

Chapter 3 Test

(Each question is worth 2½ points)

Select the best answer for the following arguments.

1. Immediate steps should be taken to reduce this country's dependence on nuclear power. The question was put to six prominent movie stars recently, and all six agreed that nuclear power was extremely dangerous.
 - a. Appeal to the people.
 - b. Hasty generalization.
 - c. False Cause.
 - d. Appeal to unqualified authority.
 - e. No fallacy.
2. Ginger, I read the paper you plan to submit for English Comp, and I noticed a few paragraphs that didn't appear to be written by you. Tell me, how long have you been plagiarizing your term papers?
 - a. Complex question.
 - b. Straw man.
 - c. No fallacy.
 - d. Appeal to pity.
 - e. Begging the question.
3. It's perfectly legal to hire a grown adult to perform menial work in a factory. But a ten-year-old kid is no less a human than an adult. Therefore, it's legal to hire a ten-year-old kid to perform menial work in a factory.
 - a. Suppressed evidence.
 - b. Weak analogy.
 - c. False cause.
 - d. Hasty generalization
 - e. Composition.
4. Advertisements claim that the new Pride detergent gets your clothes whiter and brighter than any other brand. Since no one has disproved this claim, we must conclude that it is true.
 - a. Appeal to unqualified authority.
 - b. Accident.
 - c. Amphiboly.
 - d. Division.
 - e. Appeal to ignorance.

Test 3

5. Both wolves and hyenas are cunning and dangerous. Therefore, wolves are cunning.
 - a. Composition.
 - b. Begging the question.
 - c. No fallacy.
 - d. Equivocation.
 - e. Division.
6. Paul told me that he loves his children more than his wife. It must be the case that his wife doesn't like the kids.
 - a. Appeal to unqualified authority.
 - b. Amphiboly.
 - c. False dichotomy.
 - d. Argument against the person, circumstantial.
 - e. Tu quoque.
7. Strenuous exercise is good for people. Therefore, it would be a good idea for old Mrs. Bevans, who just had a heart attack, to go jogging today.
 - a. Accident.
 - b. Weak analogy.
 - c. Suppressed evidence.
 - d. Missing the point.
 - e. Begging the question.
8. The decision as to what courses should be required of all university students should be left to the faculty senate. If students are given a voice in this matter it won't be long before the students dictate who should be hired and fired. In no time they'll take over the administrative functions as well, and the university will collapse.
 - a. Hasty generalization.
 - b. False cause.
 - c. Equivocation.
 - d. Slippery slope.
 - e. Tu quoque.

9. Senator Collins supports the proposal for the new B-2 bomber. But his arguments in favor of this project should be discounted, since the primary bidder on the B-2 bomber comes from the state he represents.
 - a. No fallacy.
 - b. Argument against the person, circumstantial.
 - c. Suppressed evidence.
 - d. Red herring.
 - e. Argument against the person, abusive.
10. Every ingredient in this pastry is fattening. Therefore, this pastry is fattening.
 - a. False cause.
 - b. Composition.
 - c. No fallacy.
 - d. Hasty generalization.
 - e. Division.
11. As a spokesman for the IRS, I would urge that you stop informing taxpayers of these loopholes we have been discussing. I am confident you will be happy to comply, since surely you want to avoid an audit of your last year's return.
 - a. Accident.
 - b. Missing the point.
 - c. Appeal to ignorance.
 - d. Appeal to pity.
 - e. Appeal to force.
12. Surely God does not exist. Just look at all the suffering in the world.
 - a. Accident.
 - b. Argument against the person, circumstantial.
 - c. Missing the point.
 - d. False dichotomy.
 - e. Appeal to pity.
13. Either the United States continues to serve as the world's police force, or local squabbles will result in global chaos. Of course we cannot tolerate global chaos. Therefore, the United states must continue to serve as the world's police force.
 - a. False dichotomy.
 - b. False cause.
 - c. No fallacy.
 - d. Amphiboly.
 - e. Tu quoque.

