

→ 4 terms.
→ 3 terms.

(1 to 30) MT.
3 n - (Final Terms)

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YANGON UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

CRITICAL REASONING

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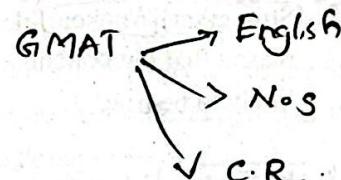
A.P.

The Kaplan Method for Critical Reasoning

List the steps of the Kaplan Method for Critical Reasoning

1. the question types. Q.T.
2. Untangle the stimulus.
3. Predict the answer.
4. Evaluate the choices.

243 (11 min)



Q.T. point → POE (point of elimination)

STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE QUESTION TYPE

As you read in the introduction of basic Critical Reasoning principles, reading the question stem first is the best way to focus your reading of the stimulus. Determine the question type, and you'll know exactly what you're looking for. The next chapter is devoted to a thorough analysis of each type of CR question, including practice questions for each type. There may also be other important information in the question stem—possibly the conclusion of the argument or a particular aspect of the stimulus that you will need to focus on.

STEP 2: UNTANGLE THE STIMULUS

With the question stem in mind, read the stimulus. Read actively, paraphrasing to make sure you understand the construction of the stimulus and hunting for any potential problems. Most CR stimuli contain arguments, but many will not. Depending on the type of question that you identified in step 1 of the Method, you will look to gather different information from the stimulus.

STEP 3: PREDICT THE ANSWER

Form an idea of what the right answer choice should say or do. How you form your prediction will vary depending on the specific question type. For some question types, it can be difficult to form a specific prediction of what the correct answer choice will say, but based on your analysis in steps 1 and 2, you will always know at least what function the correct answer will accomplish. Following this discussion of the steps of the Method is a chart that summarizes how to predict answers for different question types; you will learn about and practice all of these in depth.

STEP 4: EVALUATE THE CHOICES

Attack each answer choice critically. Keep your prediction in mind and see whether the answer choices match it. If you don't find a "clear winner," read through the answers that you haven't eliminated yet. You know what you like about each; now focus on what might be wrong.

You will look for different things in steps 3 and 4 of the Method, depending on the question type.

Reading Comprehension. \Rightarrow 13-14 Questions.

support. \rightarrow assumption

TYPES OF QUESTIONS

Conclusion; Premises, Assumptions

1. **Assumption:** Identify the argument's central assumption and hunt for the answer choice that matches your prediction. If that fails, use the denial test on each answer choice.

နိဂုံးများ
conclusion

2. **Strengthen/Weaken:** Identify the argument's conclusion and predict an answer that gives a reason that the conclusion is more (for a Strengthen question) or less (for a Weaken question) likely to be true.

3. **Evaluation:** Identify the argument's central assumption and hunt for the answer choice that identifies missing information that would help assess the validity of that assumption.

4. **Flaw:** Identify the argument's central assumption and predict the error in the argument's reasoning.

5. **Explain:** Predict the answer that explains how two seemingly discrepant facts can both be true. If it's difficult to form a specific prediction, work through the answers one by one, eliminating choices that are clearly wrong, until you find the one that reconciles both parts of the supposed paradox.

6. **Inference:** It's often difficult to form a prediction beyond the right answer must be true based on what the stimulus states. Mentally catalog what you know to be true based on the stimulus. Then work through the answers one by one, eliminating choices that contradict or just don't align with what's known.

Underlined on: or from in @ phrase (A phrase)

7. **Bolded Statement:** Predict an answer based on the logic and structure of the stimulus.

(Grammar check)

View - Question

① main idea ② Attitude ③ Application ④

Detail Answer Ex

Author's organization

Questions

1. A study of 20 overweight males revealed that each man experienced significant weight loss after adding Slim Down, an artificial food supplement, to his daily diet. For three months, each man consumed one Slim Down portion every morning after exercising and then followed his normal diet for the rest of the day. Clearly, all adult males who consume one portion of Slim Down every day for at least three months will lose weight and will look and feel their best.

Which one of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) \times The men in the study will gain back the weight they lost if they discontinue the Slim Down program.
- (B) No other dietary supplement will have the same effect on overweight men.

