

LR: Strengthen/Weaken Questions Mastery

1. To keep one's hands warm during the winter, one never needs gloves or mittens. One can always keep one's hands warm simply by putting on an extra layer of clothing, such as a thermal undershirt or a sweater. After all, keeping one's vital organs warm can keep one's hands warm as well.

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

- (A) Maintaining the temperature of your hands is far less important, physiologically, than maintaining the temperature of your torso.
- (B) Several layers of light garments will keep one's vital organs warmer than will one or two heavy garments.
- (C) Wearing an extra layer of clothing will not keep one's hands warm at temperatures low enough to cause frostbite.
- (D) Keeping one's hands warm by putting on an extra layer of clothing is less effective than turning up the heat.
- (E) The physical effort required to put on an extra layer of clothing does not stimulate circulation enough to warm your hands.

PrepTest58 Sec4 Q2

2. A study found that consumers reaching supermarket checkout lines within 40 minutes after the airing of an advertisement for a given product over the store's audio system were significantly more likely to purchase the product advertised than were consumers who checked out prior to the airing. Apparently, these advertisements are effective.

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

- (A) During the study, for most of the advertisements more people went through the checkout lines after they were aired than before they were aired.
- (B) A large proportion of the consumers who bought a product shortly after the airing of an advertisement for it reported that they had not gone to the store intending to buy that product.
- (C) Many of the consumers reported that they typically bought at least one of the advertised products every time they shopped at the store.
- (D) Many of the consumers who bought an advertised product and who reached the checkout line within 40 minutes of the advertisement's airing reported that they could not remember hearing the advertisement.
- (E) Many of the consumers who bought an advertised product reported that they buy that product only occasionally.

PrepTest60 Sec3 Q2

3. Robert: The school board is considering adopting a year-round academic schedule that eliminates the traditional three-month summer vacation. This schedule should be adopted, since teachers need to cover more new material during the school year than they do now.

Samantha: The proposed schedule will not permit teachers to cover more new material. Even though the schedule eliminates summer vacation, it adds six new two-week breaks, so the total number of school days will be about the same as before.

Which one of the following, if true, is a response Robert could make that would counter Samantha's argument?

- (A) Teachers would be willing to accept elimination of the traditional three-month summer vacation as long as the total vacation time they are entitled to each year is not reduced.
- (B) Most parents who work outside the home find it difficult to arrange adequate supervision for their school-age children over the traditional three-month summer vacation.
- (C) In school districts that have adopted a year-round schedule that increases the number of school days per year, students show a deeper understanding and better retention of new material.
- (D) Teachers spend no more than a day of class time reviewing old material when students have been away from school for only a few weeks, but have to spend up to a month of class time reviewing after a three-month summer vacation.
- (E) Students prefer taking a long vacation from school during the summer to taking more frequent but shorter vacations spread throughout the year.

PrepTest52 Sec1 Q9

4. A recent study proves that at least some people possess an independent “sixth sense” that allows them to detect whether someone is watching them. In the study, subjects were seated one at a time in the center of a room facing away from a large window. On average, subjects decided correctly 60 percent of the time whether or not they were being watched through the window.

Which one of the following, if true, most supports the conclusion drawn from the study mentioned above?

- (A) Most of the time, subjects said they were being watched.
- (B) The person recording the experimental results was careful not to interact with the subjects after the experiment ended.
- (C) A similar result was found when the subjects were watched from another room on a video monitor.
- (D) The room in which the subjects were seated was not soundproof.
- (E) The subjects were mostly graduate students in psychology from a nearby university.

PrepTest48 Sec1 Q3

5. Perry: Worker-owned businesses require workers to spend time on management decision-making and investment strategy, tasks that are not directly productive. Also, such businesses have less extensive divisions of labor than do investor-owned businesses. Such inefficiencies can lead to low profitability, and thus increase the risk for lenders. Therefore, lenders seeking to reduce their risk should not make loans to worker-owned businesses.

Which one of the following, if true, most seriously weakens Perry’s argument?

- (A) Businesses with the most extensive divisions of labor sometimes fail to make the fullest use of their most versatile employees’ potential.
- (B) Lenders who specialize in high-risk loans are the largest source of loans for worker-owned businesses.
- (C) Investor-owned businesses are more likely than worker-owned businesses are to receive start-up loans.
- (D) Worker-owned businesses have traditionally obtained loans from cooperative lending institutions established by coalitions of worker-owned businesses.
- (E) In most worker-owned businesses, workers compensate for inefficiencies by working longer hours than do workers in investor-owned businesses.

PrepTest52 Sec1 Q12

6. 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.

PrepTest60 Sec1 Q11

7. Economist: During a recession, a company can cut personnel costs either by laying off some employees without reducing the wages of remaining employees or by reducing the wages of all employees without laying off anyone. Both damage morale, but layoffs damage it less, since the aggrieved have, after all, left. Thus, when companies must reduce personnel costs during recessions, they are likely to lay off employees.

Which one of the following, if true, most strengthens the economist's reasoning?

