

## Table of Contents

Chapter. No.	Topic	Page No.
1	Introduction to verbal Reasoning	
	1.1 Introduction	
	1.2 Relevance in entrance tests	1-3
	1.3 Skills required	
	1.4 Types of Questions asked	
	1.5 Tips	
2	Statement and Argument Questions	
	2.1 Introduction	
	2.2 Format of the question	4-21
	2.3 Tips to solve Statement and Argument Question	
3	Statement and Assumption Questions	
	3.1 Introduction	
	3.2 Format of the Question	22-
	3.3 Tips to solve Statement and Assumption Questions	35
	3.4 Sample questions	

## **Chapter 1: Introduction to Verbal Reasoning**

### **1.1 Introduction:**

Verbal reasoning is the ability to comprehend and reason using concepts expressed through words. A verbal reasoning test is a form of aptitude test to find out how well a candidate can assess verbal logic. It is a test of intelligence to provide an assessment of an individual's ability to think, reason and solve problems in different ways.

The best practice to build command over this section is practice. The more you practice; the better is your score.

### **1.2 Relevance in Entrance Test:**

This area is generally asked in competitive and placement aptitude exams

### **1.3 Skills Required**

- a. Logical thinking
- b. Analytical reasoning

### **1.4 Types of Questions Asked**

- 1. Statement and Arguments
- 2. Statement and Assumptions

3. Statement and Conclusions
4. Course of Action
5. Assertion and Reason
6. Cause and Effect

## 1.5 Tips

These seven tips are well worth remembering before you take the

- **Remember that the test is timed.** It's important to work out how much time you can spend on each question overall and make sure it does not take you longer than this.
- **Practice in advance.** The questions are designed to trick you and the text will often be written in a deliberately ambiguous way. It's a good idea to take practice tests to help you get used to the style of writing and questions you're likely to encounter.
- **Read the questions first.** If displayed, read the question(s) before you read the text, so you know what you are looking for.
- **Don't use general knowledge.** Everything you need to answer the question is included in the passage

already, so don't be tempted to let your general knowledge affect your answer.

- **Take things literally.** Passages must be interpreted literally as written - assertions that are implied are not necessarily true unless explicitly stated.
- **If you can't see it, it's not there.** Some questions will be about things not included in the passage.
- **You can change your answers.** That said, try to avoid spending ages debating over one question and wasting time scrolling back and forth.

## **Chapter 2: Statement and Argument Questions**

### **2.1 Introduction:**

Strong and Weak argument questions are asked in the verbal and logical reasoning test section. In these questions, a statement will be given. This will be followed by two/ three arguments. The question stem will then ask you to select which of these arguments is strong or weak.

#### **What is a strong argument?**

Strong arguments are those arguments which are directly related to the statement and satisfy the logic condition. Strong argument supports or strengthens the given statement.

#### **What is a weak argument?**

Weak arguments are those arguments which are not connected or indirectly related to the statement.

Weak argument does not logically support the given statement

It does not support the conclusion

It does not help in arriving at the conclusion

## 2.2 Format of the question:

The question will have the following components:

**Statement**

**Argument I**

**Argument II**

Question stem with five choices. And you have to select one of the following:

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either argument I or II is strong
- D. Neither argument I or II is strong
- E. Both argument I and II are strong

## 2.3 Tips to solve Strong and Weak Argument questions

**Tip 1-** While attempting these questions, make sure you arrive at the answer only on the information that is given to you.

**Example.:**

**Statement-** Should Mercy killing be legalised in India?

**Argument 1-** Yes, Mercy killing is already legalized in other countries

**Argument 2-** No, given the India's current social Fabric, there is high probability that the mercy killing provision might end up being misused by some people for their ulterior motives

**Sol.:** The stance taken by other countries cannot be applied to India too as there is difference in the socio-cultural factors prevailing in different countries.

Hence Argument I is weak

Argument II- provides a valid reason and rationale for the statement. Hence II is a strong argument.

**Tip 2:- If the argument relies on some assumption, it is a weak argument.**

**Ex.:**

**Statement-** Should Doctors be banned from carrying out private practice?

**Argument-** Yes, this will improve the quality of service in public hospitals

**Sol.** The above argument, assumes that public hospitals at present do not provide quality service. It also assumes

that poor quality of service in public hospitals is only because of the shortage of doctors in public hospitals.

### **Remember**

Tip 1- Do not bring in external knowledge.

Tip 2- Do not make assumptions.

Hence the given argument is based on the assumptions and hence not a strong argument.

