

LR: Mixed Practice: Assumption Family Qs Mastery

1. Company president: For the management consultant position, we shall interview only those applicants who have worked for management consulting firms generally recognized as in the top 1 percent of firms worldwide. When we finally select somebody, then, we can be sure to have selected one of the best management consultants available.

The company president's reasoning is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it

- (A) takes for granted that only the best management consultants have worked for the top management consulting firms
- (B) generalizes from too small a sample of management consulting firms worldwide
- (C) takes for granted that if something is true of each member of a collection, then it is also true of the collection as a whole
- (D) presumes, without providing warrant, that persons who have worked for the top companies will accept a job offer
- (E) presumes, without providing justification, that highly competent management consultants are highly competent at every task

PrepTest58 Sec4 Q5

2. In order to reduce traffic congestion and raise revenue for the city, the mayor plans to implement a charge of \$10 per day for driving in the downtown area. Payment of this charge will be enforced using a highly sophisticated system that employs digital cameras and computerized automobile registration. This system will not be ready until the end of next year. Without this system, however, mass evasion of the charge will result. Therefore, when the mayor's plan is first implemented, payment of the charge will not be effectively enforced.

Which one of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends for its conclusion to be properly drawn?

- (A) The mayor's plan to charge for driving downtown will be implemented before the end of next year.
- (B) The city will incur a budget deficit if it does not receive the revenue it expects to raise from the charge for driving downtown.
- (C) The plan to charge for driving downtown should be implemented as soon as payment of the charge can be effectively enforced.
- (D) Raising revenue is a more important consideration for the city than is reducing traffic congestion.
- (E) A daily charge for driving downtown is the most effective way to reduce traffic congestion.

PrepTest52 Sec1 Q10

3. Psychologist: We asked 100 entrepreneurs and 100 business managers to answer various questions and rate how confident they were that their responses were correct. While members of each group were overconfident, in general the entrepreneurs were much more so than the business managers. This indicates that people who are especially overconfident are more likely to attempt to start a business in spite of the enormous odds against success than people who are less confident.

Which one of the following, if true, lends the most support to the psychologist's conclusion?

- (A) The questions asked of the entrepreneurs and business managers included personal, political, and business questions.
- (B) At least some of the entrepreneurs surveyed had accurately determined before attempting to start their businesses what the odds were against their attempts being successful.
- (C) Another survey showed that degree of confidence was highly correlated with success in business.
- (D) The business managers who were most overconfident were found to have attempted to start businesses in the past.
- (E) How confident each person surveyed was that his or her answers to the questions asked were correct corresponded closely to that person's confidence in his or her business acumen.

PrepTest56 Sec2 Q14

4. When a society undergoes slow change, its younger members find great value in the advice of its older members. But when a society undergoes rapid change, young people think that little in the experience of their elders is relevant to them, and so do not value their advice. Thus, we may measure the rate at which a society is changing by measuring the amount of deference its younger members show to their elders.

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

- (A) A society's younger members can often accurately discern whether that society is changing rapidly.
- (B) How much deference young people show to their elders depends on how much of the elders' experience is practically useful to them.
- (C) The deference young people show to their elders varies according to how much the young value their elders' advice.
- (D) The faster a society changes, the less relevant the experience of older members of the society is to younger members.
- (E) Young people value their elders' advice just insofar as the elders' experience is practically useful to them.

PrepTest58 Sec1 Q22

5. Principle: It is healthy for children to engage in an activity that promotes their intellectual development only if engaging in that activity does not detract from their social development.

Application: Although Megan's frequent reading stimulates her intellectually, it reduces the amount of time she spends interacting with other people. Therefore, it is not healthy for her to read as much as she does.

The application of the principle is most vulnerable to criticism on which one of the following grounds?

