

Aptitude Advanced

Verbal Reasoning

eBook 01

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Chapter 1: Course of Action Questions

1.1 Introduction

Course of Action is a common question type in Verbal Reasoning.

These can be solved quite easily with the help of a logical mind frame. A course of action is generally asked to test the analytical decision-making skills of the examinee.

What is Course of Action?

The term courses of action means a decision which a person takes invariably following a problem or a course of action is a step to be taken for improvement, follow up or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc. on the basis of the information given in the statement. A course of action is a guideline or administrative step initiated to improve or solve the problem based on the information provided in the question.

In such type of questions, a problem is given in the form of statement and is followed by two or more decisions in the form of course action.

1.2 Format of the Question

In each question is given a statement followed by two courses of action numbered I and II. You have to assume

everything in the statement to be true and on the basis of the information given in the statement, decide which of the suggested courses of action logically follow(s) for pursuing.

Give Sol.

- (A) If only I follows.
- (B) If only II follows.
- (C) If either I or II follows.
- (D) If neither I nor II follows.
- (E) If both I and II follow.

1. Statement: A large number of people in ward X of the city are diagnosed to be suffering from a fatal malaria type.

Courses of Action:

- I. The city municipal authority should take immediate steps to carry out extensive fumigation in ward X.
- II. The people in the area should be advised to take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

Ans. Option E

Ex. Clearly, prevention and elimination of mosquitoes are two ways to prevent malaria. So, both the courses follow.

1.3 Tips to Solve a Course of Action Question

Remember the course of action should be:

1. Help to minimise or solve the problem.
2. It should be logical.
3. It should be feasible.
4. It should be practical and implementable.

Tip 1: Have an unbiased approach. Individual perception must not be used to judge the course of action to be taken.

Example 1

Directions: In the question below are given a statement followed by two courses of action numbered I and II. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the problem, policy, etc. On the basis of the information given in the statement to be true, then decide which of the suggested courses of action logically follow(s) for pursuing.

Statement: India has been continuously experiencing military threats from its neighbouring countries.

Courses of action:

- I. India should engage in an all-out war to stop the nagging threats.
 - II. India should get the neighbours into a serious dialogue to reduce the tension at its borders.
1. Only I follows.
 2. Only II follows.
 3. Either I or II follows.
 4. Neither I nor II follows.
 5. Both follow.

Ans. Option 2

Sol. In this case, we might personally tend to have a tit for tat attitude. If we were thinking with our own temperament, we might choose the first course of action. But in reality, this would be a biased Sol. War should be the last resort. First, discussion and negotiations should take place to settle the issues of dispute. So, only course II follows.

Tip 2: The first step should be to identify the root cause of the problem. Once the problem is solved, a logical mindset should be employed to figure out the course of action.

Example 2

Statement: The Committee has criticized the college for its failure to implement a dozen regular programmes

despite an increase in the staff strength and for not drawing up a firm action plan for studies and research.

Courses of action:

- I. The broad objectives of the Institute should be redefined to implement a practical action plan.
 - II. The Institute should give a report on reasons for not having implemented the planned programmes.
- 1. Only I follows.
 - 2. Only II follows.
 - 3. Either I or II follows.
 - 4. Neither I nor II follows.
 - 5. Both follow.

Ans. Option 5

Sol. Both I and II will be helpful in the given situation. Since an action plan is required to conduct future activities, it is important to have it in place. Also, even though the college has more staff now, it is unable to implement programmes. This needs to be looked into and thus the second action is important. Hence, both I and II are advisable. The correct course of action could not have been found out had the real problem not been identified. The real problem is that the college has not been able to implement regular programmes and not been able to follow an action plan.

Tip 3: Avoid extreme and indirect course of Action

Example 3

Statement: The members belonging to two local societies occasionally fight with each other on the main highway and traffic is always jammed.

Courses of Action:

- I. The local police station should immediately deploy policemen round the clock on the main highway.
 - II. Those involved in fighting should be identified and put behind bars.
 - III. The local authority should cease the management of the two societies with immediate effect.
- 1. Only I and II.
 - 2. Only I and III.
 - 3. Only II and III.
 - 4. All of I, II, III.
 - 5. None of these.