- (C) The daily exercise regimen was not responsible for the effects noted in the study.
- (D) Women will not experience similar weight reductions if they adhere to the Slim Down program for three months.
- (E) Overweight men will achieve only partial weight loss if they do not remain on the Slim Down program for a full three months.

2. Due to recent success, Lawton, a contractor, can be more selective than in the past regarding the types of clients he chooses to service. If he restricts his business to commercial clients and only those residential clients requiring \$10,000 of work or more, he would cease doing most of the kind of residential work he currently does, which would allow him to earn a higher average profit margin per job.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion that limiting his service in the manner cited would increase Lawton's average profit margin per job?

- (A) Lawton's recent success is due primarily to an upsurge in the number of residential clients he services.
- (B) Lawton's commercial clients would prefer that he focus more of his time and energy on their projects and less on the concerns of his residential clients.
- (C) Residential work for which Lawton cannot bill more than \$10,000 comprises a significant proportion of his low profit-margin work.
- (D) Due to the use of a more efficient cost-accounting system, Lawton's average profit margin per job has increased in each of the last three years.
- (E) Commercial jobs typically take longer to complete than residential jobs.

3. Earlier this year, our city's three main reservoirs had unusually low water levels. As a result, city officials initiated a program that encouraged residents to reduce their water usage by 20 percent.

Since the program was announced, the water level at all three reservoirs has returned to normal. Our city officials should be applauded for their role in preventing a crisis. (weaker Question)

Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the efficacy of the officials' program?

- (A) The current water level in the reservoirs is lower than it was at the same time last year.
- (B) Other nearby reservoirs recovered from lower water levels this year, even though those reservoirs provide water to cities that did not enact water restriction policies.
- (C) Residents reduced their water usage for lawn maintenance significantly more than they did for washing clothes.
- (D) Imposing stiff penalties on residents who did not conserve water would have resulted in even higher water levels in the reservoirs.
- (E) Water usage in the city dropped steadily during the first two weeks of the program before leveling off.

Except → յու լիք ովզ:

(Grammar Questions)

Sentence Construction

(40% F&E)

4. An effort to control the crippling effects of poverty in Brazil's interior cities, begun almost thirty years ago, has been partially successful, despite the setback of a major drought and the interruption of aid during an extended economic crisis. **Այսուհետեւ:** **ՀԱՅՐԵ**

- ✓ (A) to control the crippling effects of poverty in Brazil's interior cities, begun almost thirty years ago.
- (B) begun almost thirty years ago for controlling the crippling effects of poverty in Brazil's interior cities.
- (C) begun for controlling the crippling effects of poverty in Brazil's interior cities almost thirty years ago.
- (D) at controlling the crippling effects of poverty in Brazil's interior cities begun almost thirty years ago.
- (E) that has begun almost thirty years ago to control the crippling effects of poverty in Brazil's interior cities.

5. A newly discovered disease is thought to be caused by a certain bacterium. However, recently released data note that the bacterium thrives in the presence of a certain virus, implying that it is actually the virus that causes the new disease. **strength Q.**

Which of the following pieces of evidence would most support the data's implication?

- (A) + In the absence of the virus, the disease has been observed to follow infection by the bacterium.
- (B) + The virus has been shown to aid the growth of bacteria, a process which often leads to the onset of the diseases.
- ✓ (C) The virus alone has been observed in many cases of the disease.
- (D) + In cases where the disease does not develop, infection by the bacterium is usually preceded by infection by the virus.
- (E) + Onset of the disease usually follows infection by both the virus and the bacterium.

Grammatical Errors

6. The changes that may be part of a general global warming trend include an increase in the frequency and severity of hurricanes, a gradual rise in sea level, depleting the ozone layer, and raising the temperature of the earth.

- (A) depleting the ozone layer, and raising the temperature of the earth
- ✗ (B) depleting the ozone layer, and a rise in the earth's temperature
- ✗ (C) a depletion of the ozone layer, and raising the earth's temperature
- ✗ (D) a depletion of the ozone layer, and a raise of the temperature of the earth
- ✓ (E) a depletion of the ozone layer, and a rise in the temperature of the earth

7. The women's volleyball team at a local college finished fifth in its division, prompting the college to fire the team's general manager. The manager responded by suing the college, saying that the team's performance put it among the top teams in the country. **օգուզ**

complaint against the team's coach

(Strength Question)

Which of the following statements, if true, would support the claim of the team's manager, and resolve the contradiction?