- (A) Employee morale is usually the primary concern driving companies' decisions about whether to lay off employees or to reduce their wages.
- (B) In general, companies increase wages only when they are unable to find enough qualified employees.
- (C) Some companies will be unable to make a profit during recessions no matter how much they reduce personnel costs.
- (D) When companies cut personnel costs during recessions by reducing wages, some employees usually resign.
- (E) Some companies that have laid off employees during recessions have had difficulty finding enough qualified employees once economic growth resumed.

PrepTest56 Sec3 Q8

8. Letter to the editor: The Planning Department budget increased from \$100,000 in 2001 to \$524,000 for this year. However, this does not justify your conclusion in yesterday's editorial that the department now spends five times as much money as it did in 2001 to perform the same duties.

Which one of the following, if true, most helps to support the claim made in the letter regarding the justification of the editorial's conclusion?

- (A) Departments other than the Planning Department have had much larger budget increases since 2001.
- (B) Since 2001, the Planning Department has dramatically reduced its spending on overtime pay.
- (C) In some years between 2001 and this year, the Planning Department budget did not increase.
- (D) The budget figures used in the original editorial were adjusted for inflation.
- (E) A restructuring act, passed in 2003, broadened the duties of the Planning Department.

PrepTest58 Sec1 Q3

9. One theory to explain the sudden extinction of all dinosaurs points to "drug overdoses" as the cause. Angiosperms, a certain class of plants, first appeared at the time that dinosaurs became extinct. These plants produce amino-acid-based alkaloids that are psychoactive agents. Most plant-eating mammals avoid these potentially lethal poisons because they taste bitter. Moreover, mammals have livers that help detoxify such drugs. However, dinosaurs could neither taste the bitterness nor detoxify the substance once it was ingested. This theory receives its strongest support from the fact that it helps explain why so many dinosaur fossils are found in unusual and contorted positions.

Which one of the following, if true, would most undermine the theory presented above?

- (A) Many fossils of large mammals are found in contorted positions.
- (B) Angiosperms provide a great deal of nutrition.
- (C) Carnivorous dinosaurs mostly ate other, vegetarian, dinosaurs that fed on angiosperms.
- (D) Some poisonous plants do not produce amino-acid-based alkaloids.
- (E) Mammals sometimes die of drug overdoses from eating angiosperms.

PrepTest 52 Sec3 Q19

10. Safety consultant: Judged by the number of injuries per licensed vehicle, minivans are the safest vehicles on the road. However, in carefully designed crash tests, minivans show no greater ability to protect their occupants than other vehicles of similar size do. Thus, the reason minivans have such a good safety record is probably not that they are inherently safer than other vehicles, but rather that they are driven primarily by low-risk drivers.

Which one of the following, if true, most strengthens the safety consultant's argument?

- (A) When choosing what kind of vehicle to drive, low-risk drivers often select a kind that they know to perform particularly well in crash tests.
- (B) Judged by the number of accidents per licensed vehicle, minivans are no safer than most other kinds of vehicles are.
- (C) Minivans tend to carry more passengers at any given time than do most other vehicles.
- (D) In general, the larger a vehicle is, the greater its ability to protect its occupants.
- (E) Minivans generally have worse braking and emergency handling capabilities than other vehicles of similar size.

PrepTest60 Sec3 Q21

11. Analyst: A recent survey showed that although professors of biology who teach but do not pursue research made up one twentieth of all science professors, they were appointed to fewer than one twentieth of all the scientific administrative positions in universities. We can conclude from this survey that failing to pursue research tends to bias university administrators against appointing these professors to scientific administrative positions.

Which one of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the support for the analyst's conclusion?

- (A) In universities there are fewer scientific administrative positions than there are nonscientific administrative positions.
- (B) Biologists who do research fill a disproportionately low number of scientific administrative positions in universities.
- (C) Biology professors get more than one twentieth of all the science grant money available.
- (D) Conducting biological research tends to take significantly more time than does teaching biology.
- (E) Biologists who hold scientific administrative positions in the university tend to hold those positions for a shorter time than do other science professors.

PrepTest48 Sec1 Q19

12. Company spokesperson: In lieu of redesigning our plants, our company recently launched an environmental protection campaign to buy and dispose of old cars, which are generally highly pollutive. Our plants account for just 4 percent of the local air pollution, while automobiles that predate 1980 account for 30 percent. Clearly, we will reduce air pollution more by buying old cars than we would by redesigning our plants.

Which one of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the company spokesperson's argument?

- (A) Only 1 percent of the automobiles driven in the local area predate 1980.
- (B) It would cost the company over \$3 million to reduce its plants' toxic emissions, while its car-buying campaign will save the company money by providing it with reusable scrap metal.
- (C) Because the company pays only scrap metal prices for used cars, almost none of the cars sold to the company still run.
- (D) Automobiles made after 1980 account for over 30 percent of local air pollution.
- (E) Since the company launched its car-buying campaign, the number of citizen groups filing complaints about pollution from the company's plants has decreased.

PrepTest60 Sec1 Q16