

Critical Reasoning

Based on XAT, SNAP and CMAT

Number of Questions : 25

CEX-0506/18

Directions for questions 1 to 21: Read the following arguments carefully and answer the question given at the end of each argument.

1. Elderly people with few worries and little stress are probably better protected against the progress of Alzheimer's disease than their peers who are under psychological pressure. Stress can promote the kind of brain degeneration that leads to symptoms of dementia, according to Argentine researchers attending a recent congress of the European Neurological Society in Prague. The researchers said this was good reason to pay greater heed to psychological health among the elderly. Alzheimer's is said to be the most common form of dementia in the world, with the risk factors found to be age, high blood pressure, diabetes, and physical and mental idleness.

The inference that can be validly drawn from the information presented above is:

- A. Stress causes Alzheimer's in the elderly.
- B. Dementia and Alzheimer's are diseases caused by aging.
- C. Physical and mental activity can help delay the onset of dementia.
- D. Diabetics with high blood pressure and low levels of activity and high levels of stress should be careful and get regular checkups done to catch the signs of Alzheimer's early.

- (a) C and A
- (c) A, C and D

- (b) D only
- (d) B and D

2. If the city wants round-the-clock power, the citizens will have to pay. That was the gist of Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit's explanation on Monday about the recent steep hike in power tariffs. Pointing to "high cost" of power generation, Ms. Dikshit said people should not overlook the quality of power supply in Delhi while talking about the cost. "We do not want Delhi to be like the remaining cities in the National Capital Region such as Noida, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad where because of erratic power supply people spend anywhere from Rs.12 to Rs.15 per unit on procuring power." She said the cost of power production has also gone up significantly from Rs.2.86 per unit in 2005 to over Rs.5 per unit now on account of increase in the cost of fuel.

Which of the following if true weakens the argument above?

- (a) Delhi has always had the highest rate of electricity loss due to inefficiencies in the distribution process and the cost of that is borne by consumers.
- (b) In recent years, rate of electricity theft has been the highest in Delhi as compared to other cities in the National Capital Region and is increasing continuously.
- (c) Delhi has been experiencing more power cuts in the recent past than it ever did.
- (d) Gurgaon has round the clock privatized power supply.

3. Health is currently a privilege in India. Not a right. Maternal and child health remains neglected even after countless plans, programs and political proclamations. Every year, nearly 60,000 women die in pregnancy and childbirth, while approximately 1.7 million children of less than five years of age also die. In absolute numbers, India outranks all other countries in both regards. Sadly, most deaths can be prevented with available technologies. Many diseases such as tuberculosis and pneumonia kill thousands every year. While infectious diseases are very much a concern, chronic diseases are now rapidly catching up. India has become the capital of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Health targets in plan after plan have not been achieved, yet there has been no systematic analysis of why health systems fail to achieve these targets.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above?

- (a) Little has been done to address health issues in India.
- (b) Chronic diseases are equally worrisome than infectious diseases.
- (c) India has health systems which are not doing their job.
- (d) Diabetes, high blood pressure and heart diseases are chronic diseases.

4. Instead of focusing on painting, sculpture, and architecture, scholars from various disciplines began to investigate how the material significance of furniture, food, clothing, ceramics, and other apparently mundane objects shaped the Renaissance world. Instead of seeing similarities, these approaches suggested the gulf between the Renaissance and the modern world. Objects and personal identities were not fixed and unchangeable, as Burckhardt had implied in his celebration of 'modern' man: they were fluid and contingent.

Which of the following statements best summarises the argument above?

- (a) A study of how the material significance of furniture, food, clothing, ceramics, and other apparently mundane objects shaped the Renaissance world has revealed that objects and personal identities were fluid and contingent, as Burckhardt had implied.
 - (b) A study of how the material significance of furniture, food, clothing, ceramics, and other apparently mundane objects shaped the Renaissance world has revealed that objects and personal identities were different from those in the modern world.
 - (c) A study of how the material significance of furniture, food, clothing, ceramics, and other apparently mundane objects shaped the Renaissance world suggested that there was a gap between the modern world and that of the Renaissance.
 - (d) A study of how the material significance of furniture, food, clothing, ceramics, and other apparently mundane objects shaped the Renaissance world proved that objects and personal identities were fluid and contingent.
5. Natural disasters are, of course, beyond human control. But human action and inaction can profoundly affect their outcome, exacerbating or mitigating their effects on people. This point was forcefully made in the United Nations 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. Although natural calamities strike the wealthier nations too, the risk of death and economic loss from such events is heavily concentrated in developing countries and within these countries, it is the poor who disproportionately suffer. As U.N. Secretary-General observed: "Pre-emptive risk reduction is the key. Sound response mechanisms after the event, however effective, are never enough."

