

Philosophy 57 — Quiz # 2 (Solutions)

February 25, 2003

Instructions. Match each passage with its best description. Each passage will have **exactly one** best description among the choices given below, and there will be no left-over descriptions. Write the (single) letter of the best description for each passage in the space provided to its left.

Passages:

- b-- 1. The position open in the accounting department should be given to Frank Thompson. Frank has six hungry children to feed, and his wife desperately needs an operation to save her eyesight.
- c-- 2. Surely you welcome the opportunity to join our protective organization. Think of all the money you will lose from broken windows, overturned trucks, and damaged merchandise in the event of your not joining.
- i-- 3. The opposition have argued that our administration is anti-German. Their argument should be rejected. After all, Germany is a great country. It has contributed immensely to the world's artistic treasury. Goethe and Schiller made magnificent contributions to literature, and Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, and Brahms did the same in music.
- j-- 4. James said that he saw a picture of a beautiful girl stashed in Stephen's locker. We can only conclude that Stephen has broken the rules, because girls are not allowed in the locker room.
- d-- 5. Senator Barrow has presented an argument for increased Social Security benefits for the poor. It is regrettable that the senator finds it necessary to advocate socialism. Socialism defeats initiative, takes away promised rewards, and leads directly to inefficiency and big government. It was tried for years in Eastern Europe, and it failed miserably. Clearly, socialism is no good, and so we should reject Senator Barrow's argument.
- e-- 6. The editors of the Daily Register have argued that our company is one of the city's worst water polluters. But the Daily Register is responsible for much more pollution than we are. After all, they own the Western Paper Company, and that company discharges tons of chemical residue into the city's river every day. Thus, we should reject their argument.
- a-- 7. If 20 percent of adult Americans are functionally illiterate, then it's no wonder that morons get elected to public office. In fact, 20 percent of adult Americans are functionally illiterate. Therefore, it's no wonder that morons get elected to public office.
- g-- 8. Every sentence in this paragraph is well written. Therefore, this paragraph is well written.
- f-- 9. Ladies and gentlemen, today the lines of battle have been drawn. When the din of clashing armor has finally died away, the Republican party will emerge victorious! We are the true party of the American people! We embody the values that all real Americans hold sacred! We cherish and protect our founding fathers' vision that gave birth to the Constitution! We stand for decency and righteousness, for self-determination and the liberty to conduct our affairs as each of us freely chooses! In the face of our standard bearing the American eagle of freedom, our muddle-headed, weak-kneed opponents with their collectivist mentalities and their deluded programs for social reform will buckle and collapse! Victory will be ours, so help us God!
- h-- 10. Professor Pearson's arguments in favor of the theory of evolution should be discounted. Pearson is a cocaine-snorting sex pervert and, according to some reports, a member of the Communist party.

Descriptions:

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| a. Not a fallacy | b. Appeal to Pity |
| c. Appeal to Force | d. Straw Man |
| e. <i>Ad Hominem</i> (<i>Tu Quoque</i>) | f. Appeal to the People (direct variety) |
| g. Fallacy of Composition | h. <i>Ad Hominem</i> (Abusive) |
| i. Red Herring | j. Amphiboly |