Supplemental Exercises on Fallacies

The following passages could be any of the fallacies we discussed. The answers are at the bottom of this document.

1. The right to possess property is fundamental. If, then, I want to purchase an assault weapon for my own use, I should be allowed to do so.
2. Accident
3. Ignoring the Issue
4. Ad Hominem
5. Slippery Slope
6. If we don’t find the defendant guilty of murdering his wife, domestic violence will be encouraged. He’s guilty.
7. Appeal to pity
8. Appeal to fear
9. Ad Hominem
10. Reverse Bandwagon
11. Almost every person in the U.S. has two arms. That alone shows tremendous need for gun control laws.
12. Equivocation
13. Hasty Generalization
14. False Cause
15. Post Hoc
16. How old were you when your mother dropped you on your head?
17. Equivocation
18. Complex Question
19. Composition
20. False Cause
21. No evolutionist can convince me that my ancestors were gorillas. It’s just stupid!
22. Slippery Slope
23. Red Herring
24. Straw Man
25. False Cause
26. Children should be seen and not heard. This is obvious because only adults should be both seen and heard.
27. Ignoring the Issue
28. Begging the Question
29. Narfling the Garthock
30. Equivocation
31. You can vote for me or commit this nation to slavery at the hands of communists by 1995.
32. Straw Man
33. False Dichotomy
34. Equivocation
35. False Cause
36. The paper says, our spies found a giant Iraqi weapons factory hiding in a clump of grass. The Iraqis must be very advanced to hide a factory in a clump of grass.
37. Hasty Generalization
38. Amphiboly
39. Complex Question
40. False Dichotomy
41. Either we require forced sterilization of third world peoples or world population will explode and all of us will die. We certainly don’t want to die, so we must require forced sterilization.
42. Hasty Generalization
43. Equivocation
44. Straw Man
45. False Dichotomy
46. My roommate said her philosophy class was easy, and mine is easy too. All philosophy classes must be easy.
47. False Cause
48. Equivocation
49. Hasty Generalization
50. Tu Quoque
51. President Jones raised taxes, and the crime rate immediately went up. Jones is responsible.
52. Hasty Generalization
53. False Cause
54. Appeal to Pity
55. Red Herring
56. Animal experimentation reduces our respect for life. If we don't respect life, we are likely to be more and more tolerant of violent acts like war and murder. Soon our society will become a battlefield in which everyone constantly fears for their lives.
57. Post Hoc Fallacy
58. Ad Hominem
59. Red Herring
60. Slippery Slope
61. Guns are like hammers. Either one of these metal tools could be used to kill someone. You don’t propose to restrict hammer purchases, so don’t restrict gun purchases.
62. Slippery Slope
63. Hasty Generalization
64. Weak Analogy
65. Red Herring
66. Supermodel Krissy B. Yatch recommends Magic Face Cream for eliminating acne and blemishes. It’s the best!
67. Red Herring
68. Post Hoc Fallacy
69. Hasty Generalization
70. Fallacious Appeal to Expertise
71. Gay marriage is just wrong! 70% of Americans think so.
72. Bandwagon
73. Straw Man
74. Accident
75. Post Hoc Fallacy
76. Andrea Dwarkin has written several books arguing that pornography harms women. She writes those books because she’s not very attractive, so you needn’t consider them.
77. Post Hoc Fallacy
78. Straw Man
79. Accident
80. Ad Hominem
81. No one has conclusively proven that God exists. Therefore there is no God.
82. Fallacious appeal to Expertise
83. Post Hoc Fallacy
84. Appeal to Ignorance
85. Appeal to Pity
86. Grading this exam on a curve would be the most fair thing to do. After all, classes go more smoothly when the students and the professor are getting along.
87. Red Herring
88. Appeal to Ignorance
89. Hasty Generalization
90. Appeal to Fear
91. Active euthanasia is morally acceptable. It is a decent, ethical thing to help another human being escape suffering through death.
92. False Cause
93. Hasty Generalization
94. Equivocation
95. Begging the Question
96. Some environmentalists argue that we should use buses more. But this is crazy since a bus creates more pollution than a car.
97. False Cause
98. Hasty Generalization
99. Composition
100. Slippery Slope