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

- (a) Japan has been able to build one of the world's most prosperous economies on densely populated islands that face the ever-present threat of earthquakes and tsunamis.
- (b) Despite years of unrelenting efforts, predicting earthquakes — the holy grail of seismology — has only got tougher.
- (c) A series of high magnitude earthquakes that struck different parts of the globe in recent years has made scientists realize that rocks respond to strain and seismic waves in a far more dynamic manner than was originally assumed. And hence it is impossible to predict earthquake occurrences.
- (d) Governments in India and other developing countries have not found practical ways to reduce their vulnerability to a variety of natural hazards that extract a toll from their people and economies.

6. What is a preventable and easily treatable disease is now threatening to overwhelm India with taking innumerable lives, growing drug resistant forms, rising treatment costs and greater suffering. The prevention of drug resistant TB relies heavily on the effectiveness with which control efforts will succeed to treat TB patients in both the public and the private sectors. The programme cannot rest on its success; it must take a multi-pronged approach to TB control. If not, India must prepare itself to address growing drug resistance, rising treatment costs and extreme human suffering from what is a preventable and easily treatable disease.

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

- (a) 50 per cent of a TB patient's first point of diagnosis and treatment is in the private sector and the engagement of the private sector by the government has remained unsuccessful.
- (b) Tuberculosis is a disease of antiquity that claims nearly 1,000 lives every day in India.
- (c) Though drug resistant TB has been in existence for long, it has lethal forms that continue to emerge.
- (d) An advanced form of drug resistance has been reported recently in India. In this form of the disease, none of the known TB drugs or their combination works.

7. Researchers at the Creighton University Medical Center in the U.S. found that women who took calcium supplements for over a year were found to have higher calcium levels in their blood and urine, a condition called hypercalciuria, which could increase the risk of kidney stones. Hence women should not take calcium supplements.

Which of the following if true would not weaken the validity of the experiment above?

- (a) The sample of women on which the experiment was conducted only comprised of women in their 40's.
- (b) For the duration of the trial, the women in the experiment had no exposure to sunlight, which is the only way the body produces vitamin D which allows the absorption of calcium by the body.
- (c) Vitamin D and Calcium are water soluble and excess amounts if any are excreted by the body daily.
- (d) It's important to monitor blood and urine calcium levels in people who take these supplements on a long-term basis before any conclusion can be reached.

8. Standardized tests are reliable and objective measures of student achievement. Without them, policy makers would have to rely on tests scored by individual schools and teachers who have a vested interest in producing favorable results. Multiple-choice tests, in particular, are graded by machine and therefore are not subject to human subjectivity or bias. 93% of studies have found student testing, including the use of large-scale and high-stakes standardized tests, to have a “positive effect” on student achievement, according to a research.

Which of the following if true weakens the argument above?

- (a) It has been observed that 50-80% of year-over-year test score improvements were temporary and caused by fluctuations that had nothing to do with long-term changes in learning.
- (b) These days there is large scale commercialization of education and private schools allegedly do a lot to produce favorable results.
- (c) Instruction time is being consumed by monotonous test preparation leaving little time to learn.
- (d) Standardized tests are unfair and discriminatory, because students with diverse backgrounds and skill levels are expected to answer questions written for the white, abled majority.

9. 18 is the age of adulthood in the United States, and adults should have the right to make their own decisions about alcohol consumption. Turning 18 entails receiving the rights and responsibilities of adulthood to vote, smoke cigarettes, serve on juries, get married, sign contracts, be prosecuted as adults, and join the military - which includes risking one's life. Hence the Minimum Legal Drinking Age (MLDA) should be lowered from 21 to 18.

Which of the following if true strengthens the argument above?

