

Verbal Logic - 2



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VA - 07

CEX-V-0243/18

Number of Questions : **30**

Test Drive

Time Limit

3 Minutes

Directions for questions 1 to 10: Match the words in Column A with their antonyms in Column B.

(IIFT, 2016)

Column A		Column B	
1.	Lament	a	Unique
2.	Irascible	b	Unjustified
3.	Itinerant	c	Benevolent
4.	Apogee	d	Celebrate
5.	Baleful	e	Secret
6.	Vexation	f	Extrovert
7.	Warranted	g	Amiable
8.	Epiphany	h	Static
9.	Recluse	i	Happiness
10.	Archetypal	j	Nadir

Introduction to Critical Reasoning:

Critical Reasoning (CR) is the logical analysis of a given argument. An argument is a claim backed by reasons. Arguments can exist in two forms – abbreviated and expanded.

The fundamentals of CR are helpful in solving Reading Comprehension questions. Though CAT has not

asked CR questions in a few years, other entrance exams have. XAT asks CR questions regularly in the VA section. It also has a section called Decision Making (DM) which requires CR skills. NMAT typically gives 3-4 CR or DM questions in every paper. TISSNET, IIFT, MICAT, and SNAP regularly test CR skills. CR is also important to develop one's habit of critical writing as WAT (Writing Ability Test), a common feature of the Personal Interview (PI) process of the IIMs. Therefore, as a student you must be thorough with the fundamentals of CR.

Fundamentals of Critical Reasoning:

Most CR passages are in the form of arguments in which the writer tries to present his ideas/opinions to the reader. The arguments are built on certain facts. The facts could be one or many. On the basis of these facts one tries to conclude an argument. While forming a conclusion, the writer may choose to make one or many assumptions. Hence, we can say every argumentative passage will have three parts:

- 1) Conclusion – It is what the writer is trying to convince the reader of.
- 2) Premise or the facts – These are the pieces of evidence the writer gives to support his conclusion
- 3) Assumptions – these are unstated ideas or evidence without which the entire conclusion might be invalid.

Any Critical Reasoning argument may appear in the following forms:

- a. It may start with a set of premises and end with a conclusion (premise – premise – premise – conclusion).
- b. It may have the conclusion in the beginning followed by a set of premises (conclusion – premise – premise – premise)

Let's understand the three components of CR.

A. Conclusion

Directions for questions 11 to 15: Determine whether the following conclusions are valid / invalid.

11. Statement:

All branches are flowers.
All flowers are leaves.

Conclusions:

- I. All branches are leaves.
- II. All leaves are branches.
- III. All flowers are branches.
- IV. Some leaves are branches. **(IIFT, 2016)**

- (1) I follows
- (2) III and IV follow
- (3) I and IV follow
- (4) I, II, and IV follow

- 12.** A paragraph is given below followed by a few statements. State which of the statements can be logically inferred from the passage.
(SNAP, 2014, MB)

People are so busy in their work that they don't have time to take care of their health. Diseases like asthma, lung cancer, etc have become common among people. They don't

have time to exercise. Junk food is easy and tasty but it is unhealthy. Smoking and drinking habits have affected people's lifestyle. Pollution also affects their health adversely.

- (1) Remaining busy affects a person's health adversely.
- (2) Consumption of junk food always leads to deadly diseases.
- (3) Asthma and lung cancer are inevitable consequences of the urban lifestyle.
- (4) Environment and lifestyle severely affect a person's health.

- 13.** Two statements are followed by two conclusions. Mark the correct option.

(TISSNET, 2017, MB)

Statements:

- i) All students in my college are intelligent.
- ii) Rahul is not intelligent.

Conclusions:

- I. Rahul is not from my college.
- II. Rahul should study more

- (1) Only I follows
- (2) Only II follows
- (3) Both I and II follow
- (4) Neither I nor II follows

- 14.** What an amazing organ the human brain is! It never sleeps. It continues to work even after our death for up to 24 hours.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above paragraph?

- (1) The human brain is an amazing organ.
- (2) The human brain is immortal.
- (3) The human brain works tirelessly.
- (4) The human brain can amaze even the most sceptical of people.

15. Cotton production has been increasing in India for the past few years. However, the demand for cotton has dropped in India for the past few years. Cotton garments are sold at a much higher price than garments made from synthetic material. India has been a leading exporter of cotton for the last two decades.

Which of the following conclusions may be true in the light of the given information?

- (1) Globally, the demand for cotton is increasing leading to a rise in its production.
- (2) Cotton production is increasing due to increased exports.
- (3) The domestic demand has fallen due to increased export of cotton.
- (4) Cotton garment production brings in more revenue than synthetic material production.