Ans. Option1

Sol. Clearly only I and II follow because to stop the fighting, the police must deploy troops and the culprits must be put behind bars to deter them from causing such scenes in the future. III does not follow because ceasing the management would be a violation of people's rights to association and we do not know if all members participate in this fighting. Following the third

course of action would be extreme and thus should not be followed.

Tip 4: A course of action must be able to solve, reduce or minimise the problem given in the information.

Tip 5: The course of action can be said to solve/reduce the problem when it is an established fact, when it is logically possible and when it is known from experience.

Example 4

Statement: The army has been alerted in the district following floods triggered by incessant rains.

Courses of Action:

- I. Relief to flood-affected people should be arranged.
 - II. Supply of food articles should be arranged.
 - III. Adequate medical facilities should be arranged.
- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Only A follows. | 2. Only B follows. |
| 3. Only A and C follow. | 4. None follows. |
| 5. All follow. | |

Ans. Option 5

Sol. Once the army has been made aware about the flood situation, the next step would be to provide the

necessary relief material to the flood-affected people in the form of food, medicine, clothing, shelter etc. This is an established fact and should not require any other form of reasoning to come up with the solution.

Tip 6: Choose a Logical Course of Action

Example 5:

Statement: A speeding car has seriously injured six persons sleeping on the pathway near the road last night.

Courses of action:

- I. The government should immediately put a complete ban on people sleeping on pathways.
- II. The driver of the car should be caught by the police and put behind bars.
- III. The injured people should be taken to the hospital with immediate effect.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Only I follows. | 2. Only II follows. |
| 3. Only III follows. | 4. Only II and III follow. |
| 5. None of these. | |

Ans. Option 4

Sol. Action I does not follow. The injury to the people was caused by rash driving. Banning people from sleeping on pathways will not make the driver any less rash and he will continue to be a danger to pedestrians and other vehicles on the road. Also, banning people from sleeping on pathways is not a practical move. There are too many pathways and there aren't enough resources to enforce the ban. Besides, if this ban were to be put in place, this would leave already homeless people without any place to sleep. Thus, it would not be a logical course of action to follow.

II and III follow because the culprit is a danger to society. He must be punished. At the same time, it is important that the injured people be hospitalized as soon as possible. Otherwise, their injuries could lead to death.

Tip 7: Chose a feasible course of action based on experience

Example 6:

Statement: A sudden cloudburst over the coastal region of city X resulted in unpredicted rainfall causing Tsunami like situation in the entire area. Large numbers of people were caught unawares and were guided to the road.

Courses of action:

- I. The local administration should immediately put in place an action plan for avoiding such situations in the future.
- II. The local disaster management body should immediately deploy personnel to help people to safer places.
- III. The local administration should advise all the citizens not to hazard out on the road till the situation improves.

- 1. Only I follows.
- 2. Only II follows.
- 3. Only III follows.
- 4. Only II and III follow.
- 5. All of I, II, III follow.

Ans. Option 5

Sol. II and III follow because it is mandatory in such situations to help people to safety and guide people to follow safety measurements until the situation is under control.

I is also a valid course of action. While sudden cloudbursts and the resulting flood like situations are nearly impossible to avoid, the local administration could have done more to ensure people's safety. For example, it could have taught people what to do in an emergency

situation, instead of having them gather on roads as well as have provided them with emergency shelters.

In this case, the role of the local administration is being assumed because the awareness created by the administration to help the people in an emergency arises when there has been a similar sort of incident in the past and thus the problems arising from such natural phenomenon can be avoided by learning from the experiences of the past.

Chapter 2: Assertion & Reason Questions

2.1 Introduction

Assertion' refers to stating or claiming something forcefully and that of Reason is fact. This test is meant to judge the candidate's knowledge and with it, the aim is to determine his ability to reason out correctly.

What are Assertion and Reason?

In this test, two statements referred to as the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) respectively are provided.

Assertion (A) – Assertion means any belief or fact stated. It is a claim made.

Reason(R) – Reason is an explanation of the claim.

Of the two statements, an assertion and a reason, you are required to determine whether each statement is true. If both are true, you must next determine whether the reason correctly explains the assertion. There is one option for each possible outcome.

2.2 Format of the Questions

Two statements will be given and labelled assertion and reason respectively.

Five alternative options on these are given and the correct one is to be chosen.