- (A) ✗ The team won all of its "away" games during the season in question.
(B) ✗ Attendance at the volleyball team's games was up 35% from the year before.
(C) ✗ Of the starting team, three team members were unable to play for at least half the season because of injuries.
✓ (D) There are 80 teams in this particular volleyball team's division.
(E) ✗ The team lost more games this year than it did the year before.

15/5/29.

கோல்லுவது:

8. Country A recently broke off diplomatic relations with Country B when it was reported that Country B had been running a covert intelligence operation within the borders of Country A. While a ~~spokesperson~~ for Country B admitted the charge, the spokesperson said that it was common knowledge that all countries do this, and that Country A was no exception.

Which of the following inference can be drawn from the argument above?

- * (A) Country B should apologize and dismantle its intelligence operation in Country A. ~~முன்னால்:~~ 2013ம் ஆண்டு
* (B) The spokesperson for Country B claims that Country A engages in Intelligence gathering too. ~~முன்னால்:~~ 60E
(C) Because all countries engage in this practice, Country A's outrage was disingenuous.
* (D) Relations between Country A and Country B will be strained for some time.
* (E) Country B would be just as outraged if it was reported that Country A was running a covert intelligence operation with Country B's borders.

நம்பி: ஒன்றிய குழுமங்கள்

9. Experts studying patterns of shark attacks on humans have noted that attacks tend to diminish when the water temperature drops below 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Until recently, researchers believed this was because sharks prefer warmer water, and thus are present in fewer numbers in colder water. However, new research shows that sharks are present in equal numbers in cold and warm water.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the apparent paradox?

- (A) In general, humans prefer warm water.
* (B) Sharks' keen sense of smell is enhanced in cold water.
(C) In the Pacific, shark attacks tend to occur more frequently in the daytime.
* (D) Of the more than 200 types of sharks present in the ocean, Only three attack humans.
(E) The average temperature of the earth's oceans is 55 degrees.

10. Scientists today accept that the increased severity of hurricanes in the last 10 years has been a result of warmer water in the Caribbean, which "feeds" the storms as they pass over it by a mechanism not yet completely understood. Thus, these severe hurricanes are yet more evidence of global warming.

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

- (A) ✗ Accurate statistics on the warming of the earth do not go back more than 100 years.
✓ (B) Scientists have not discovered a new undersea current, fueled warmer water into the Caribbean.

- (C) The arctic ice caps have been losing three feet of circumference each year for the past five years.
- (D) A new scientist believe they will soon prove that the mechanism by which a storm picks up energy from warm water is based on convection.
- (E) Some scientists believe they will soon prove that the mechanism by which a storm picks up energy from warm water is based on convection

11. *Grammar* *infestation*
During the summer of 2002, the Outer Banks suffered a massive toad infestation, discouraging many vacationers from visiting the area.

- (A) suffered a massive toad infestation, discouraging
- (B) suffered from a massive toad infestation and discouraged (1 *ପ୍ରେଫ୍ରିନ୍ ପ୍ରତିକ୍ରିଯା*)
- (C) suffered a massive infestation of toads, which discouraged
- (D) was suffering a massive infestation of toads and discouraging
- (E) had suffered from a massive toad infestation and this discouraged

12. *Logic* *home sales* *inflation*
A prolonged period of low mortgage resulted in a period of the most robust home sales ever. At the same time, the average sale price of resale homes actually dropped when adjusted for inflation. Which of the following, if true would explain the apparent contradiction between the robust home sales and the drop in the average sale price of resale homes? *ବିଷୟ*

- (A) The inflation rate during this period exceeded the increase in the average salary, thus preventing many buyers from securing mortgages.
- (B) Resale homes represent the best value on the real estate market.
- (C) Without the adjustment for inflation, the price of resale homes actually increased by a very slight amount. *increased*
- (D) The decrease in mortgage rates was accompanied by a widening of the types of mortgages from which borrowers could choose.
- (E) The increase in home sales was due entirely to an increase in the sale of new homes.

13. Luis is taller than Rei. Kiko is taller than Marcus. Therefore, Kiko is taller than Rei. The conclusion drawn above is not supported by the argument; however, the addition of one additional piece of information would make the conclusion logically sound. All of the following could be that additional piece of information EXCEPT: *ଯେତେବେଳେ* *L > K > M > R*

- (A) Kiko is taller than Luis.
- (B) Luis is taller than Marcus.
- (C) Luis and Marcus are the same height.
- (D) Marcus and Rei are the same height.
- (E) Marcus is taller than Rei.