B. Assumption

Directions for questions 16 to 20: Read the following information carefully and choose the most appropriate option.

16. **Statement:** "Keep away from strangers. Do not talk or take chocolates from them", warned a father while talking to his little child.

Assumptions:

- I. The child is habitually interacts with new people.
- II. Being warned, the child might keep a distance from unknown people.

- (1) Only assumption I is implicit.
- (2) Only assumption II is implicit.
- (3) Both I and II are implicit.
- (4) Neither I nor II is implicit.

17. Democracy in India can be a success only when the Indian women are politically awakened. The political awakening cannot be an isolated phenomenon; it requires some

changes in social structure so that women can enjoy as important a place as men occupy. Moreover they should be free to express their opinion, to act as they like and to assert themselves in all departments of life.

With reference to the above passage, which of the following is the most valid assumption?

- (1) Democracy has forever been a failure in India.
- (2) Women in India are suppressed by men, especially in the political sphere.
- (3) Indian democracy faces an obstacle in the path of its success, in the form of patriarchy.
- (4) The bigotry between men and women has been in existence since ages.

18. Company X has recently built a manufacturing unit in island Y where the raw material is readily available and can be easily extracted. According to the company the cost of extraction is very low. This would result in increasing the profit as the total cost of production will go down. Although there have been some debates between the company's officials and some environmentalists regarding the exploitation of the ecosystem of island, but it has been proved that the company's policy does not harm the ecosystem in any way.

Which of the following statement best reflects the assumption made by the company?

- (1) There is enough available stock of raw material which will keep the company running on the island for few decades to come.
- (2) The cost of transportation from the island to the market is less than the current transportation cost.
- (3) The environmental friendly policy of the company will be implemented faithfully by its unit on island Y.
- (4) The company enjoys a robust public support across its native country.

19. The U.S President conceded that the nuclear challenge was daunting, would be a long haul, and could fail. "This goal will not be reached quickly...perhaps not in my lifetime. It would take patience and persistence. But now we, too, must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change." But he said it was time for a new, more robust international regime. Rules must be binding, violations must be punished, and words must mean something!

Which one of the following can be an assumption on which the U.S President has given such a statement?

- (1) The U.S President can foresee a bleak future as far as the world is concerned.
 - (2) The President realises the virtues of patience and is willing to wait.
 - (3) The President follows an aggressive stance as far as nuclear violations are concerned.
 - (4) The U.S President is upset with some violation of existing international nuclear regime.
20. The G20 should identify those countries most at risk from the global recession and ensure they are part of the solution. It should ensure that the voices of the poorest and the least powerful are heard and respected. Global recession should not be a pretext for global repression. The economic crisis will bring added pressure on governments from millions of newly unemployed people. There is already much talk of a difficult year for China; for example, as it faces a growing number of popular protests as economic growth slows.

The author's argument assumes which one of the following?

- (1) Recession will invariably lead to growing unemployment.
- (2) The increasing pressure on Governments might lead to desperate measures by the G20 countries.
- (3) Some of the worst affected countries may witness public outrage and worsening law and order situation.
- (4) Every year more and more people will be unemployed.

C. Strengthening the Argument

Directions for questions 21 to 25: Read the following information carefully and choose the most appropriate option.

21. The domestic legal treatment of individual labour rights, which are clearly articulated but seldom enforced, reflects India's blurry history with slavery. Article 23 of the 1949 Constitution of India outlaws both the trafficking of human beings and forced labour, but the legislation defining and banning bonded labour was only approved by Parliament in 1976. The Bonded Labour System Abolition Act of 1976 stipulates that the monitoring of labour violations and their enforcement are responsibilities of state governments.

Which of the following strengthens the given argument?

- (1) The main cause of bonded labour can be traced back to India's history of slavery.
- (2) The role of the Indian government in implementing a ban on bonded labour is of utmost importance.
- (3) Japan, India's competitor in the Asian continent, has reaped great rewards by imposing strict labour laws.
- (4) A ban on bonded labour will enhance India's historical standing among its peers.

22. Few genetically systemized strains of silk seeds produce powerful insecticides. The insecticide feed exclusively on milkweed leaves. When these caterpillars are fed milkweed leaves occurs throughout the plant, including its pollen. Silk pollen is dispersed by the wind and frequently blows onto milkweed plants that grow near silk plants. Caterpillars, dusted with pollen from modified silk plants, die of poisoning. Hence, by using genetically systemized silk, weavers put the butterfly population at risk.

Which of the following would it be most useful to determine in order to evaluate the argument?

