

1. The technological conservatism of tennis racket manufacturers is a reflection of the kinds of demand they are trying to meet. The only tennis players who are seriously interested in innovation and willing to pay for it are professional players. Therefore, innovation in tennis racket technology is limited by what authorities will accept as standard for purposes of competition in professional tennis.

Don't forget to write down the conclusion and premise.

Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?

- ☐ The market for cheap, traditional rackets cannot expand unless the market for technologically advanced rackets also expands.
- ☐ Professional tennis rackets are likely to improve more as a result of technological innovations developed in small workshops than as a result of technological innovations developed in major manufacturing concerns.
- ☐ Professional tennis players do not generate a strong demand for innovations that fall outside what is officially recognized as standard for the purposes of competition.
- ☐ The technological conservatism of tennis racket manufacturers results primarily from their desire to manufacture a product that can be sold without being altered to suit different national markets.
- ☐ The authorities who set standards for professional tennis rackets do not keep informed about innovative racket design.

2. Educational theorists have long hypothesized that an interest in culture and the arts, especially music, has a positive impact on academic performance. A recent study of high school seniors confirms this theory. A test measuring proficiency in a broad range of academic disciplines was administered to high school seniors in major cities in the northeastern United States. The average score of students who attended schools that offered classes in art history and music appreciation was significantly higher than that of students who attended schools without such cultural enrichment programs.

The argument above assumes which of the following?

- ☐ At the schools offering art history and music appreciation classes, such classes were open to underclassmen, as well as juniors and seniors.
- ☐ Enrollment in the art history and music appreciation classes was restricted to students who had previously demonstrated an interest in culture and the arts.
- ☐ Students attending schools with cultural enrichment programs, whether they participated in such a program or not, possessed a higher average level of interest in culture and the arts than did students at other schools.
- ☐ Among students attending schools offering cultural enrichment classes, those enrolled in such classes performed better on the test than did those not enrolled in such classes.
- ☐ Students attending the schools that did not offer enrichment programs had no other opportunities to develop interest in culture and the arts.

3. Traditionally, candidates for elected offices have concentrated their efforts on the early stages of the campaign, during which, most people believed, the voters' perceptions of candidates were formed. It is now becoming clear, however, that elections can be decided in the few days preceding election day; public opinion polls taken during recent elections provide evidence of several such races. In those cases, the losing candidates would have been well advised to have forgone early spending and instead saved funds for television advertisements late in their campaigns.

The conclusion drawn above relies on which of the following presuppositions?

- ☐ No candidate for elected office can mount a successful campaign without allocating a large portion of campaign funds to television advertising.
- ☐ The losing candidates would have won their respective campaigns had they not spent as heavily in early stages of those campaigns.
- ☐ The winning candidates accrued more funds throughout their campaigns than did the losing candidates.
- ☐ Candidates who spend a large amount of their campaign funds on television advertising are more successful than those who spend the same amount on print advertising.
- ☐ The losing candidates would not have eliminated their chances of winning by spending less in the early stages of their campaigns.



1. Party leaders feared that the recent addition of conservative planks to the party platform would diminish the popularity of the party among younger voters. Some predicted that the number of party members younger than 25 would decline, or, at best, stay the same. This fear, though, has proven to be unfounded: of all party members, the percentage younger than 25 is higher than ever. Rather than hurt the party, conservatism has helped attract more young voters to the party.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's conclusion?

- ☐ Many party leaders are uncomfortable with the political direction the party is taking, for both political and ideological reasons.
- ☐ Party candidates continue to suffer defeats when running on the party platform.
- ☐ The number of party members older than 25 declined significantly after the announcement of the new conservative platform.
- ☐ In the last election, the ratio of voters under the age of 25 who voted for the party to all voters under the age of 25 increased.
- ☐ Over half the population of potential voters under the age of 25 never vote.

2. The cities with the densest populations have the highest ratio of police officers to citizens. Such cities also have the lowest rates of property crime without contact between perpetrator and victim. Thus, maintaining a high ratio of police officers to citizens can serve as an effective deterrent to at least certain kinds of property crime.

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

- ☐ The quality of training that the police receive varies from city to city.
- ☐ High population density itself makes it difficult to commit a property crime that involves no contact between perpetrator and victim.
- ☐ Many nonviolent crimes in large cities are drug-related.
- ☐ A majority of the perpetrators of property crimes in densely populated cities are not apprehended by the police.
- ☐ Property crimes without contact between perpetrator and victim represent only a small proportion of overall crime.