14. A study showed that only ten percent of American dog owners enroll their dog in formal obedience training classes. More than 20 percent of these dog owners, the study also showed, participate in dog shows. Thus, it is obvious that people who train their dogs are more likely to participate in dog shows than are people who do not train their dogs.

The conclusion above is correct provided which of the following statements is also true?

- (A) ✗ It is impossible for a dog to compete in a dog show if the dog has not completed at least one formal obedience training class.
- (B) ✗ The proportion of dog owners who enroll their dogs in formal obedience training classes is representative of the proportion who train their dogs outside such classes.
- (C) ✗ Dog owners who participate in dog shows only train their dogs by enrolling them in formal obedience training lessons.
- (D) ✗ Participation in dog shows is a reliable indicator of how much attention a dog owner pays to his dog. *✓ 27%*
- (E) ✗ Only purebred dogs can participate in dog shows, so many owners who enroll their dogs in formal obedience training classes are excluded from this activity.
15. A bullet train travels in excess of 150 miles per hour. Therefore, if a train travels slower than 150 miles per hour, it is not a bullet train.
Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the argument above?
- (A) An orange ripens only on the vine. If it ripens on the vine, then it is not an orange.
- (B) Newspapers are often read by more than one person. Therefore, magazines are also likely to be read by more than one person.
- (C) An earthquake of 5.0 or above on the Richter scale causes massive damage. If there is not massive damage, then the earthquake did not attain a 5.0 or above.
- (D) A supersonic plane travels at speeds in excess of Mach 1. If it is not supersonic, then it will travel at speeds below Mach 1. *✓ 48.3%*
- (E) ✗ Fluoride generally prevents cavities. If there are no cavities, then there was no fluoride used.

- Grammatical error: 16. As its reputation for making acquisition of important masterpieces has grown, the museum has increasingly turned down gifts of lesser-known paintings they would in the past have accepted gratefully.

- (A) They would in the past have accepted gratefully
- (B) They would have accepted gratefully in the past
- (C) It would in the past have accepted gratefully
- (D) ✗ It previously would have accepted gratefully in the past
- (E) ✗ That previously would have been accepted in the past.

- tyres
17. According to a recent report, the original tires supplied with the Impressivo, a new sedan-class automobile, wore much more quickly than tires conventionally wear. The report suggested two possible causes (1) defects in the tires, and (2) improper wheel alignment of the automobile. *✓ 48.3%
incorrect means*

- Which of the following would best help the authors of the report determine which of the two causes identified was responsible for the extra wear?
- (A) A study in which the rate of their wear in the Impressivo is compared to the rate of tire wear in all automobiles in the same class.

- (B) A study in which a second set of tires, manufactured by a different company than the one that made the first set, is installed on all Impressivos and the rate of wear is measured.
- (C) A study in which the level of satisfaction of workers in the Impressivo manufacturing plants is measured and compared to that of workers at other automobile manufacturing plants.
- (D) A study that determines how often improper wheel alignment results in major problems for manufacturers of other automobiles in the Impressivo's class.
- (E) A study that determines the degree to which faulty driving techniques employed by Impressivo drivers contributed to tire wear.

18. Scientists wishing to understand the kinetic movements of ancient dinosaurs are today studying the movements of modern day birds, which many scientists believe are descended from dinosaurs. A flaw in this strategy is that birds, although once genetically linked to dinosaurs, have evolved so far that any comparison is effectively meaningless.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the criticism made above of the scientists' strategy?

- (A) Birds and dinosaurs have a number of important features in common that exist in no other living species.
- (B) Birds are separated from dinosaurs by 65 million years of evolution.
- (C) Our theories of dinosaur movements have recently undergone a radical reappraisal.
- (D) The study of kinetic movement is a relatively new discipline.
- (E) Many bird experts do not study dinosaurs to draw inferences about birds.

19. A company's two divisions performed with remarkable consistency over the past 4 years; the heavy equipment division has accounted for approximately 25% of dollar sales and 45% of profits, and the consumer products division accounts for the balance.

Which of the following can be properly inferred regarding the past 4 years from the statement above?