- (1) Whether the pollens of systematically modified silk contain more insecticides than other parts of the plant
- (2) Whether insecticides are as effective against silk-eating insects as commercial insecticides typically used on silk
- (3) Whether the insects that feed on modified silk plants are likely to be killed by insecticide from the plant's pollen
- (4) Whether the toxicity of the insecticides is the chief cause of the poisoning of caterpillars

23. You may have heard of the current kerfuffle here in America about the sin of what is being called "cultural appropriation". Some students at Bowdoin, a small liberal arts college in chilly Maine, were punished recently for wearing Mexican sombreros at a Mexican theme party. They had appropriated Mexican culture as a white person's prerogative.

Which of the following options will best defend the punished students?

- (1) Some other students in the party were dressed in Nazi costumes and were not punished.
- (2) "Cultural appropriation" is a vague concept.

- (3) Everyone in the USA enjoys the freedom of speech.
- (4) "Cultural appropriation" is defined as demeaning another culture and sombreros are a symbol of Mexican pride.

24. The committee on sexual discrimination in the workplace has highlighted Supremo Ltd. as an offender. Of the twenty senior executives in the firm, only one is a woman. And of the forty junior executives, only five are female.

Which of the following would most strengthen the case against Supremo Ltd.?

- (1) Twenty times more women than men apply to the company for various positions.
- (2) All the six female employees of the company are also unmarried.
- (3) The company has assigned odd work hours to its male and female employees.
- (4) All the rejected job applicants of Supremo Ltd., primarily women, had better qualifications and work experience than those hired.

25. No concrete justification has ever been presented for the claim that the right for homosexuals to marry would affect straight marriage negatively. Instead, this claim seems to be a cover for the religious and/or moral belief that gay marriage is wrong. One would think that individuals who oppose gay marriage on those grounds would ensure that their own children are brought up to believe in straight marriage and that therefore the existence of gay marriage would have no effect on them. On the other hand, heterosexual individuals who support gay marriage clearly think it presents no problem to their own marriages.

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

- (1) With a divorce rate of 50%, celebrities divorcing and getting married four or more times, it's clear that our society, as a whole, places misplaced importance on the meaning of marriage.
- (2) There is no correlation between the impacts of one kind of marriage on another kind of marriage as no empirical data exists to prove this.
- (3) Blacks have been given their rights, women have been given their rights, and deaf and mentally challenged people are not now seen as "mentally insane" or "animals", it is about time homosexuals are given the right to marry.
- (4) Gay marriage, if anything, confirms the commitment value of marriage by providing an example of people who want to get married by choice and even if they have to overcome roadblocks.

D. Weakening the Argument

Directions for questions 26 to 30: Read the following information carefully and choose the most appropriate option.

26. A nature conservancy expert found little support for his campaign to protect toads. He suggested that, even though the campaign highlighted the vital role the toads played in the ecology of the region, people were unenthusiastic about saving toads as these animals are perceived as unpleasant creatures, and people seldom feel passionate about animals for which they have no positive feelings.

Which of the following seriously undermines the validity of the above argument?

- (1) A toad may turn out to be a prince. Almost everyone in the region has read that story.
- (2) A similar ongoing campaign to save bats in the region has proven unsuccessful.
- (3) A similar campaign in the region to protect the snakes and lizards in the region found massive support from people.

- (4) Some children of the region have pledged their support for the campaign to protect toads.

27. In the haste to fill positions, those making the hiring decisions often fail to invest enough time in making sure that the new hire is a good fit for the position. A "good fit" includes assessing the candidate's skills, talent and job experience. It also requires examining the potential new hire's personality, including his/her beliefs, attitudes and motivations. Which of the following, if true, will mitigate the validity of the above argument?

- (1) A good personality and a strong belief system don't ensure moral rectitude.
- (2) Most of the parameters that decide a "good fit" can't be assessed objectively by recruiters.
- (3) Recruiters often suffer from time constraint which hinders their ability to take informed hiring decisions.
- (4) A "good fit" will help the organization in more ways than one.

28. A marriage counsellor noted that couples who have occasional violent arguments are less likely to divorce within the next six months than those who have frequent but less violent arguments. He concluded that frequent arguing is a major factor in the causation of severe marital disharmony.

Which of the following will refute the counsellor's inference?

- (1) A recent study suggested that frequent arguing is one of the several causes of severe marital disharmony.
- (2) Most of the alimony cases ultimately ended in amicable out-of-court settlements.
- (3) Bottling up feelings is a far more important factor than frequent arguing that causes severe marital disharmony.
- (4) A recent study proved that it is the lack of expression of emotions and not the frequency of arguing that have an effect on marital disharmony.

