorrect but nearly every-one gets example (3) correct.

There is no research available on example (2) because I just made it up.