- (A) It misinterprets the principle as a universal claim intended to hold in all cases without exception, rather than as a mere generalization.
- (B) It overlooks the possibility that the benefits of a given activity may sometimes be important enough to outweigh the adverse health effects.
- (C) It misinterprets the principle to be, at least in part, a claim about what is unhealthy, rather than solely a claim about what is healthy.
- (D) It takes for granted that any decrease in the amount of time a child spends interacting with others detracts from that child's social development.
- (E) It takes a necessary condition for an activity's being healthy as a sufficient condition for its being so.

PrepTest52 Sec1 Q23

6. Dietitian: High consumption of sodium increases some people's chances of developing heart disease. To maintain cardiac health without lowering sodium consumption, therefore, these people should eat fresh, rather than canned or frozen, fruit and vegetables, since the potassium in plant foods helps to prevent sodium's malign effects.

Which one of the following is an assumption required by the dietitian's argument?

- (A) Fresh fruits and vegetables contain more potassium than sodium.
- (B) Food processing businesses often add sodium to foods being canned or frozen.
- (C) Potassium is the only mineral that helps to prevent sodium's malign effects.
- (D) Potassium in fruits and vegetables has few negative side effects.
- (E) Fresh fruits and vegetables contain more potassium than do canned or frozen ones.

PrepTest56 Sec2 Q6

7. Some classes of animal are so successful that they spread into virtually every ecosystem, whereas others gradually recede until they inhabit only small niches in geographically isolated areas and thereby become threatened. Insects are definitely of the former sort and ants are the most successful of these, ranging from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego. Hence, no species of ant is a threatened species.

The argument is flawed because it takes for granted that

- (A) the Arctic Circle and Tierra del Fuego do not constitute geographically isolated areas
- (B) because ants do not inhabit only a small niche in a geographically isolated area, they are unlike most other insects
- (C) the only way a class of animal can avoid being threatened is to spread into virtually every ecosystem
- (D) what is true of the constituent elements of a whole is also true of the whole
- (E) what is true of a whole is also true of its constituent elements

PrepTest48 Sec1 Q17

8. The *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* were both attributed to Homer in ancient times. But these two poems differ greatly in tone and vocabulary and in certain details of the fictional world they depict. So they are almost certainly not the work of the same poet.

Which one of the following statements, if true, most weakens the reasoning above?

- (A) Several hymns that were also attributed to Homer in ancient times differ more from the *Iliad* in the respects mentioned than does the *Odyssey*.
- (B) Both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* have come down to us in manuscripts that have suffered from minor copying errors and other textual corruptions.
- (C) Works known to have been written by the same modern writer are as different from each other in the respects mentioned as are the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.
- (D) Neither the *Iliad* nor the *Odyssey* taken by itself is completely consistent in all of the respects mentioned.
- (E) Both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* were the result of an extended process of oral composition in which many poets were involved.

PrepTest52 Sec1 Q21

9. Many economists claim that financial rewards provide the strongest incentive for people to choose one job over another. But in many surveys, most people do not name high salary as the most desirable feature of a job. This shows that these economists overestimate the degree to which people are motivated by money in their job choices.

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

- (A) Even high wages do not enable people to obtain all the goods they desire.
- (B) In many surveys, people say that they would prefer a high-wage job to an otherwise identical job with lower wages.
- (C) Jobs that pay the same salary often vary considerably in their other financial benefits.
- (D) Many people enjoy the challenge of a difficult job, as long as they feel that their efforts are appreciated.
- (E) Some people are not aware that jobs with high salaries typically leave very little time for recreation.

PrepTest60 Sec1 Q13

10. If a wig has any handmade components, it is more expensive than one with none. Similarly, a made-to-measure wig ranges from medium-priced to expensive. Handmade foundations are never found on wigs that do not use human hair. Furthermore, any wig that contains human hair should be dry-cleaned. So all made-to-measure wigs should be dry-cleaned.

The conclusion of the argument follows logically if which one of the following is assumed?