- (a) Higher traffic accident and fatality rates occur during the first few years of legal drinking regardless of age.
- (b) Many countries with Minimum Legal Drinking Age 18 have similar or better drunk driving statistics than the United States.
- (c) MLDA 21 enforcement is given low priority or ignored by many law enforcement agencies due to resource limitations, statutory obstacles, perceptions that punishments are inadequate, and the time and effort required for processing and paperwork.
- (d) Prohibiting this age group from drinking in bars, restaurants, and other licensed locations causes them to drink in unsupervised places such as fraternity houses or house parties where they may be more prone to binge drinking and other unsafe behavior.

10. Stoicism often presented itself, particularly at first, in a deliberately harsh light, emphasizing doctrines that are so far from common sense as to be paradoxical. However, Stoicism as a philosophy is holistic – that is, its parts can be developed separately, but ultimately the aim is to understand them all in relation to the other parts. Hence Stoic ‘paradoxes’ increasingly make sense and acquire conviction as they are appreciated against the background of Stoic arguments and connected ideas.

Which of the following statements best summarises the argument above?

- (a) Although the doctrines of Stoicism may seem far from common sense, they start to make sense and acquire conviction after a deeper study of Stoicism.
- (b) Doctrines of Stoicism are parts of a whole and make sense when they are considered as such.
- (c) Stoicism can seem deliberately harsh as its doctrines seem to contradict common sense but its paradoxes can be resolved.
- (d) Paradoxes of stoicism need to be appreciated within the context of other Stoic arguments if they are to be resolved.

11. Milk is one-stop shopping for nutrition. It contains nearly all the basic nutrients that a growing child needs: fats, carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals (except iron). While it is true that most of the nutrients in milk can be gotten easily from other sources, such as vegetables, legumes, and seafood, milk puts them all together in a convenient package. Realistically, children eat or drink dairy products in greater amounts and more consistently than other foods. While whole milk is not the only way to get calcium in a child's diet, it's the most practical way for most.

The above is contradicted by which of the statement below?

- (a) Dairy products contribute to a surprising number of health problems. They can impair a child's ability to absorb iron and in very small children can even cause subtle blood loss from the digestive tract.
 - (b) Studies have suggested that some of the nutritional benefits of milk may be lost when a lactase-deficient [lactose intolerant] individual consumes milk.
 - (c) There is much debate over whether long-term consumption of dairy products helps bones at all. A good deal of evidence suggests that it does not.
 - (d) It is well known that rBGH [synthetic bovine growth hormone] found in milk can increase levels of another growth hormone, IGF-1, which is identical in cows and humans. At elevated levels, IGF-1 can cause cancer in humans.
12. Greenhouse gas emissions are considered a form of pollution because they cause potential harm and damage through impacts on the climate. However, in this case, because society has been slow to recognise the link between greenhouse gases and climate change, and because the atmosphere is considered by some to be a 'global commons' (that everyone shares and has a right to use), emitters are generally not held responsible for controlling this form of pollution.

Which of the following statements best summarises the argument above?

- (a) Greenhouse gas emitters are not held responsible for controlling pollution because the link between greenhouse gases and climate change has not been proven.
 - (b) Society does not want to hold greenhouse emitters responsible as the atmosphere is a 'global commons' and everyone has the right to use it.
 - (c) A delay in the recognition of the link between greenhouse gases and climate change and the widely held belief that the atmosphere is a 'global commons' and everyone has the right to use it has led to emitters not being held responsible.
 - (d) A delay in the recognition of the link between greenhouse gases and climate change and the belief that the atmosphere is a 'global commons' and everyone has the right to use it has led to emitters not being held responsible.
13. A UN panel of more than 2,000 scientists predicted in its latest report in 2001 that average sea levels are likely to rise by 9-88 cms (3.5-35 inches) by 2100, mainly because of a build-up of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere from human burning of fossil fuels. "If the higher end of that scale is reached, the sea could overflow the heavily populated coastlines of such countries as Bangladesh, cause the disappearance of some nations entirely (such as the island state of the Maldives), foul freshwater supplies for billions of people and spur mass migrations," according to a UN statement. The 2001 report said that seas rose by 10-20 cms in the 20th century, far faster than the century average for the past few thousand years.

Which of the following, if true, will strengthen the argument?

- (a) Scientists say that a 50 cm sea rise can typically cause a 50 metre retreat of the coastline where the land is relatively flat.
- (b) A UN panel of more than 2,000 scientists predicted a similar event in its earlier report in 1965.
- (c) Global warming is being tackled on a war footing.
- (d) Environmentalists are considering taking adequate steps to counter this eventuality.
- (e) Islands form again almost as soon as they get washed away.