- (A) Total dollar sales for each of the company's divisions has remained roughly constant.
- (B) The heavy equipment division has faced stiffer competition in its markets than has the consumer products division.
- (C) The consumer products division has realized lower profits per dollar of sales than has the heavy equipment division.
- (D) The product mix offered by each of the company's divisions has remained unchanged.
- (E) Highly profitable products accounted for a higher percentage of the consumer products division's sales than those of the heavy equipment division.

20. The local board of education found that, because the current chemistry curriculum has little direct relevance to the real world, chemistry classes attract few high school students. So to attract students to chemistry classes, the school board proposed a curriculum that emphasizes principles of chemistry involved in producing and testing foam insulation.

Real world
principles

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest reason to expect that the proposed curriculum will be successful in attracting students?

- (A) In the real world the production and testing of foam insulation is of major importance in the building trades.
- (B) The number of students interested in chemistry today is much lower than the number of students interested in chemistry 50 years ago.
- (C) Equipment that a large producer of foam insulation has donated to the school could be used in the proposed curriculum.
- (D) Knowledge of chemistry is becoming increasingly important in understanding the technology used in the real world.
- (E) Several fundamental principles of chemistry are involved in producing and testing foam insulation.

21. Health club membership has increased dramatically over the last five years. In order to take advantage of this increase, Fitness Express plans to open more of the same types of classes available during the week, while continuing its already very extensive advertising in newspapers and on the radio.

Which of the following, if true, provides most support for the view that Fitness Express cannot increase membership to its gyms by adopting the plan outlined above?

- A. Although it fills all of the classes it opens, Fitness Express's share of all health club memberships has declined over the last five years.
- B. Fitness Express' number of classes offered to their clients has declined slightly over the last year.
- C. Advertising has made the name of Fitness Express widely known, but few customers know that Fitness Express health clubs also offer acupuncture and shiatsu treatments.
- D. Fitness Express's health clubs is one of three clubs that have together accounted for 88% of health club memberships.
- E. Despite a slight decline in membership price, sales of Fitness Express memberships have fallen in the last five years.

22. Parents of some of the children in a particular class have claimed that the teacher is not objective and favors his male students with higher grades. But the record shows that 92% of the female students received a passing grade in this teacher's class. This record demonstrates that the teacher has not discriminated against women when assigning grades.

The argument above is flawed in that it ignored the possibility that

- A. a large number of the teacher's students were in his class the previous year.
- B. many teachers find it difficult to be objective when assigning grades to male and female students.
- C. the evidence shows that more than 92% of the female students should have received a passing grade.
- D. the majority of tests written by female students and that have been rechecked by another teacher were given a higher grade by the second teacher.

E. the teacher is biased against female students in the case of only some of the subjects the teachers.

23. The number of young adults that are illiterate has dropped significantly in a certain county over the last fifteen years. Education officials attribute this decrease entirely to improved conditions in the schools, which made for a better teaching environment, reducing the level of illiteracy.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the education officials' explanation for the lower incidence of the disease?

A. Many similar improvements in school conditions have been made over the last twenty-five years in the county.

B. Home-schooling has not been more prevalent among the illiterate as compared to people who are not illiterate.

C. Because of a new assessment scale, many people who until this year would have been considered illiterate are now considered low-level readers.

D. The same percentage of the population has been tested every year for the last 30 years.

E. The conditions in the schools were brought up to the standards of the neighboring counties twenty years ago.

24. In many hospitals, more and more monitoring is being carried out by automated equipment instead of human employees who previous carried out the work. This is done in an attempt to save hospital expenses. However, many employees who lose their jobs to automation will need government assistance to get by, and the same corporations that are laying people off will eventually pay for that assistance through increased taxes and unemployment insurance payments.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the author's argument?

A. Most of the new jobs created by automated equipment pay less than the jobs that were eliminated by automated equipment did.

B. Many hospitals that have failed to automate have seen their profits decline.

C. Unemployment insurance and taxes are paid also by corporations that are not automating.

D. Many workers who have already lost their jobs to automated equipment have been unable to find new employment.

E. The initial investment in machinery for automated equipment is often greater than the short-term savings in labor costs.

25. Many people claim that advertisements of alcoholic drinks influence young people to start drinking socially. In Iceland, however, where there has been a ban on the advertisement of alcoholic beverages since 1982, drinking is at least as prevalent among young people as it is in countries that do not have a similar ban.