101. If you don’t believe in the supernatural, consider the famous yacht, “Connemara IV,” found drifting crewless, southeast of Bermuda, on September 26, 1955. (It is not mentioned that the yacht was known to have been in the path of a hurricane.)
102. Hasty Generalization
103. Weak Analogy
104. Suppressed Evidence
105. Red Herring/Missing the point
106. The religious beliefs of Quakerism are true. To see this, consider how it has improved many lives. So many people who once lead alcoholic and despondent lives became happy, upstanding pillars of their communities once they converted to Quakerism.
107. False Cause
108. Slippery Slope
109. Equivocation
110. Red Herring
111. I'm not a doctor, but I play one on TV. And I recommend Flintstones vitamins. They are good for you children.
112. False Cause
113. Slippery Slope
114. Equivocation
115. Appeal to Unqualified Authority
116. Alan Turing thinks machines think. But Alan Turing is a homosexual, which is a terrible thing. Therefore, machines don't think.
117. Appeal to Pity
118. Ad Hominem
119. Slippery Slope
120. Equivocation
121. Jones argues for vegetarianism, but he wears leather shoes. So his arguments are no good.
122. False Cause
123. Red Herring
124. Weak Analogy
125. Ad Hominem
126. Old Fashioned Baked Beans are made according to a 900 year old recipe. The recipe has not been changed for 900 years. If it was good enough for 9 generations, it's good enough for you.
127. Appeal to the People
128. Red Herring
129. Ad Hominem
130. False Cause
131. If people don’t believe in God, then society will become lawless and dangerous. Therefore, you must agree, God does exist.
132. Appeal to Fear
133. Slippery Slope
134. False Cause
135. Appeal to the People
136. Famous physicist John Taylor studied Uri Geller extensively and found no evidence of trickery or fraud when Geller sawed a woman in half. Therefore, when Geller sawed the woman in half, it was not a trick.
137. False Cause
138. Appeal to Unqualified Authority
139. Red Herring
140. Appeal to the People
141. My opponent supports a tax increase on the wealthy. In order to maintain a civil debate, I will not mention my opponent's drinking problem. Taxes are high enough.
142. Hasty Generalization
143. Weak Analogy
144. Ad Hominem
145. Appeal to the People
146. Last night at 9:30 PM, the street lights on my street came on, and then immediately after, the sun went down. Therefore, turning on street lights makes the sun go down.
147. False Cause
148. Hasty Generalization
149. Equivocation
150. Red Herring
151. Historians debate whether the Nazi's killed 5 million or 6 million Jews. They can't get the facts straight one way or the other. Therefore, the holocaust did not even happen.
152. Appeal to Pity
153. Appeal to Fear
154. Equivocation
155. Red Herring
156. You give interesting arguments that children should not be forced to belong to their parents' religion. I used to think that way when I was your age. You're too young to understand why those arguments are wrong.
157. Ad Hominem
158. Appeal to Fear
159. Appeal to the People
160. Red Herring
161. Having an enema is an excellent way to improve your health, and give you a feeling of accomplishment. All the actors and actresses in Hollywood California are having it done.
162. Slippery Slope
163. Appeal to the People
164. Appeal to Fear
165. False Cause
166. Children with larger feet tend to have better handwriting. Therefore, having bigger feet makes it easier to write neatly.
167. Appeal to Pity
168. Slippery Slope
169. Hasty Generalization
170. False Cause
171. I did not murder my mother and father with an axe! Please don't find me guilty; I'm suffering enough by being an orphan.
172. Appeal to Fear
173. Appeal to Pity
174. False Cause
175. Appeal to Unqualified Authority
176. The clinching proof of my reasoning is that I will cut anyone who argues further into dogmeat." -- Attributed to Sir Geoffery de Tourneville, ca 1350 A.D.
177. Appeal to Unqualified Authority
178. Slippery Slope
179. Equivocation
180. Appeal to Fear

Answers

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| 1. a 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. c 6. b 7. b 8. b 9. d | 1. c 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. a | 1. d 2. c 3. c 4. d 5. d 6. b 7. d 8. a 9. a | 1. b 2. c 3. a 4. d 5. a 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. d |