14. Bar and restaurant owners are refusing to police a smoking ban when it takes effect on Monday in Italy, a country where breaking the rules is often considered a right.

The ban — delayed for a few days so revellers could enjoy their last ever New Year celebrations in smoky bars — aims to end passive smoking and deter those who choose to pursue a habit which kills 90,000 people in Italy every year.

“Those who want to smoke can do it in the street or at home but not right next to people who can’t stand it and who cannot tolerate being poisoned,” said the author of the new law, Health Minister Girolamo Sirchia.

“The majority of the population is tired of being poisoned by the smoke in the air where they work or where they play ... the majority, three quarters of Italians, is with us.”

What is the central idea of the passage?

- (a) Bar and restaurant owners do not want to offend their customers.
- (b) Italy is famous for breaking laws.
- (c) Smoking kills 90,000 people in Italy every year.
- (d) The Italian government is all set to enforce the ban on smoking in public places.
- (e) Three quarters of the Italians are with the government.

15. Alfredo, Diego and Lionel are discussing Argentinean football.

Alfredo: Argentina was a football powerhouse.

Diego: Argentina is a football powerhouse.

Lionel: Argentina will be a football powerhouse.

Which of the following cannot be inferred from the above conversation?

- (a) Lionel is optimistic about the future.
- (b) Alfredo, Diego and Lionel may disagree on certain things.
- (c) Diego views the present positively.
- (d) Alfredo completely disagrees with Diego.
- (e) Alfredo has positive feelings about the past.

XAT - 2012

16. Ethologists, people who study animal behaviour, have traditionally divided an organism's actions into two categories: learned behaviour (based on experience) and instinctive behaviour (based on genotype). Some current scholars reject this distinction, claiming that all behaviour is a predictable interaction of experience and genotype.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the arguments made in the sentence above?

- (a) All organisms with identical genotypes and identical experience sometimes respond differently in different situations.
- (b) All organisms with different genotypes and identical experience always respond identically in identical situations.
- (c) All organisms with similar genotypes and similar experience always respond differently in identical situations.
- (d) All organisms with identical genotypes and identical experience always respond identically in identical situations.
- (e) All organisms with identical genotypes and different experience always respond identically in identical situations.

XAT - 2012

17. When income tax rates are reduced, there is an increase in taxable income, and an Increase In taxable income results in increased total income tax revenues for the government.

Which of the following is analogous to the argument above in terms of its logical features?

- (a) If the city municipal corporation increases taxes on property by 1% it will raise tax revenues, which can be used for garbage disposal management.
- (b) The Leader of the Opposition at the Parliament argued that a restriction on the import of Chinese manufacturing products will increase the sales of Indian manufacturing products.
- (c) An advertisement using more than 25 words of text will not be read, and when an advertisement is not read, the product is not sold. Therefore, the fewer words an advertisement has, the more effective it will be in promoting its product.
- (d) The balance of payment of a country will improve if the country reduces its imports and increases exports.
- (e) Citizens earning more than 15 lakh rupees per annum pay at an increased tax rate of 40%. Citizens earning less than 1 lakh rupees per annum can be exempted from paying income taxes without decreasing the revenues of the Income Tax Department.

XAT - 2012

18. As the information on air warfare tasks and stressors was being gathered and scenarios were being developed, a parallel effort ensued to identify a test bed simulation for air warfare teams. To maintain experimental control, it was determined by the designers that choosing a low physical fidelity simulation was acceptable as long as cognitive fidelity in a team simulation was maintained through subjecting soldiers to pressure situations in a simulated combat setting and attempting to ensure that naturalistic decision making of soldiers would not be compromised.

Which of the following statements, if true, weakens the logic of the above passage?

- i. A number of studies have shown that high levels of physical stress lead to a weakening of the decision making capabilities of human beings.
- ii. It has been convincingly demonstrated by various studies that human beings by nature are not designed to adapt to high levels of mental stress.
- iii. Numerous studies have shown that simulated environments can be designed to be good substitutes for real life combat situations.
- iv. Studies have shown that simulated exercises for armed forces personnel have tended to induce a systematic type of "correct" and common behaviour among the trainees.
- v. Officers, when short-listing soldiers for critical operations, pick up battle-hardened soldiers rather than those who have been trained through simulations.