Option:

- A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.
- E. Both A and R are false.

1. Assertion(A) : Carbon monoxide when inhaled causes death.

Reason (R): Carbon monoxide combines with haemoglobin.

Sol. A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. Carbon monoxide, when inhaled, combines with the haemoglobin in the blood to form carboxyhaemoglobin which inhibits the transport of oxygen.

2.3 Tips to Solve

A. First, you need to read both the sentences to see if they are correct or incorrect.

If you are able to find an incorrect statement, then you have automatically cracked the problem and this case falls under last three option.

Now if option 5 is not present in your case, then just seeing one incorrect statement solve your question. Now if option 5 is present, you need to look at the correctness of the other statement also.

B. Now if you find that both the statements are correct, the option 1 and 2 comes under the picture. It is the most confusing part for most of the students. The easier ways to solve in that case to write like this <assertion statement > is true because < reason statement>. If that makes sense to you based on the concept, then option 1 is correct else option 2.

Sample Questions

Directions: Five alternative options on these are given and the correct one is to be chosen.

Option:

A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

B. Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.

C. A is true, but R is false.

D. A is false, but R is true.

E. Both A and R are false

1. Assertion (A) : We feel colder on mountains than on plains.

Reason (R) : Temperature decreases with altitude.

Sol. A Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Higher above the sea level, temperature decreases at the rate of 1°C for every 165 meters of ascent making mountain peaks colder.

2. Assertion (A) : Clothes are not washed properly in hard water.

Reason (R) : Hard water contains many minerals.

Sol. B - Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.

Clothes are not washed properly in hard water because it does not form lather with soap. However, it is true that hard water contains many minerals.

3. Assertion (A): Vaccines prevent diseases.

Reason (R): Vaccines must be given to children.

Sol. B - Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.

Vaccines prevent diseases by developing immunity inside the body and vaccines must be given to children to build in the resistance against diseases.

4. Assertion (A): Downpour of rain lessens the humidity in the atmosphere.

Reason (R): Rains are caused when atmosphere cannot hold more moisture.

Sol. D - A is false, but R is true.

Rains are caused when the atmosphere in upper reaches cannot hold more water.

But the downpour of rain increases the humidity in the atmosphere near the earth's surface.

5. Assertion (A): Eskimos reside in igloos.

Reason (R): No other material except snow is available.

Sol. C- A is true, but R is false.

Eskimos live in snow houses called igloos because snow, being a bad conductor of heat, these houses are warm inside.

Chapter 3: Cause and Effect Questions

3.1 Introduction

Cause and Effect is a common area of testing in any competitive examination. They often appear in the Logical Reasoning.

The main aim of cause and effect questions is to derive the relationship between two given statements. The relationship that needs to be tested is whether the statements are causally related to each other. This means we need to find out whether one of the statements is a direct cause of the other or conversely whether one of the statements is a direct effect of the other.

What are Causes?

1. Causes are the conditions under which an event occurs.
2. Cause is an event that leads to another event, which in turn is called the effect of triggering event.
3. It must be a scientifically proven fact that the cause leads to the said effect.
4. The said effect should be a logical consequence of the said cause.

Can you guess the causes for the following?

E.g.: The police are increasing security around the President's house.

Cause: There were reports of threats against the President.

E.g.: Lots of people buying a particularly expensive brand of washing machines around Diwali.

Cause: There was a high discount or sale for that brand during Diwali.

What can be the different causes?

Immediate Cause: It immediately precedes the effect. This cause shares the closest proximity with the effect with relation to time.

Principal Cause: The most important reason behind the effect. The principal cause is the main and the most important reason behind the effect. The immediate cause can be the principal cause and vice versa.

Independent cause: There is no relationship between the cause and the given effect.

The cause is always antecedent. Naturally, the cause will occur before the effect. Hence, if two events are given, then the effect that is chronologically antecedent to the other one can only be regarded as a possible cause.

Sufficient & necessary conditions for Cause and Effect questions

The cause is the sufficient condition.

A necessary condition is one that must be satisfied for the occurrence of an event.

A cause is a reason for something to happen.

An effect is a consequence.

