

ANSWERS

Exercise 1: Looking at Arguments

⋮ A. Correct Answer: 2. Buying school uniforms can be hard for families without much money.

Explanation: This statement weakens the argument by pointing out that requiring school uniforms may not be feasible for all families due to financial constraints.

B. Correct Answer: 3. Many dogs were bred long ago to help with hunting, which includes fetching things.

Explanation: This statement strengthens the argument by providing evidence that supports the claim that all dogs love playing fetch due to their hunting instincts.

C. Correct Answer: 2. Unhealthy food is often cheaper and easier to get than healthy food.

Explanation: This statement weakens the argument by suggesting that the availability and affordability of unhealthy food might hinder people from maintaining a balanced diet.

Exercise 2: Looking at Statistics and Cause-and-Effect

A. Correct Answer: 1. At the same time as teaching hand-washing, the school also started a program for giving shots to prevent sickness.

Explanation: This statement weakens the argument by introducing an alternative explanation for the reduction in absences. The vaccination program could have contributed to the decrease in absences independently of the hand-washing teaching.

B. Correct Answer: 3. A few new factories were built in the city in the last two years.

Explanation: This statement strengthens the argument by suggesting that the increase in temperature might be related to the construction of new factories, which could contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

C. Correct Answer: 1. The company gave a short-term discount on the product during the ad campaign.

Explanation: This statement weakens the argument by suggesting that the increase in sales might be due to the short-term discount rather than the impact of the advertising campaign.

Exercise 3: Scientific Arguments

A. Correct Answer: 4. The scientists found a link, but didn't prove that eating fruits and vegetables makes you healthier.

Explanation: This statement weakens the idea that eating more fruits and vegetables directly makes you healthier because it suggests that the correlation between eating fruits and vegetables and feeling healthier does not necessarily imply causation. There might be other factors influencing this relationship.

B. Correct Answer: 3. Peaceful music has been shown to help people concentrate in other situations.

Explanation: This statement strengthens the idea that peaceful music helps you do better at school by providing evidence that peaceful music has been beneficial for concentration in other contexts. This suggests a plausible mechanism for how it could positively influence academic performance.

C. Correct Answer: 1. This plant can also be found in soils that aren't sour.

Explanation: This statement weakens the idea that sourness in the soil directly helps this plant grow by suggesting that the presence of the plant in non-sour soils indicates that soil acidity might not be the sole factor influencing its growth.

Exercise 4: Evaluating Author's Intent and Ethical Considerations

A. Correct Answer: 1. Some kids have special learning needs that mean they need different test styles.

Explanation: This fact weakens the writer's idea that all students should take the same test because it acknowledges that some students have unique learning needs that require accommodations and different test styles for a fair assessment.

B. Correct Answer: 1. More and more people all over the world are choosing to be vegan.

Explanation: This fact strengthens the writer's idea that restaurants should have meals for vegans because it provides evidence that there is a growing demand for vegan options.

C. Correct Answer: 3. The writer used data from cities with very different numbers of people living in them.

Explanation: This fact challenges the writer's belief that using buses and trains reduces air pollution and traffic in cities because using data from cities with different population sizes might not provide accurate comparisons or conclusions.

Exercise 5: Looking at General Ideas (Generalisations)

A. Correct Answer: 3. A group of students who don't read much always does better than average on tests.

Explanation: This situation contradicts the teacher's generalization that all students who read a lot do well at school. It presents an example of a group of students who don't read much but still perform better than average on tests.

B. Correct Answer: 2. The company that makes the vitamin paid for the study.

Explanation: This situation weakens the scientist's claim because it introduces a potential conflict of interest. The fact that the company that produces the vitamin funded the study raises concerns about biased results.

C. Correct Answer: 3. A few kids who eat sweet snacks fall asleep without any problem.

Explanation: This situation challenges the parent's belief that all kids who eat sweet snacks before bed will find it hard to fall asleep. It presents an example of kids who eat sweet snacks but do not have any difficulty falling asleep.