- (a) i and ii
- (b) ii and iii
- (c) i and iv
- (d) i, ii, iv, and v
- (e) ii, iii, iv and v

XAT - 2011

19. Randomness has to be dealt with successfully to ensure a better control over one's life. Before one can deal effectively with randomness, one must acknowledge its existence.

The above statements imply the following *except*:

- (a) Randomness can be dealt with effectively.
- (b) If one acknowledges the existence of randomness, one will be able to deal with it effectively.
- (c) One can deal effectively with randomness if and only if one acknowledges its existence.
- (d) Everyone lives in a random world.
- (e) If one does not acknowledge the existence of randomness, one cannot deal with it effectively.

XAT - 2011

20. Media are not just passive channels of information. Not only do they supply the stuff of thought, but they also shape the process of thought. And what the Internet seems to be doing is chipping away our capacity for concentration.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument presented above?

- (a) Nietzsche was forced to use a typewriter when he started losing his vision. After he mastered the machine, he could type with his eyes closed. It was later found that under the effect of the machine, Nietzsche's prose "changed from arguments to aphorisms, from thoughts to puns, from rhetoric to telegram style".
- (b) One of the effects of the timekeeping instruments has been that we have started deciding on our daily activities based on the clock and not based on our senses.
- (c) Studies have shown that the essay writing skills of an average 15 - 20 year old, who spends a lot of time browsing the Internet, is comparable to what it was among the average 15-20 year old, throughout the 1980s and the 1990s.
- (d) A recent study has shown that the number of people who fall asleep while reading a printed book has increased in the last five years.
- (e) The ability of the younger judges, who have grown up with ready access to Internet, to judge complex and intricate cases, has, on an average, become better as compared to what it was for judges of comparable age profile during the 1920s.

XAT - 2011

21. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument presented in the previous question?

- (a) Nietzsche was forced to use a typewriter when he started losing his vision. After he mastered the machine, he could type with his eyes closed. It was later found that under the effect of the machine, Nietzsche's prose "changed from

arguments to aphorisms, from thoughts to puns, from rhetoric to telegram style".

- (b) One of the effects of the timekeeping instruments has been that we have started deciding on our daily activities based on the clock and not based on our senses.
- (c) Studies have shown that the essay writing skills of an average 15 - 20 year old, who spends a lot of time browsing the Internet, is comparable to what it was among the average 15-20 year old, throughout the 1980s and the 1990s.
- (d) A recent study has shown that the number of people who fall asleep while reading a printed book has increased in the last five years.
- (e) The ability of the younger judges, who have grown up with ready access to Internet, to judge complex and intricate cases, has, on an average, become better as compared to what it was during the 1920s.

XAT - 2011

Directions for questions 22 and 23: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end of the passage.

Silver is especially and repetitively savage about what he sees as the extravagant claims made for particle physics, arguing that once the proton, neutron, and electron were found and their properties experimentally confirmed, the very expensive searches for ever more exotic particles, such as the Higgs Boson, were increasingly harder to justify other than by their importance to particle physicists. Most of the particles resemble ecstatic happiness: They are very short-lived and have nothing to do with everyday life. His repeated assault goes to the level of sarcasm: "Finding the Higgs Boson will be a magnificent technical and theoretical triumph. Like a great Bobby Fisher game". Of course, this is a tad unfair, even if some of the claims of its practitioners invite such assaults on their field.

22. Which of the following, if true, will weaken the argument described in the passage?
- (a) All streams of new science need to undergo through a period of uncertainty and we should not criticise research in particle physics alone.
 - (b) Necessity is the mother of every invention.
 - (c) Knowledge has preceded application in all spheres of science.
 - (d) Funding agency supporting research on Higgs Boson do not mind wasting their money.
 - (e) Do not expect everyone to appreciate everything.

XAT - 2010

23. Identify the statement(s) that is (are) logically consistent with the content of the paragraph:
- I. Silver is an ardent critic of Higgs Boson theory.
 - II. Everyday life has nothing to do with experimental confirmation of the properties of proton, neutron and electron.
 - III. Identifying more information about Higgs Boson is a significant contribution to particle physics.
 - IV. Research on exotic particles in particle physics is an expensive proposition.
- (a) Only I
 - (b) Only II
 - (c) Only II and IV
 - (d) Only IV
 - (e) Only I and IV

XAT - 2010

Directions for questions 24 and 25: Read the following arguments carefully and answer the question given at the end of each argument.