**Tip 3:- If the argument gives someone's opinion it is not a valid argument.**

### **Example.:**

**Statement-** You should buy Swift Desire car.

**Argument-** Yes, because Sachin Tendulkar says Swift car has the best mileage.

**Sol.** Just because Sachin Tendulkar says, does not mean it is the best car. Since we have the opinion of an individual it is a weak argument.



**Tip 4:-** Look for logical reasons that support the argument. Statement without a logical reason and not connected to the statement are weak argument

**Example.:**

**Statement-** Should People the age of 18 be allowed to drive?

**Argument I-** Yes, People of any age should be free to do what they like

**Argument II-** No, People below the age of 18 do not have enough mental and physical maturity to drive a vehicle.

**Ans. Argument II is valid.**

**Sol.** Argument I does not give a logical justification with reasons.

On the other hand Argument II gives a valid justification and is related to the main statement.

**Tip 5:-** The reason should be connected and related to the meaning of the Statement given.

**Statement-** Should there be a divorce between the judiciary and the legislature?

**Argument-** No, the judiciary and the legislature are not a married couple.

**Sol.** In this Ex., the meaning of divorce is different in the statement, but it is taken in the literal meaning in the argument. Hence the reason is not valid. Hence it becomes a weak argument.

**The job of finding a forceful or weak argument can be accomplished by following the procedure described here.**

- I. Primary Screening:** A Primary Screening involves looking for the following things in an argument.

**ASBN**

A For Ambiguous

S for Superfluous

B for Boomerang

N for Naive

- 1. Unclear/Ambiguous Arguments:** Ambiguous arguments fall in the category of weak ones. In case of such an argument, it is not clear how the argument is related to the suggested course of

action and what the person really wants to convey.  
Take, for Example., the following case.

**Statement:** Religious festivals like the Kumbh should be banned because many people die in stampedes at such festivals.

**Argument:** Yes – The purpose of a person's life is to live and not die.

The argument here is ambiguous or unclear. We cannot make out how it is related to the main statement. Therefore, it is a weak argument.

2. **Superficial Arguments:** Are those which only look at the surface of the problem and fail to make a deep analysis of it. Have a look at the following problem:

**Statement:** Should we scrap our constitution and bring in its place a new one?

**Argument:** Yes – Old things are of little use.

**Statement:** Should we allow foreign print media to operate from Indian territory?

**Argument:** No – Foreign print media are useless.

Both of these arguments do not go deep into the problem and talk of superficial things. Hence they are weak.

3. **Boomerang - Type:** Boomerang is a stick, which if thrown on an object, comes back to you. These comprise a question posed as a reply to the main statement. Such counter-questions do not contain any argument and are without substance. All such counter-questions make weak arguments, e.g.,

**Statement:** Should we make family planning compulsory in India?

**Argument:** Yes – Why not?

**Statement:** Should India have a Presidential type of government?

**Argument:** No – Why should we do so?

Both of these arguments are weak because they are inconsequential and are not good arguments.

4. **Naive Arguments:** Are those which are related to the main statement but are not supported by facts. They are simple assertions and lack logical reasoning. Owing to all this, they are relegated to

the status of weak arguments. Consider, for illustration, this one:

**Statement:** We should enjoy ourselves to full before saying good-bye to this world.

**Argument:** No – Such thinking does not enable us to do anything in this world.

The argument given here is a simple assertion or plea of a person. It lacks substance or reasoning. Hence, it can be classified as a weak argument.

After being through with Primary screening, if you find the argument to be weak, you do not have to test on it on any other criteria. But if on Primary screening, you find it to be logical, you have to look for other things in order to certify it as a strong argument.

**II. Secondary Screening:** Once an argument passes the Primary screening, it should be put to Secondary Screening.

**1. Proper Relation:** An argument which is totally unrelated to the question can be rejected as a weak straightway. But what about an argument

which is related to the question, but is not a balanced course of action. In simple words, if you are feeding a grain or a glass of water to a camel or alternatively, you are using a huge water tanker to quench the thirst of a crow, this is not a wise option. A statement and an argument must be properly related to each other in that the argument should deal with the primary issue raised in the question and must not deal with minor, insignificant or irrelevant issues connected with the question. Examine the following problem.

**Statement:** Should we ban all types of protests, strikes by employees everywhere?

**Argument:** Yes – This is the only way to teach discipline to the employees.

Teaching discipline to employees is a desirable course of action, but to achieve it, banning legitimate strikes or protests may not be a viable option. By the way, if we ban these forms of protest, even genuine demands of employees (for which they may go on a

strike) will not be addressed. Thus, it is a case of achieving too little with too much.

**Statement:** Should all people go to the hills?

**Argument:** Yes – Because the hills with their salubrious climate promote longevity.

Now, no one would just go to the hills to increase his life-span. Further, such a course of action is not economically viable for many of us. Therefore, the argument does not put forth a reasonable option to pursue and hence, is a weak argument.

**Predictability of Results:** An argument will be classified as stirring if it talks of results that can be predicted with a fair degree of reliability based on established facts, universal truth, experience and (the not-so-common !) common-sense.

**Statement:** Should the system of competitive tests continue for selection of candidates for jobs and admissions?

**Argument:** Yes – It makes for the selection of the really deserving candidates.

The argument is a convincing one because our experience and common sense tells us this to be true. Let's, for the moment, assume, that there are no tests for any kind of job selection. What would happen in such a case? Selections would be based on the selector's own whims and notions, which may not be valid in all the cases. Therefore, to avoid it and ensure impartiality, it is better to have selection tests. And this is what the arguments says.

### **Now have a look at another Example**

**Statement:** The system of joint families is better than the nuclear family system.

**Argument:** No – The nuclear family system offers greater scope for individual freedom, enterprise and creativity and progress.



The argument put forth here is a strong one because most rational people would agree with the logic of the argument based on experience and commonsense.

**Statement:** India should be concerned about the development taking place in Pakistan, its neighbour.

**Argument:** No – What happens in Pakistan is their headache, we should mind our own business.

Experience tells us that today's world is highly integrated in character and what happens in one country has repercussions for not only its neighbours, but also for those that are far away from it. Since Pakistan is our immediate neighbour, anything happening there should be of concern to us because it affects us. In this light, the argument advanced here is a weak one. Here are some more Ex. of this kind:

**Statement:** Should India aim at improving its female literacy rate to control the booming population?

**Argument:** Yes – This step should certainly be successful because educated women can better understand the benefits of having a small family.

The argument is a strong one because both experience and commonsense dictate it. An educated person can better appreciate the correlation between family size and economy status, as proved by the Sri Lankan women.

**III. Probability:** Probability refers to the chances of an argument being true. Here we will classify arguments as weak or strong on the basis of chances of their truthfulness. There are certain cases where a solution suggested in the question has not been tried so far or we might not have experienced it. In such cases, only logic can tell us the probability or the improbability of logicity of such arguments. Examine the following cases.

**Statement:** Should the system of internal assessment be abolished in colleges and universities?

**Argument:** Yes – It promotes favoritism among teachers and leads to victimization of many students.

The argument is correct because logic warrants it. You may not have experienced it, but it is logically correct. Therefore it is a strong argument.

**Statement:** Shall we introduce state financing of elections in India?

**Argument:** Yes-It will eliminate the role of money power which many candidates use to win elections.

The argument is convincing because we have seen it happening many times that a candidate wins simply because of his money-power used in elections.

**IV. Desirability:** After putting the arguments to the above tests, we will finally subject them to the criterion of desirability. An argument suggests a course of action to be taken to achieve certain results. But are those results really desirable in terms of overall societal benefits or harms? This final test will put the arguments throughout this test and only those arguments which pass it will be considered strong. Consider, for instance, the following case:

**Statement:** Shall we make the learning of music compulsory for all school students?

**Argument:** Yes – It will enhance the job opportunities for musically trained people.

Now, what the argument says is not really desirable. Schools are not meant to create more and more jobs for teachers; they are meant to impart learning to students. Further, this argument does not speak of the rightful reasons for having compulsory music in schools. Therefore, it fails the desirability test, and hence is a weak argument. Similarly, look at the following example:

**Statement:** Shall we allow foreign print media in India?

**Argument:** No – This will increase the number of newspapers in India.

By all means, competition in any arena always improves the quality of product/service. Therefore, disallowing foreign newspapers only on the ground that they will add

to the number of newspapers, is not a good argument. Therefore, the above is a weak argument.

Apart from all these criteria, a strong argument must satisfy the following parameters.

It must not

1. Violate well-accepted truths/norms.
2. Violate the law of the land.
3. Be based on individual opinions / individual examples

### **Secondary Screening:**

PPPDTLI

P for Proper Relation

P for Predictability

P for Probability

D for Desirability

L for Law

I for Individual Opinion / Perception / Ex

Only an argument passing all these tests can be classified as strong, the rest are weak. As you can see,

some arguments fail to pass the Primary Screening; they can be rejected as weak straightway. There is no need to put them through other tests. For arguments which pass the Primary Screening, you should apply the Secondary Screening criteria as discussed above to sift the strong arguments from the weak ones.

## **Chapter 3: Statement and Assumption**

### **3.1 Introduction:**

Statement and assumption questions are the variant of verbal reasoning. These questions are asked to check logic and decision making skills.

#### **What is an implicit assumption?**

An assumption is the most important part of any argument.

Almost all arguments are based on an assumption.

Assumptions are not stated explicitly.

Implicit assumption is an assumption that includes the underlying agreements or statements made in the development of a logical argument, course of action, decision, or judgment that are not explicitly voiced or stated.

Implicit means not directly stated

### **3.2 Format of the question:**

**A typical question involves:**

A statement which is followed by 2 or more assumptions and we are supposed to answer which assumption follows.

In each question below is given a statement followed by two assumptions numbered I and II. You have to consider the statement and the following assumptions and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement.

Give answer

- (A) If only assumption I is implicit
- (B) If only assumption II is implicit
- (C) If either I or II is implicit
- (D) If neither I nor II is implicit
- (E) If both I and II are implicit.

**Example:**

**Statement:** "You are hereby appointed as a programmer with a probation period of one year and your performance will be reviewed at the end of the period for confirmation." - A line in an appointment letter.

**Assumptions:**



I. The performance of an individual generally is not known at the time of appointment offer.

II. Generally an individual tries to prove his worth in the probation period.

A. Only assumption I is implicit

B. Only assumption II is implicit

C. Either I or II is implicit

D. Neither I nor II is implicit

E. Both I and II are implicit

**Ans. Option E**

**Sol.** The performance of the individual has to be tested over a span of time as the statement mentions. So, I is implicit. The statement mentions that the individual's worth shall be reviewed (during probation period) before confirmation. So, II is also implicit.

**Note:**

a) In assumption questions, we have to identify author's assumption and not our own.

b) Leave aside your logic about how things work

c) While you can make common sense assumptions (the sun is visible only during the day,

water makes things wet, etc.), do not bring in your own assumptions about things that are not necessarily common knowledge or may not always be true.

d) 'Assumption' in the questions is something that author believes to be true.

### 3.3 Technique to Solve Assumption based Questions

#### **Denial Test:**

**Step 1-** To use the denial test, take the statement you want to test and negate it (reverse its meaning).

**Step 2-** If the argument stops making sense or becomes impossible, then the original statement must be a central assumption.

#### **Example I:**

**Statement:** Rahul booked train tickets one month in advance

**Assumption I-** Railways book tickets 1 month in advance

**Assumption II-** Rahul prefer train journey over plane journey

#### **Sol:**

Let's use Denial test

Step 1- Reverse the assumption.

So, assumption 1 becomes- Railways do not book tickets one month in advance.

What happens to the main statement? It goes against the main statement and if Railways do not give tickets, Rahul can't book.

**Step2-**After reversing/ negating the assumption if your main statement is falsified or collapses or gets weakened, that means that assumption is important if we want our statement to remain true.

Hence only Assumption I is implicit in the above example.

### **Example II:**

Using the same argument,

Statement- "All dogs are carnivores, so Mike is a carnivore,"

Assumption- Mike is a dog.

**Sol.** Let's apply the denial test to that statement and see what happens to the argument.

First, negate (reverse the meaning of) the statement.

Mike is not a dog.

Second, plug that into the argument:

All dogs are carnivores

+

(Mike is not a dog)

=

Mike is a carnivore

Does that make sense? I guess Mike could still be a carnivore, but that would be pure luck that the conclusion was right. If Mike isn't a dog, how do we know? All we know is that dogs are carnivore.

Remember, the argument requires the central assumption. If it works just as well with the opposite statement, the argument doesn't need it in the first place.

### **Example III:**

**Statement:** Sally plays volleyball for Central High School.  
Therefore, Sally must be more than 6 feet tall.

**Assumption:** All volleyball players for Central High are more than 6 feet tall.

**Sol: Use the denial test**

**Step 1-** Reverse or deny the assumption

We get, All volleyball players for Central High are not more than 6 feet tall.

What's the effect of denying this assumption? We are no longer able to conclude that Sally is, without a doubt, 6 feet tall. The argument is no longer valid when we deny the assumption, so that assumption must be crucial to the argument.

#### **Example IV:**

**Statement:** 'You are expected to be frank and objective while writing your self- appraisal report'. – An instruction for writing self-appraisal report.

#### **Assumptions:**

1. Unless cautioned, people may tend to be little shy and less objective while writing their self-appraisal report.
2. Every self-appraisal report helps the person in his further development.

**Sol:** In statement, the author advises, while writing Self-Appraisal report to be expected frank & objective.

- I. Unless cautioned, people may tend to be little shy and less objective while writing their self-appraisal report. This could be the assumption because if people aren't

less objective and shy then why would author tell them that explicitly that they are expected to be objective.

II. Every self-appraisal report helps the person in his further development. This cannot be the assumption as it's nowhere mentioned in the statement that such report helps development. Here, we don't have to use our real-world-logic which states otherwise.

### **Example V:**

**Statement:** The higher authorities of any organization are expected to be models of observation & learning and should not be considered as merely sources of reward and punishments.

### **Assumptions:**

I. Employees are likely to be sensitive enough to learn by observing the behavior of their seniors.

II. Normally bosses are considered as sources of reward and punishment.

**Sol:** In the statement, the author tells what higher authority model should be of: Observation & Learning; and not just: reward & Punishment.

I. Employees are likely to be sensitive enough to learn by observing the behavior of their seniors. The author hasn't mentioned anything about employees learning so this assumption just can't be correct.

II. Normally bosses are considered as sources of reward and punishment. This assumption is implicit because author said, "Higher authorities.....Not just source of reward & Punishment". Here, author has tried to highlight some additional feature of Higher Authority, which gets diminished due to its 'Reward & Punishment' feature.

### **Example VI:**

**Statement:** 'But, out of X, Y, B and D products, you buy 'Y' which alone is based on the latest technology' –A shop owner tells a customer.

### **Assumptions:**

1. The customers normally accept the recommendation of the shop owner.
2. Use of latest technology is supposed to ensure better quality standards.

**Sol:** Here, the passage author has described the scene where a shopkeeper is telling the customer to buy 'Y' out four other products due to its superior technology.

I. The customers normally accept the recommendation of the shop owner. If customer did never accept the recommendation of shopkeeper then why would shopkeeper recommend something? Here, shopkeeper is recommending that means customers normally accept that. Hence, it follows.

II. Use of latest technology is supposed to ensure better quality standards. A customer buys a product because it's quality is good over others. And, technology if latest is superior over others in doing a specified task more efficiently than one with obsolete technology. So, this assumption also follows.

### 3.4 Sample Questions

**Directions:**In the following questions statement and assumptions are given. Identify the assumptions and mark the answer as per the options given below.

**Options:**

- (1) If only assumption I is implicit.
- (2) If only assumption II is implicit.
- (3) If either I or II is implicit.
- (4) If neither I or II is implicit.
- (5) If both I and II are implicit.



**1. Statement:**

“Use Kajaria Ceramics tiles to decorate your house”, - An advertisement

**Assumptions:**

- I. People want to decorate their house.
- II. Only ceramic tiles can make a house decorative.

**Ans.** Option (1)

**Sol.** Obviously assumption I is implicit in the statement. The fact which is highlighted or mentioned in the advertisement is liked or looked for by the people. The use of word “only” makes the second assumption invalid.

**2. Statement:**

“Just step in! We are concerned about all your needs with wide range of articles”- An advertisement.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Such advertisements are neglected by the people.
- II. People wish to have selective marketing.

**Ans.** Option (2)

**Sol.** We know that any advertisement attracts some people. Therefore, assumption I is not implicit in the statement. Assumption II seems to be valid as the advertisement mentions about variety of articles.

### **3. Statement:**

The new EXIM policy envisages major changes in the earlier policy.

### **Assumptions:**

- I. EXIM Policy should not consistent with economic condition of the country and abroad.
- II. There has been some flaws in the earlier EXIM policy.

**Ans.** Option (1)

**Sol.** Obviously assumption I is implicit in the statement. EXIM policy should take into account the prevalent market condition. It is not proper to assume that earlier Policy is faulty. It may be that it is suitable in the context of prevailing market condition.

**4. Statement:**

Kumar Sanjeev Ranjan dissatisfied with present salary and perks, joins another company.

**Assumptions:**

I. The new company gives to all their employees good salary.

II. Present company runs in loss.

**Ans.** Option (4)

**Sol.** Neither of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. It is quite possible that the new company gives good salary only to Kumar Sanjeev Ranjan.

**5. Statement:**

It is futile to discuss corruption at any forum. Corruption is rampant everywhere in the country.

**Assumptions:**

I. Corruption is inevitable in any system.

II. Corruption is a serious concern.

**Ans.** Option (4)

**Sol.** Both the assumptions are more or less personal views. Therefore, neither of these assumptions is implicit in the statement.

## **Conclusion**

**Negating Method:** This method is really effective when it comes to solving assumption questions

All you have to do is negate the assumptions after reading them. The passage author gives statement only after assuming some things. These 'some things' are dimensions of the questions. That means some basic assumptions are what author, definitely, believes in. And, if some assumption contradicts that basic belief of author then that assumption can never follow.