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| <p>29. It has been observed by a restaurant that people generally spend more amount of money per head when they are in a group. The same restaurant is now considering opting a “no-stag-entry” policy to increase the revenue from the same customer base. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the assumption made by the restaurant?</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the assumption made by the restaurant?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) People often come to the restaurant to socialize, not to eat.(2) Most of the people who come alone order more food as compared to the ones who come in groups.(3) The amount of money a group spends is generally skewed in favour of the tip and the amount of food ordered doesn't affect it.(4) The number of people who come alone to the restaurant is very large as compared to the number of people coming in groups. | <p>30. Universities must increase diversity, by any means necessary. Due to constant discrimination of minorities throughout history, certain people were not given the same advantages as others. Therefore, it is only fair that minorities are given advantages now, so that the playing field can be levelled. The universities should use discrimination in that direction, if the need be. Increasing diversity will enrich the universities too.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, weakens the argument above?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Schools should choose students based solely on their grades, test scores, and applications, because basing it on ethnicity, race, or gender is wrong.(2) Rather than change the rules to rectify a perceived injustice, universities should create admission policies that are neutral, giving everyone the same chance to gain admission.(3) Not having a meritocracy is one of the key failings of the 21st century society.(4) Any sort of discrimination is negative, and should not be considered as a method to increase diversity in universities. |
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VA - 07 : Verbal Logic - 2

Answers and Explanations

CEX-V-0243/18

1	–	2	–	3	–	4	–	5	–	6	–	7	–	8	–	9	–	10	–
11	3	12	4	13	1	14	3	15	2	16	2	17	3	18	3	19	4	20	3
21	2	22	4	23	4	24	4	25	2	26	3	27	2	28	4	29	4	30	4

For questions 1 to 10:

1.	Lament	d	Celebrate
2.	Irascible	g	Amiable
3.	Itinerant	h	Static
4.	Apogee	j	Nadir
5.	Baleful	c	Benevolent
6.	Vexation	i	Happiness
7.	Warranted	b	Unjustified
8.	Epiphany	e	Secret
9.	Recluse	f	Extrovert
10.	Archetypal	a	Unique

11. 3 Use the fundamentals of Deductive logic we learned in VA-03.
12. 4 From the given inferences, option (4) is the best choice. The paragraph doesn't blame "remaining busy" as the root cause of the problems. Hence, option (1) is eliminated. Option (2) is too generic a conclusion which is not supported by the facts in the passage. Option (3) is similarly generic. Option (4) is the best choice as the author has discussed environment and lifestyle as the root cause of the problems.
13. 1 Only the first conclusion follows. By direct deduction.
14. 3 Option (1) is already given as a fact. Option (2) and (4) are irrelevant.
15. 2 Option (1) is incorrect as we cannot say from the information that the demand is 'global'. The demand may be only from one or two countries. Option (3) is incorrect as domestic demand may have fallen for other reasons besides increased exports. Option (4) is incorrect as we cannot say which brings more revenue as we do not know how much total production of each item is. Option (2) is correct as the production is increasing, domestic demand has fallen and that there is a good amount of cotton exports. This can only mean that the cotton produced is being exported.
16. 2 Assumption (I) is clearly not implicit. The father might be warning the child only out of concern and not because of the child's habit. The father warns his child with the expectation that he would stay away from unknown people. So, assumption (II) is implicit.
17. 3 Option (2) is incorrect as the passage is silent on India's past. So it cannot be assumed if democracy was a failure in the past or not. Because of the same reason option (4) is incorrect. Option (2) is incorrect as can be seen from the last sentence of the given argument. It clearly states that women need to assert themselves in all spheres of life. Option (3) is the most appropriate assumption as immediately after mentioning how democracy can be success in India; the passage elaborates on the bias between men and women and insists on its removal.
18. 3 Option (1) and Option (4) can be directly eliminated as they are not valid assumptions to the company's conclusion that island Y venture will be a profitable one. There are two points to this argument. One is that the cost will go down. The second is that the company won't harm the environment.
19. 4 Option (1) has no connection with the argument. Option (2) is an abstract idea because the President wants stricter nuclear regime and is not willing to practice patience as a virtue. Option (3) is incorrect because it is more of an inference and cannot be an assumption. Option (4) appears to be the most plausible assumption since the President clearly states, "Rules must be binding, violations must be punished, and words must mean something!"
20. 3 Option (1) is clearly mentioned in the paragraph. Therefore it cannot be an assumption. Option (2) is more of an argument than an assumption as it calls for measures from G20 countries. Option (3) is an assumption because as per the argument if the countries, most at risk from the global recession, are not involved as part of the solution, the situation can deteriorate, impacting the functioning of governments and deteriorated law and order situation. The same is highlighted in the example of the popular protests in China. Options (4) may not necessarily be true and is not implied by the passage.