24. Although most of the fastest growing jobs in today's economy will require a college degree, many of the new jobs being created-from home health aide to desktop publisher-require knowledge other than that gained from earning a degree. For workers in those jobs, good basic skills in reading, communication, and mathematics play an important role in getting a job and developing a career.

- From the information given above it can be validly concluded that, in today's economy,
- (a) skills in reading, communication, and mathematics play an important role in developing a career as a desktop publisher.
 - (b) the majority of the new jobs being created require knowledge other than that gained from earning a college degree.
 - (c) a job as a home health aide will rely more on communication skills than on basic skills in reading and mathematics.
 - (d) if a job is one of the fastest growing jobs, it will require a college degree.

SNAP - 2009

25. According to the National Agricultural Aviation Society (NAAS), without the use of crop protection products to control insects, weeds, and diseases, crop yields per acre will drop by more than 50 percent. The first aerial application of insecticide occurred in 1921, and it was a huge success. By contrast, in today's economy all aircraft that are classified as aerial applicators do more than just apply insecticide; today, they also spread seed and apply fertilizer.

From the information given above it CANNOT be validly concluded that

- (a) according to the NAAS, if crop yields per acre never drop by more than 50 percent, then crop protection products have been used to control insects, weeds, and diseases.
- (b) in today's economy, any aircraft that cannot be used to apply fertilizer cannot be classified as an aerial applicator.
- (c) in today's economy, if an aerial applicator is used, then it will be able to spread seed and to apply fertilizer.
- (d) according to the NAAS, if crop yields per acre drop by more than 50 percent, then crop protection products have not been used to control insects, weeds, and diseases.

SNAP - 2009

Answers and Explanations

1	b	2	b	3	d	4	c	5	c	6	a	7	d	8	d	9	d	10	b
11	d	12	d	13	a	14	d	15	d	16	d	17	c	18	a	19	b	20	a
21	e	22	c	23	d	24	b	25	d										

1. b Statement A is untrue because as per the passage stress promotes brain degeneration but does not necessarily cause Alzheimer. A 'cause' is the reason for the disease and a 'risk factor' increases the chances of acquiring the disease. For example HIV is due the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. When the virus enters your body and infects the cell it reproduces and causes a break down in the body immune system/ defense. Thus the cause of HIV is the virus. Whereas the risk factor for HIV is what a person does that exposes them more into getting the disease. Thus for HIV it will be : engaging in unprotected sex, sharing needles when taking drugs, herpes and HPV as these also decrease your body's immune system. Statement B may be factually correct but there is no evidence in the passage to suggest that aging causes dementia. Statement C cannot be inferred from the passage because Alzheimer's is **only** one type of dementia. There may be other types of dementia for which physical and mental idleness is not risk factors. Statement D can be inferred because the last sentences say "with the risk factors found to be age, high blood pressure, diabetes, and physical and mental idleness." These imply that people with these risk factors need to be extra careful. We can extend the logic and say that through regular checkups they can catch the early signs of Alzheimer's if any.
2. b Increase in cost of fuel and Delhi is still better off compared to the other cities in NCR. The argument focuses on "Pointing to "high cost" of power generation." Option (a) does not talk about the change in cost of power, only about the additional cost that consumers have to bear. Since this additional cost has 'always' been there, it cannot account for the recent rise in prices. Option (b) suggests that the cost borne by consumers is increasing because theft is increasing and that loss is being proportioned to paying customers. Option (c) is unrelated because it just talks about the power situation in Delhi relative to earlier and not relative to other cities. Option (d) does not add anything to the argument - having round the clock privatized power supply does not say anything about the cost of power.
3. d The paragraph talks about the dismal state of health in India and how our health systems have not been able to achieve their objectives. Option (a), says that not much has been done to address health issues in India – this may or may not be true. The objectives that were not achieved could have been unrealistically high. The paragraph says that chronic disease are catching up with infectious diseases in being a concern, whereas option (b) says that chronic disease are at the same level of causing concern. This is untrue. Option (c) says that the health systems are not doing their job at all. This may or may not be true. We can infer that the health systems are not doing their job well but not that they are not doing their job at all. Option (d) can be inferred from the sentences "While infectious diseases are very much a concern, chronic diseases are now rapidly catching up. India has become the capital of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease." The author after mentioning the concern that chronic diseases are catching up, gives an example of the diseases. While the sentence prior to these two sentences talked about infectious diseases, the sentence which follows talks about chronic diseases.
4. c The main idea in the paragraph is that scholars began research that '*suggested the gulf between the Renaissance and the modern world*'. Objects and personal identities is one of the ways in which they were different. It is a specific instance that can only be brought in as an addition to the main idea and not in its place. Therefore, (c) is the answer and not (b). Option (a) is incorrect as it contradicts Burckhardt's ideas. Option (d) is incorrect as it has a stronger tone. The option says it '*proved*' whereas the passage only mentions '*suggested*'.
5. c The argument here is that "human action and inaction can profoundly affect the outcome of natural disasters, exacerbating or mitigating their effects on people". Option (a) strengthens the argument by providing an example of how Japan has been able to prosper despite the risk and occurrence of natural disasters. Option (b) just laments that prediction is getting tougher, it does not say it is impossible to predict and hence does nothing to reduce the strength of the argument that human intervention can help. Option (c) says that human intervention is impossible and hence it follows