Which of the following statements draws the most reliable conclusion from the information above?

A. Advertising does not play a role in causing young people to start or continue drinking.

B. Advertisements of alcoholic drinks cannot be the only factor that affects the prevalence of drinking among young people.

C. Banning advertisements of alcoholic drinks does not reduce the consumption of alcoholic drinks.

- D. More youths drink if they are not exposed to advertisements of alcoholic drinks than if they are.
E. Most youths who drank in 1982 did not stop when the ban on advertisements of alcoholic drinks was implemented.

26. Tougher hiring standards have not been the primary cause of the present staffing shortage of registered nurses in hospitals. The shortage of nurses is primarily caused by the fact that in recent years nurses have not experienced any improvements in working conditions and their salary increases have not kept pace with increases in the salaries of other hospital staff.

Which of the following, if true, would most support the claims above?

- A. Many nurses already in the profession would not have been hired under the new hiring standards.
B. Today more nurses are entering the profession with higher educational qualifications than in the past.
C. Some nurses have cited higher standards for hiring as a reason for the current staffing shortage.
D. Many nurses have cited low pay and lack of professional autonomy as reasons for their leaving the profession.
E. Many prospective nurses have cited the new hiring standards as a reason for not entering the profession.

27. When a particular country halted their general conscription, people tended to save more of their money, but when the general conscription was reinstated, people tended to spend more of their money. The perceived threat of war, therefore, decreases the willingness of people to postpone consumption for the sake of saving money. The arguments above assumes that

- A. the perceived threat of war has increased over the years
B. most people supported the development the general conscription in this country
C. people's perception of the threat of war depends on whether there is a limited or a general conscription in the country
D. the people who saved the most money when conscription was limited were the ones who supported such limitations
E. there are more consumer goods available when the country has general conscription

28. A researcher discovered that people who have low levels of vitamin B12 tend to score much lower on tests of short and long term memory than do people with normal or high levels of B12. The researcher concluded from this experiment that vitamin B12 protects against problems of short and long term memory.

The researcher's conclusion depends on which of the following assumptions?

- A. High levels of B12 protect against memory problems better than normal B12 levels do.
B. Memory problems are similar to malnutrition in its effects on body systems.
C. People with high levels of B12 cannot develop memory problems.
D. There is no third factor involved which causes both memory problems and a reduction in the levels of B12 in the body.

E. Memory improvement exercises are not as effective as is medical treatments.

29. Reaching a diagnosis on the basis of step-by-step plan to search for the cause of a disease has been considered preferable to intuitive searching. However, a recent study found that hospital department heads used intuition significantly more than did most doctors with less seniority. This confirms the alternative view that intuition is actually more effective than careful, methodical reasoning.

The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- A. Department heads are more effective at decision making than doctors with less seniority.
- B. Department heads have the ability to use either intuitive reasoning or methodical reasoning in making decisions.
- C. The diagnosis made by doctors with less seniority can be made as easily by using methodical reasoning as by using intuitive reasoning.
- D. The most prominent doctors use intuitive reasoning in making the majority of their decisions.
- E. Methodical, step- by- step reasoning is inappropriate for making many life or death medical decisions.

30. The imposition of quotas limiting imported wheat will not help large local farms. In fact, the quotas will help small local farms flourish. Those small domestic farms will take more business from the large farms than would have been taken by the foreign farms in the absence of quotas.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most serious doubt on the claim made in the last sentence above?

- A. Quality rather than price is a major factor in determining the type of wheat bought by a particular client.
- B. Foreign wheat growers have long produced grade of wheat comparable in quality to the wheat grown locally.
- C. Local quotas on imported goods have often induced other countries to impose similar quotas on this country's goods.
- D. Small domestic farms consistently produce better grades of wheat than do the big farms.
- E. Small domestic farms produce low-volume, specialized types of wheat that are not produced by the large local farms.

31. Last year the unemployment rate in Milton, a small city, was 3.5 percent, but for the current year it has been 6 percent. We can conclude that inflation is on an upward trend and the rate will be still higher next year.

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

- A. The employment rates were computed on the basic of the representatives sample of economic data rather than all of the available data.
- B. Last year, the closure of one of the largest plant in Milton brought unemployment above its recent stable annual level of 3.5 percent until the plant reopened 4 months later.

- C. Increases in the number of jobs available are tied to the level of unemployment, and at an unemployment rate of 6 percent or above, these increases constitute a force causing further unemployment.
- D. The 3.5 percent unemployment rate of last year represented a ten-year low.
- E. Government intervention cannot affect the rate of unemployment to any significant degree.
32. Poor management, not changes in the economy, is responsible for the low profits reported in Aztec Inc., a subsidiary of Wilson Industries, since its new CEO took control. Maya Inc., another subsidiary has had to function in the same economic conditions, but while Aztec's profits have been falling, Maya's profits have been rising.
- Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?
- A. R & D at Aztec Inc. is also progressing at a slower rate.
- B. Whereas the Aztec plant is located in a small town, Maya is situated in the industrial area of the largest city in the state.
- C. Both companies have been functioning in a recessed economy.
- D. The products that are produced by the Aztec subsidiary are different from those that have always been manufactured by the Maya subsidiary.
- E. Aztec's new CEO reorganized the breakdown of departments within the company with the intention of reducing the number of redundant positions.
33. Archeologists have recently unearthed a 250-page bible commentary in Safe. The document is undated but contains clues to when it was written. The first 130 pages are written by one hand, while the rest is written in a distinctively different hand. Since a letter in the handwriting identified as that of the second writer reports on an earthquake that killed many people in Safe in 1759, the commentary was probably produced around that time.
- Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the hypothesis that the commentary was produced around 1759?
- A. Other than this commentary, there are no known samples of the handwriting of the first writer.
- B. According to the account by the second writer, the earthquake caused the collapse of over fifty structures.
- C. A commentary like the one unearthed would usually take between three to nine months to write.
- D. There was only one earthquake in Safe in the 18th century.
- E. It is highly unusual for such a document to be written by more than one hand.
34. Baltimore Sweets sell their popular Chocbloc in a distinctive square package. Sunshine Chocolates have recently introduced a new chocolate bar sold in a similarly shaped package. Baltimore Sweet believe it is likely that many customers intending to buy their Chocbloc candy bar will mistakenly buy the Sunshine product instead. However, Sunshine Chocolates claims that this is not so because their label on their, but not on Chocbloc, is red.
- Which of the following, if true, most undermines the response of Sunshine Chocolates?

- A. Red is the background color on the label of many of the chocolate bars produced by Sunshine Chocolates.
- B. When the chocolate bars are viewed side by side, the Sunshine Chocolates' new bar is perceptibly thicker than the Baltimore Sweets bar.
- C. Sunshine Chocolates, unlike Baltimore Sweet, display their packaging prominently in advertisements.
- D. It is common for occasional purchasers to buy a chocolate bar on the basis of a general impression of the most obvious feature of the bar.
- E. Many popular chocolate bars are sold in packaging of a standard shape.

35. Recently, a court ruled that current law allows tour operators that travel to potentially dangerous locations, such as the Amazon, to reject a potential customer if there is a 50 percent chance that the traveler would contract malaria on the trip. The presiding judge justified the ruling, saying that it protected both travelers and tour operators. This use of his court ruling as part of the law could not be effective if which of the following were true?

- (A) The best interests of travelers often conflict with the interests of tour operators.
- (B) There is currently no legally accepted method executing calculating the risk of contracting malaria as a result of being exposed to it in a particular location.
- (C) Some trips might involve health risks other than the risk of malaria.
- (D) Travelers who have a 50 percent chance of contracting malaria may be unaware that their risk is so great.
- (E) The number of people signing up to take trips with a tour company might decline if the company, by screening applicants for risk of malaria, seemed to suggest that the trip entailed high risk of getting the disease.

36. Since the national postal service in country X was privatized six months ago, delays in the delivery of mail have increased by 20 percent. To combat this problem, more sorting and delivering staff must be hired in the busiest regions of the country.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the effectiveness of the solution proposed above?

- (A) The major causes of delays in the nation's busiest regions are bad weather and antiquated sorting equipment.
- (B) Since privatization began, the number of employees has increased by 25 percent.
- (C) Over 60 percent of the postal budget goes to pay salaries.
- (D) After a small post sorting facility doubled its staff, the number of delays that were reported decreased by 50 percent.
- (E) Since privatization, the average length of delay in the nation's busiest regions has doubled.