14. A recent study has shown that among the youth of our city, 80 percent of those who contracted venereal disease last year had taken sex education classes in high school. Obviously if we want to cut down on the incidence of V.D. we must get rid of those sex education classes.
- Red herring.
 - No fallacy.
 - False dichotomy.
 - Missing the point.
 - Argument against the person, abusive.
15. Economist Milton Friedman argues that corporations should not have to pay income taxes. But this argument is worthless. Corporations in America are getting away with murder as it is. Consider the utilities. Those companies are supposed to be regulated by state commissioners, but the commissioners never do their job. They give the utilities whatever they want. If the members of the Public Utilities Commission were elected by the people we wouldn't have such astronomical rates.
- Appeal to force.
 - Red herring.
 - Complex question.
 - Tu quoque.
 - Straw man.
16. It would not be a good idea to appoint Frances McGill to the office of city manager. During the past fifteen years McGill has managed five different businesses, and all of them declared bankruptcy as a direct result of her inept leadership.
- Argument against the person, abusive.
 - False cause.
 - No fallacy.
 - Hasty generalization.
 - Argument against the person, circumstantial.
17. Every tiny detail of Robert's painting is beautiful. Therefore, Robert's painting is beautiful.
- Division.
 - Appeal to unqualified authority.
 - No fallacy.
 - Composition.
 - Appeal to force.

18. Actresses are persons and Jennifer is a great actress. Thus, she must be a great person.
 - a. Equivocation.
 - b. Red herring.
 - c. Accident.
 - d. Amphiboly.
 - e. False dichotomy
19. Either Cadillacs or Hondas are made in Japan. But Cadillacs are not made in Japan. Therefore, Hondas are made in Japan.
 - a. Appeal to the people.
 - b. False dichotomy.
 - c. False cause.
 - d. Equivocation.
 - e. No fallacy.
20. Mr. Referee, surely our team was not offside on that last play. Our team has already had ten penalties this quarter, we're trailing by three touchdowns, and several of our parents traveled hundreds of miles to see this game.
 - a. Appeal to pity.
 - b. Straw man.
 - c. Missing the point.
 - d. Appeal to force.
 - e. Slippery slope.
21. You argue that I should cut down on my drinking. But you drink much more heavily than I. You haven't been sober in a year.
 - a. Argument against the person, abusive.
 - b. No fallacy.
 - c. Tu quoque.
 - d. Appeal to force.
 - e. Appeal to pity.
22. You've got to get rid of those narrow neckties you wear. Narrow ties are completely out of fashion now, and no one with any class is wearing them.
 - a. Suppressed evidence.
 - b. Appeal to the people.
 - c. No fallacy.
 - d. Appeal to force.
 - e. Argument against the person, circumstantial.

23. Professor Howard Brastoff, the famous astrophysicist, has stated that the so-called Jupiter Effect, the alignment of the nine planets in the solar system, poses no danger for the inhabitants of the Earth. Furthermore, no scientists disagree with Brastoff. Accordingly we may conclude that the Jupiter Effect is indeed harmless.
- Argument against the person, circumstantial.
 - Appeal to unqualified authority.
 - Missing the point.
 - No fallacy.
 - Accident.
24. George and Tom are both neurotic and both are seeing psychiatrists. Furthermore, both are bachelors. It must be the case that most bachelors these days are neurotic.
- Weak analogy.
 - Complex question.
 - Hasty generalization.
 - Begging the question.
 - Appeal to pity.
25. Ms. Belford thinks that Robert Crenshaw is one of the finest pianists in the country. But no one with an ounce of sense should take Belford's arguments seriously. That woman has no musical taste whatever, and some of her recent reviews in the local paper have been utterly ridiculous.
- Weak analogy.
 - Argument against the person, circumstantial.
 - Appeal to unqualified authority.
 - Division.
 - Argument against the person, abusive.
26. Participants in the recent charity benefit contributed \$10,000 to the needy of Baskerville. Howard Porter was a participant in the benefit. Therefore, Howard Porter contributed \$10,000.
- Division.
 - Appeal to ignorance.
 - Accident.
 - Equivocation.
 - Composition.