that it can't help, leading to a weakening of the argument. Option (d) again just mentions that the developing countries have not been able to find a way – this does not say that such a way does not exist or has not been found by other countries.

6. a The argument above is that the current state is not satisfactory and more needs to be done to address TB since it is becoming a big threat. Option (d) is just a restatement of what has been already mentioned in the paragraph, that new drug resistant forms are emerging, and so is option (c). Neither provides additional evidence or data to strengthen the argument further. Option (b) is also just a restatement of the fact that TB is a disease which is taking many lives. Option (a) provides further information about how the government has failed to address the private sector for TB control and provides statistics about the private sector's share.
7. d The experiment here concluded that taking calcium supplements increases the risk of kidney stones and hence women should not take them. Option (a) weakens the validity of the argument because if only women in their 40's were researched then the sample is not representative and results don't hold true for all. Option (b) weakens the experiment strength by saying that the bodies of these women could not have absorbed the calcium taken in the supplements and hence the supplements were not responsible for causing hypercalciuria. Option (c) if true means that excess calcium can't be stored in the body and hence the kidney stones could not have been caused by calcium supplements. Hence this also weakens the results of the experiment. Option (d) doesn't provide any additional data or information either for or against the argument.
8. d The argument above is that standardized tests are reliable and objective measures of student achievement. Option (a), if true is unrelated to the reliability and objective measurement of student's achievement. It talks about improvement in achievement year over year. Option (b) is vague, unrelated and does not provide anything to weaken the argument. Similarly option (c) is unrelated to the strength of the argument. Even if little time is left to learn, it is not negated that whatever has been learnt can be reliably tested through the standardized tests. Option (d), if true clearly weakens the argument because the "objective" nature of standardized tests comes into question if they are skewed towards a subset of students i.e. the white, abled majority.
9. d The argument here is that if 18 - 21 year olds can legally take decisions to risk their lives they should be allowed to drink too. Option (a), is an incomplete thought by itself since it is not related to the argument. It asks us to assume that MLDA has not been lowered only because of the fear of traffic accidents done by the

age group 18 -21. Option (b), again asks us to assume that MLDA has not been lowered only because of the fear of traffic accidents done by the age group 18 - 21. Option (c) does not strengthen because, we can't infer for sure from it that MLDA 21 is not helping at all. It being given low priority doesn't mean that it is completely ignored. Option (d) says that not lowering the age may be causing more trouble than helping, hence it strengthens the argument.