3. Certain gemstones are formed by magma, a material found deep inside the Earth, that has pushed toward the surface and solidified; others are created when superheated water and gases cool. When chemical action, heat, or pressure changes the existing structure of rocks, they may recrystallize to form gemstones such as emeralds. A large chemical company plans to create a new source of profits by applying certain of the chemicals it manufactures to specifically chosen rock samples, which would be a much less expensive way to produce emeralds than mining them.

Which one of the following, if true, poses the most serious problem for the success of the company's plan?

- ☐ Man-made emeralds will not be considered as valuable as naturally produced emeralds.
- ☐ Natural emeralds are produced by heat and pressure much more frequently than by chemical action.
- ☐ The types of material from which emeralds are formed are not found on the Earth's surface.
- ☐ Laboratory conditions are difficult to replicate in a large-scale factory.
- ☐ The gases that will mix with superheated water are so toxic that workers could suffer from a number of serious medical conditions if the handling of such gases is not strictly controlled.



1. The mayor of City X wishes to increase voter turnout for the next city council election. A recent poll of registered voters in neighboring City Y showed a high level of dissatisfaction with that city's voting facilities. Based on this result, City X's mayor proposed a dramatic update of his city's voting facilities to increase turnout at the next election.

Which of the following, if true, most supports the mayor's plan?

- ☐ A majority of respondents in City Y's poll had voted in favor of a tax cut in the previous election.
- ☐ City Y's voter turnout rates increased as the result of the publicity the recent poll generated.
- ☐ A City X poll of registered voters revealed that their behavior is not strongly influenced by their perception of voting facilities.
- ☐ Even the best polling methods have difficulty capturing voter opinions accurately.
- ☐ The City Y poll showed that voters who are satisfied with voting facilities are more likely to vote.

A group of business school students studying group dynamics completed a project that compared two groups of undergraduates. The two groups were assigned the same task, but Group One was asked to choose a leader by lottery, while Group Two was allowed to choose its leader in whatever way its members wanted. Group Two finished the task expertly and quickly, while Group One took longer and performed the task only adequately. The business school students concluded that giving the group some autonomy in making decisions increased the potential for efficient work.

Which of the following statements, if true, offers the most support for the conclusion reached by the business school students?

- ☐ The students in Group Two had higher grade point averages and standardized test scores than did the students in Group One.
- ☐ The task given to both groups was more interesting to some students than to others.
- ☐ None of the students in the two groups had any special skills relevant to the assigned tasks.
- ☐ At a local factory, giving the workers some autonomy resulted in increased production.
- ☐ There is a direct correlation between workers' perceptions of the desirability of a task and their efficiency in accomplishing it.



1. Poppy: High taxes have a chilling effect on the economy. When individuals and corporations are taxed, they have less money to spend. Demand for products and services is reduced, causing unemployment to increase. Taxes must be lowered.

Lilly: But you must also consider that taxes generate funds for the government. If taxes are lowered, the government will be forced to borrow more money, thus reducing the amount of credit available. Unable to borrow money easily, businesses and individuals will be forced to limit their purchases.

Lilly objects to Poppy's argument by

- ☐ claiming that Poppy has exaggerated the adverse effects of high taxes
- ☐ indicating that Poppy has based his argument on insufficient evidence about the effects of taxes on the economy
- ☐ noting that Poppy has failed to adequately define the term "taxes"
- ☐ demonstrating that the danger of reducing taxes is far more severe than the threat of maintaining them at current levels
- ☐ suggesting that the economic benefits of easy credit outweigh the danger of unemployment

2. Although computer manufacturer *X* has experienced decreasing sales in the last quarter, **stockholders should not sell their shares of the company**. The stock price of a financially troubled company can rise dramatically once those problems are solved. Last year, **the stock price of steel manufacturer *Y* rebounded after the company reduced its accounts receivable backlog**.

The bolded phrases play which of the following roles in the argument above?

- ☐ The first phrase contains the author's conclusion and the second phrase contains unrelated information.
- ☐ The first phrase states a position and the second phrase provides evidence to undermine that position.
- ☐ The first phrase states a premise on which the conclusion is based and the second phrase provides the conclusion.
- ☐ The first phrase states the conclusion and the second phrase supports the conclusion with an analogy.
- ☐ The first phrase offers advice and the second phrase draws a contrast between two companies.