3.2 Format of Questions

Directions: Below each question are given two statements (I) and (II). These statements may be either independent causes or may be effects of independent causes or a common cause. One of these statements may be the effect of the other statement. Read both the statements and decide which of the following Sol. choice correctly depicts the relationship between these two statements.

Options:

- A. If statement (I) is the cause and statement (II) is the effect.
- B. If statement (II) is the cause and statement (I) is the effect.
- C. If both the statements (I) and (II) are independent causes.
- D. If both the statements (I) and (II) are effects of some independent causes.
- E. If both the statements (I) and (II) are effects of some common cause.

Example 1:

- I. China became a major hub for global manufacturing in the late 80s and continues to be so until the present.
- II. China has cheap manpower and natural resources – both of which are essential for industrial growth.

Ans. 2

Sol: The reason for China becoming a hotspot for manufacturing globally has been stated in Statement II. The factors of cheap labour and abundance of natural resources contributed to the industrial growth of China in the late 80s and helped it become a manufacturing hub.

Thus, statement II is the cause and statement I is the effect. Here, the reason is a principal cause. The words 'till the present' also give an indication that statement I cannot be the cause because the cause should always precede the effect.

3.3 Tips to solve Cause and Effect Questions

Tip 1: Sometimes, the premise under discussion is not very directly observable. So, we need to use our logic and take into consideration all the effects of a possible cause.

Example 1:

- I. There is a possibility of snowfall in the next 2 days.
- II. The woollen clothes manufacturers increased their production by 50%.

Sol: The possibility of snowfall in the imminent future means that people will need to use woollen wear. To meet this increased demand, handloom industries will step up their production. Thus statement I is the cause and statement II is the effect. This is an immediate cause. Because of the possibility of snowfall, the handloom industry increased the production.

Tip 2: Even if the situations are related to the same subject, they might not have a cause and effect relationship between them.

Example 2:

- I. Ketaki was not granted a visa to the US.
- II. Ketaki's flight to San Francisco was delayed by at least fifteen hours.

Ans. 4

Sol: Sometimes to Sol. the question, we need to differentiate between what is a cause and what is an effect. Here, both statements are clearly effects. Ketaki might not have been granted a visa due to some reason (like withholding information, or her having pending criminal cases). However, she had no part to play in her flight getting delayed. Indeed, flights don't get delayed because of one person not having her visa. These things are checked at the immigration department either at the departing airport or the arriving airport. The delay must have been caused by some other reason then (like weather, or crowded airways or runways). These two reasons cannot be related even though the situations are related to the same person.

Tip 3: Do not try to always fit the statements in a cause-effect relationship. Sometimes, they could be just effects of a common or independent cause.

Example 3:

- I. Bahubali movie has crossed the 50 crore mark.
- II. Bahubali movie has been nominated for the Oscars.

Ans. 5

Sol: Here, the reason for the movie being nominated is not that it has crossed the 50 crore mark. Vice versa is also not true. Hence, there is a cause for the movie being nominated and there is a cause for it crossing the 50 crore mark. The possible common cause is that the movie was very good and therefore appreciated by both public and the critics.

Tip 4: There are some situations which could be either causes or effects. The trick is to identify whether there is any specific effect mentioned in relation to the statements. If there is we take them to be causes. If not, they are most likely effects.

Example 4:

- I. He has still not repaired his car which he uses for office work.
- II. He has not arrived yet.

Ans. 4

Sol. Consider this example:

He has not repaired could be because he did not get his salary.

Here, 'not getting the salary' is the cause of the effect 'not paying rent'. Hence, 1 is an effect. Clearly, this makes more sense than this being a cause as nobody would intentionally default on paying his rent.

Also, consider the following example:

He has not arrived yet because of the traffic.

Hence, 'he has not arrived yet' is the effect. This also makes more sense than it being a cause because there must be a reason for being later than expected.

These two effects are independent of each other and apply to different situations.

TIP 5: In this example, we see that the effect has not been mentioned, yet we are considering the statements as causes.

Example 5:

- I. The Government recently increased the duty on mid-sized cars.
- II. Last year the government had hiked taxes for all industrial activities.

Ans. 3

Sol. Here, the two statements deal with two different things: 'duty on cars' and 'hiked taxes for industries'. Hence, these two are not related to each other. They are not effects of anything. These rules may, however, affect other things like sales. Hence, these are independent causes.