10. b Only option (b) contains the central idea that '*Stoicism as a philosophy is holistic*' and therefore its paradoxes are resolved when viewed against connected ideas. Option (a) is incorrect as the phrase, "deeper study" is vague and not mentioned in the paragraph. Option (c) does not mention how the paradoxes can be resolved. Option (d) does not mention the idea that Stoicism is holistic.
11. d The argument here is that milk is the most practical way for most children to get calcium and other nutrients. Option (a), is unrelated to the main argument, it talks about health problems milk can cause. Option (b) talks about a specific subset of people who can't tolerate milk – these are exceptions to the rule and don't contradict the main statement that milk is the **most** practical way for **most** children to get calcium and other nutrients. Option (c) is too specific and does not talk about the main argument but talks about bones. Even if dairy products do not help bones, the other benefits of consuming such products cannot be ignored. Option (d) talks about the fact that a hormone found in milk affects another hormone which may cause cancer in humans. If this is true, milk is not the most practical way of getting nutrition. This undermines the argued benefit of milk consumption.
12. d Out of options (c) and (d), option (d) is correct because the paragraph does not mention that this belief is '*widely held*'. Option (a) is incorrect as it states that '*the link between greenhouse gases and climate change has not been proven*'. The paragraph does not support this. Option (b) is incomplete.
13. a Option (a) substantiates the issue put forth in the passage, option (b) weakens the argument and options (c), (d) and (e) are simply prevaricative statements.
14. d The passage talks about smoking in public places on its last legs, with the Minister at the helm, quite confident of going about doing his job regardless of any opposition that he might have to face.
15. d All options except (d) are inferred from the conversation. Alfredo talks about Argentina being a football powerhouse in the past, while Diego talks about the team being a powerhouse in the present. The two are talking about different time frames and hence it can't be inferred that either of them may completely disagree with the other.

16. d The argument states that ethnologists divide an organism's actions as learned i.e. experience based and instinctive i.e. genotype based behavior. Some current scholars reject this distinction by saying that all animal behavior is a result of predictable interaction of experience and genotype. This means if all organisms have identical genotype and all of them undergo identical experience, they would exhibit identical behavior. Option (d) strengthens the claim made by the current scholars by stating the same.
17. c The argument can be broken down to simpler terms. It states that if A is reduced, B increases which causes an increase in C. Option (c) is analogous to this. It says if number of words is more, the advertisement won't be read, and if it isn't read, the product won't be sold. Thus, reducing the number of words in an advertisement would lead to an increase in readership and subsequently increase in sales.
18. a The argument states that a low physical fidelity system was acceptable. Statement (i) states that the physical stress will affect decision-making abilities, which means that a low physical fidelity system is not a good simulation model. Hence statement (i) weakens the argument. This eliminates options (b) and (e). Statement (ii) also weakens the argument as it suggests that despite simulations, humans lack the capacity to adapt to high levels of mental stress.
19. b The given argument states that acknowledging randomness is a precondition for dealing with it. The argument is silent on weather acknowledging randomness will ensure that it can be dealt with.
20. a The argument rests on the premise that media are not just passive channels of information. Media here need not necessarily mean the news media or the internet. Note the conjunction "And" in the last sentence. The premise is that the medium which we use influences us. While it does not talk about the internet, option (a) strengthens this premise. The noticeable change in Nietzsche's prose after he started using a typewriter provides evidence that the change in medium affected him. Option (d) is incorrect because falling asleep while reading a printed book does not mean that concentration levels have decreased all around. (Consider the situation where readers are more interested in reading electronic books and can concentrate on reading as much as before.)
21. e Option (e) directly weakens the argument by showing that the internet has not in the least compromised the ability of younger judges.
22. c The argument in the passage is that since the existence of protons, neutrons and electrons has been experimentally confirmed further research on 'exotic' particles is irrelevant for the larger scientific discipline. Option (c) contradicts this claim by stating that knowledge of a particular phenomenon is essential before its wider application. Thus, option (c) weakens the argument in the passage.
23. d Only IV is logically consistent with the argument. It is clearly mentioned in the third line of the argument. Statement I cannot be inferred. Statement II can also be negated as the author says that discoveries that came *after* the neutron, proton and electron are unnecessary. He does not comment about them as such.
24. b Option (a) is incorrect as it is not necessary that a desktop publisher career requires skills in reading, communication and mathematics. It is general statement given about the new jobs. Following the same logic, we can reject option (c) as well. Option (d) is incorrect as it talks about all the new jobs. According to the question statement, it is true only for most of the 'new jobs' and not all the jobs. Option (b) is the correct answer as it represents the information given in the question statement correctly.
25. d The question statement clearly states that 'without the use of crop...by more than 50 percent'. But this does not imply that use of crop protection products to control insects, weeds and diseases, will ensure that production cannot fall below 50 percent. Hence, option (d) cannot be validly concluded. Options (a) is not the correct choice as it can be validly concluded from the information given in the question. In first line it is clearly given that 'without the use of crop...more than 50 percent.' Options (b) and (c) can be concluded from the question statement. It can be represented through following diagram:

