

1. Five years ago, as part of a plan to encourage citizens of Levaska to increase the amount of money they put into savings, Levaska's government introduced special savings accounts in which up to \$3,000 a year can be saved with no tax due on the interest unless money is withdrawn before the account holder reaches the age of sixty-five. Millions of dollars have accumulated in the special accounts, so the government's plan is obviously working.

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

- A. A substantial number of Levaskans have withdrawn at least some of the money they had invested in the special accounts.
- B. Workers in Levaska who already save money in long-term tax-free accounts that are offered through their workplace cannot take advantage of the special savings accounts introduced by the government.
- C. The rate at which interest earned on money deposited in regular savings accounts is taxed depends on the income bracket of the account holder.
- D. Many Levaskans who already had long-term savings have steadily been transferring those savings into the special accounts.
- E. Many of the economists who now claim that the government's plan has been successful criticized it when it was introduced.

2. "Life expectancy" is the average age at death of the entire live-born population. In the middle of the nineteenth century, life expectancy in North America was 40 years, whereas now it is nearly 80 years. Thus, in those days, people must have been considered old at age that we now consider the prime of life.

Which of the following, if true, undermines the argument above?

(A) In the middle of the nineteenth century, the population of North America was significantly smaller than is today.

(B) Most of the gains in life expectancy in the last 150 years have come from reductions in the number of infants who die in their first year of life.

(C) Many of the people who live to an advanced age today do so only because of medical technology that was unknown in the nineteenth century.

(D) the proportion of people who die in their seventies is significantly smaller today than is the proportion of people who die in their eighties.

(E) More people in the middle of the nineteenth century engaged regularly in vigorous physical activity than do so today.

3. In each of the past five years, Barraland's prison population has increased. Yet, according to official government statistics, for none of those years has there been either an increase in the number of criminal cases brought to trial, or an increase in the rate at which convictions have been obtained. Clearly, therefore, the percentage of people convicted of crimes who are being given prison sentences is on the increase.

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

(A) In Barraland the range of punishments that can be imposed instead of a prison sentence is wide.

(B) Over the last ten years, overcrowding in the prisons of Barraland has essentially been eliminated as a result of an ambitious program of prison construction.

(C) Ten years ago, Barraland reformed its criminal justice system, imposing longer minimum sentences for those crimes for which a prison sentence had long been mandatory.

(D) Barraland has been supervising convicts on parole more closely in recent years, with the result that parole violations have become significantly less frequent.

(E) The number of people in Barraland who feel that crime is on the increase is significantly greater now than it was five years ago.

4. Most universities today offer students a more in-depth and cosmopolitan education than ever before. Until recently, for example, most university history courses required only the reading of textbooks that hardly mentioned the history of Africa or Asia after the ancient periods, or the history of the Americas' indigenous cultures. The history courses at most universities no longer display such limitations.

Which one of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument above?

(A) The history courses that university students find most interesting are comprehensive in their coverage of various periods and cultures.

(B) Many students at universities whose history courses require the reading of books covering all periods and world cultures participate in innovative study-abroad programs.

(C) The extent to which the textbooks of university history courses are culturally inclusive is a strong indication of the extent to which students at those universities get an in-depth and cosmopolitan education.

(D) Universities at which the history courses are quite culturally inclusive do not always have courses in other subject areas that show the same inclusiveness.

(E) University students who in their history courses are required only to read textbooks covering the history of a single culture will not get an in-depth and cosmopolitan education from these courses alone.

5. Traces of cultivated emmer wheat have been found among the earliest agricultural remains of many archeological sites in Europe and Asia. The only place where the wild form of emmer wheat has been found growing is a relatively narrow strip of southwest Asia. Since the oldest remains of cultivated emmer wheat yet found are from village sites in the same narrow strip, it is clear that emmer wheat was first domesticated somewhere in that strip.

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

(A) The present-day distribution of another wild wheat, einkorn, which was also domesticated early in the development of agriculture, covers a much larger area of southwest Asia.

(B) Modern experiments show that wild emmer wheat can easily be domesticated so as to yield nearly as well as traditionally domestic strains (a particular type of plant).

(C) At the time when emmer wheat was first cultivated, it was the most nutritious of all the varieties of grain that were then cultivated.

(D) In the region containing the strip where wild emmer wheat has been found, climatic conditions have changed very little since before the development of agriculture.

(E) It is very difficult, without genetic testing, to differentiate the wild form of emmer wheat from a closely related wild wheat that also grows in southwest Asia.

6. By analyzing the garbage of a large number of average-sized households, a group of modern urban anthropologists has found that a household discards less food the more standardized-made up of canned and prepackaged foods-its diet is. The more standardized a household's diet is, however, the greater the quantities of fresh produce the household throws away.

Which of the following can be properly inferred from the passage?

- (A) An increasing number of households rely on a highly standardized diet.
- (B) The less standardized a household's diet is, the more nonfood waste the household discards.
- (C) The less standardized a household's diet is, the smaller is the proportion of fresh produce in the household's food waste.
- (D) The less standardized a household's diet is, the more canned and prepackaged foods the household discards as waste.
- (E) The more fresh produce a household buys, the more fresh produce it throws away.

7. Holiday receipts—the total sales recorded in the fourth quarter of the year—determine the economic success or failure of many retail businesses. Camco, a retailer selling just one camera model, is an excellent example. Camco's holiday receipts, on average, account for a third of its yearly total receipts and about half of its yearly profits.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must also be true about Camco on the basis of them?

- (A) Its fixed expenses per camera sold are higher during the fourth quarter than for any of the other three quarters.
- (B) It makes more profit during the first and third quarters combined than during the fourth quarter.
- (C) Its per-camera retail price is lower, on average, during the fourth quarter than during any one of the first three quarters.
- (D) It makes less profit, on average, for a given dollar amount of sales during the first three quarters combined than during the fourth quarter.
- (E) The per-camera price it pays to wholesalers is higher, on average, during the fourth quarter than during any of the other three quarters.

8. All of the cargo ships of the Blue Star Line are over 100 meters long, and all of its passenger ships are under 100 meters long. Most of the ships of the Blue Star Line were built before 1980. All of the passenger and cargo ships of the Gold Star line were built after 1980, and all are under 100 meters long. The dockside facilities of Port Tropica, which is open only to ships of these two lines, can accommodate only those ships that are less than 100 meters long. The S.S. Coral is a cargo ship that is currently docked at Port Tropica.

If the statements above are true, which one of the following must be true on the basis of them?

- (A) The S.S. Coral was built after 1980.
- (B) The S.S. Coral belongs to the Blue Star Line.
- (C) Port Tropica is served only by cargo ships.
- (D) Port Tropica is not served by ships of the Blue Star Line.
- (E) All of the ships of the Blue Star Line are older than any of the ships of the Gold Star Line.



9. Morning Glory, the coffee shop on the corner, has lost nearly 50% of its business because a national retail coffee chain opened up a store down the street. Instead of closing up shop, the owner of Morning Glory plans to draw in customers by offering coffee, tea, and pastries at much lower prices than the national coffee chain.

The owner's plan of action is based on all of the following assumptions EXCEPT

- a. some customers will choose the coffee shop that offers the lowest price.
- b. the quality of Morning Glory's coffee is comparable to that of the national coffee chain.
- c. Morning Glory can afford to cut its profit margin in order to lower prices.
- d. Morning Glory's customers are very loyal.
- e. The national coffee chain will not lower its prices in order to compete with Morning Glory.

10. Gortland has long been narrowly self-sufficient in both grain and meat. However, as per capita income in Gortland has risen toward the world average, per capita consumption of meat has also risen toward the world average, and it takes several pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat. Therefore, since per capita income continues to rise, whereas domestic grain production will not increase, Gortland will soon have to import either grain or meat or both.

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

- A. The total acreage devoted to grain production in Gortland will not decrease substantially.
- B. The population of Gortland has remained relatively constant during the country's years of growing prosperity.
- C. The per capita consumption of meat in Gortland is roughly the same across all income levels.
- D. In Gortland, neither meat nor grain is subject to government price controls.
- E. People in Gortland who increase their consumption of meat will not radically decrease their consumption of grain.