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|---|---|
| <p>21. 2 The conclusion of the paragraph is that the government has to take steps for imposing stricter labour laws. Option (1) doesn't add to this idea. Similarly option (4) talks about a desirable outcome but it doesn't enforce the conclusion. Option (3) shows how another government has benefited from a similar stance but it doesn't prove a case for the Indian government as no data has been given to compare the two governments and their situations. Option (2) clearly states a reason for the conclusion to be enforced.</p> | <p>26. 3 The author's primary argument is that the campaign failed because people didn't like toads. Only option (3) comes close to weakening this perception. The words "similar campaign" in option (3) suggest that snakes and lizards might also be perceived to be unpleasant and yet, the campaign has generated support. Option (1) is irrelevant to this argument. Option (2) will strengthen the argument by providing an additional premise. Option (4) fails to contradict the premise of this argument as "some children" doesn't constitute majority</p> |
| <p>22. 4 The argument intends to expose the harm these silk strains are causing to the butterfly population. The blame has been placed on the poisoning. Only (4) mentions this. This step will evaluate the validity of the argument most seriously.</p> | <p>27. 2 Options (3) and (4) will strengthen the argument of the author. Hence, they can be eliminated. Option (1) is too generic as moral rectitude is not directly related to the topic under discussion. Option (2) will definitely weaken the argument that due to time constraint, recruiters don't assess these skills. Hence, Option (2) is the answer.</p> |
| <p>23. 4 Only option (4), if true, is relevant in defending the punished students. Option (1) is irrelevant as Nazi costume may or may not constitute "cultural appropriation". Option (2) is a vague argument in itself. This argument is not directly related to freedom of speech. It is also unclear whether the students were punished by a court of law. Freedom of speech also doesn't mean demeaning another culture. Hence, Option (4) is the answer.</p> | <p>28. 4 Stating that frequent arguing is one of the several causes does not imply that it can't be a major cause of marital discord. So option (1) is eliminated. Option (2) does not affect the argument. Stating that bottling up feelings is a more important cause than frequent arguing, again, does not imply that frequent arguing isn't a major cause. So option (3) is also eliminated. Option (4) states that frequent arguing does not have any impact on marital disharmony and thus completely negates the premise. Hence, option (4) is the answer.</p> |
| <p>24. 4 Option (1) does not affect the argument because a larger proportion of women applying for the job does not mean that a larger proportion is eligible or fit for the job. Option (2) also does not highlight sexual discrimination as it may be the case that all the male employees are also unmarried. In option (3), odd work-hours have been assigned both to male and female employees and this again doesn't strengthen the case of sexual discrimination. Option (4) clearly strengthens the case. It shows that sexual discrimination was practiced even during the hiring process.</p> | <p>29. 4 Option (1) will strengthen the argument. Option (3) is irrelevant as how the money is counted doesn't matter. Option (2) will not weaken as "amount of food" doesn't necessarily mean "more money". Option (4) will seriously weaken the argument as barring the entry of so many customers will definitely affect the profit of the restaurant. Hence, option (4) is the answer.</p> |
| <p>25. 2 The argument here is that the right for homosexuals to marry does not affect straight marriage negatively. Option (1) is unrelated because it doesn't talk about the subject at hand i.e. how homosexuals' marriage will affect straight marriages. Option (3) does not address the argument completely because it talks about the right of homosexuals to marry and not the effect of such a marriage on straight marriage. Option (2) is correct as it tells us that there is no link between gay marriages and straight marriages and that gay marriage will not change anything that affects straight marriage. Option (4) only says that homosexual marriages confirm the commitment value of marriage but does not tell us if this will have any negative effect on straight marriage.</p> | <p>30. 4 The argument here is that universities must increase diversity by whatever means necessary, even if it entails positive discrimination. Option (1) is a mere opinion that basing admissions on ethnicity, race, or gender is wrong. It doesn't provide any additional data, evidence or information against the argument. Option (2) is an advice on what the universities should do. It doesn't provide additional data, evidence or information against the argument. Option (3) talks about 'not having meritocracy' being one of the key issues of the 21st century. The statement does not connect with the argument. Only option (4) weakens the argument by saying that 'any discrimination' has negative effects and hence should not be employed as a technique for improving diversity.</p> |