27. Charlie's computer has crashed twice in the past month, even though it's practically new. Therefore, Charlie should open the window and throw the computer out onto the street.
 - a. Division.
 - b. Argument against the person, abusive.
 - c. Appeal to force.
 - d. Accident.
 - e. Missing the point.
28. Smith testified under oath that he saw Faubus shoot Gomez with a .22 caliber pistol at close range. Since Smith has a reputation for always telling the truth and has no personal interest in the case, we may conclude that Faubus really did shoot Gomez as Smith testified.
 - a. Appeal to unqualified authority.
 - b. No fallacy.
 - c. Suppressed evidence.
 - d. Tu quoque.
 - e. Appeal to pity.
29. During most of the past 100 years, watch repairmen have earned a good living. Therefore, watch repairmen should earn a good living during the next 100 years.
 - a. Straw man.
 - b. Division.
 - c. Suppressed evidence.
 - d. Hasty generalization.
 - e. Appeal to ignorance.
30. The use of contraceptives is immoral because anything that violates nature is immoral.
 - a. Equivocation.
 - b. Hasty generalization.
 - c. Composition.
 - d. Begging the question.
 - e. Accident.

31. After John returned from work the other day, he switched on his air conditioner, and a few seconds later a power failure struck the city. Therefore, to prevent further power failures, John should keep his air conditioner shut off.
- a. False cause.
 - b. Appeal to unqualified authority.
 - c. Missing the point.
 - d. No fallacy.
 - e. Division.
32. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas. Therefore, its two components, carbon and oxygen, must be poisonous.
- a. Missing the point.
 - b. Division.
 - c. Begging the question.
 - d. Accident.
 - e. Weak analogy.

Select the best answer for the following multiple choice questions.

33. The *post hoc ergo propter hoc* fallacy is a variety of:
- a. False cause.
 - b. Appeal to authority.
 - c. Red herring.
 - d. Straw man.
 - e. Composition.
34. In which of the following statements is an attribute predicated collectively?
- a. Elephants are large.
 - b. Bathing beauties are appealing.
 - c. Roses are fragrant.
 - d. Lies are deceptive.
 - e. Brush fires are frequent.
35. The fallacy in which the arguer misinterprets an opponent's argument for the purpose of more easily attacking it is:
- a. Red herring.
 - b. False dichotomy.
 - c. Amphiboly.
 - d. Straw man.
 - e. Begging the question.

36. The bandwagon argument and the appeal to vanity are varieties of:
 - a. Argument against the person.
 - b. Appeal to authority.
 - c. Appeal to the people.
 - d. False cause.
 - e. Missing the point.
37. The fallacy that always involves two arguers, at least implicitly, is:
 - a. Equivocation.
 - b. Argument against the person.
 - c. Composition.
 - d. Begging the question.
 - e. False cause.
38. When an arguer leaves a crucial premise, whose truth is questionable, unexpressed, the fallacy committed is:
 - a. Appeal to ignorance.
 - b. Complex question.
 - c. Slippery slope.
 - d. Begging the question.
 - e. Red herring.
39. Which of the following is a reason why people commit fallacies:
 - a. Reasoning from the general to the particular.
 - b. Intent.
 - c. Unconsciousness.
 - d. Confusing induction with deduction.
 - e. Confusing truth with validity.
40. Equivocation and amphiboly are fallacies of:
 - a. Relevance.
 - b. Presumption.
 - c. Grammatical analogy.
 - d. Vagueness.
 - e. Ambiguity.

Answers

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. E
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. D
9. B
10. C
11. E
12. C
13. A
14. D
15. B
16. C
17. A
18. A
19. E
20. A
21. C
22. B
23. D
24. C
25. E
26. A
27. E
28. B
29. C
30. D
31. A
32. B
33. A
34. E
35. D
36. C
37. B
38. D
39. B
40. E