- (A) Any wig whose price falls in the medium-priced to expensive range has a handmade foundation.
- (B) If a wig's foundation is handmade, then it is more expensive than one whose foundation is not handmade.
- (C) A wig that has any handmade components should be dry-cleaned.
- (D) If a wig's foundation is handmade, then its price is at least in the medium range.
- (E) Any wig that should be dry-cleaned has a foundation that is handmade.

PrepTest58 Sec1 Q25

11. Over 40,000 lead seals from the early Byzantine Empire remain today. Apart from the rare cases where the seal authenticated a document of special importance, most seals had served their purpose when the document was opened. Lead was not expensive, but it was not free: most lead seals would have been recast once they had served their purpose. Thus the number of early Byzantine documents sealed in such a fashion must have been many times the number of remaining lead seals.

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

- (A) Most of the lead seals produced during the early Byzantine Empire were affixed to documents that were then opened during that period.
- (B) Most of the lead seals produced during the early Byzantine Empire were affixed to documents that have since been destroyed.
- (C) The amount of lead available for seals in the early Byzantine Empire was much greater than the amount of lead that remains in the seals today.
- (D) During the time of the early Byzantine Empire there were at most 40,000 documents of enough importance to prevent the removing and recycling of the seal.
- (E) During the time of the early Byzantine Empire there were fewer than 40,000 seals affixed to documents at any given time.

PrepTest56 Sec2 Q24

12. Throughout a certain nation, electricity has actually become increasingly available to people in urban areas while energy production has been subsidized to help residents of rural areas gain access to electricity. However, even with the subsidy, many of the most isolated rural populations still have no access to electricity. Thus, the energy subsidy has failed to achieve its intended purpose.

The reasoning in the argument is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that the argument

- (A) takes for granted that the subsidy's intended purpose could have been achieved if the subsidy had not existed
- (B) takes for granted that if a subsidy has any benefit for those whom it was not intended to benefit, then that subsidy has failed to achieve its intended purpose
- (C) presumes, without providing justification, that the intended purpose of the subsidy was to benefit not only rural populations in the nation who have no electricity, but other people in the nation as well
- (D) overlooks the possibility that even many of the people in the nation who live in urban areas would have difficulty gaining access to electricity without the subsidy
- (E) fails to take into account that the subsidy could have helped many of the rural residents in the nation gain access to electricity even if many other rural residents in the nation were not helped in this way

PrepTest56 Sec2 Q12

13. Banking analyst: Banks often offer various services to new customers at no charge. But this is not an ideal business practice, since regular, long-term customers, who make up the bulk of the business for most banks, are excluded from these special offers.

Which one of the following, if true, most strengthens the banking analyst's argument?

- (A) Most banks have similar charges for most services and pay similar interest rates on deposits.
- (B) Banks do best when offering special privileges only to their most loyal customers.
- (C) Offering services at no charge to all of its current customers would be prohibitively expensive for a bank.
- (D) Once they have chosen a bank, people tend to remain loyal to that bank.
- (E) Some banks that offer services at no charge to new customers are very successful.

PrepTest52 Sec3 Q3

14. Gotera: Infants lack the motor ability required to voluntarily produce particular sounds, but produce various babbling sounds randomly. Most children are several years old before they can voluntarily produce most of the vowel and consonant sounds of their language. We can conclude that speech acquisition is entirely a motor control process rather than a process that is abstract or mental.

Which one of the following is an assumption required by Gotera's argument?

- (A) Speech acquisition is a function only of one's ability to produce the sounds of spoken language.
- (B) During the entire initial babbling stage, infants cannot intentionally move their tongues while they are babbling.
- (C) The initial babbling stage is completed during infancy.
- (D) The initial babbling stage is the first stage of the speech acquisition process.
- (E) Control of tongue and mouth movements requires a sophisticated level of mental development.

PrepTest52 Sec3 Q7

15. Concert promoter: Some critics claim that our concert series lacks popular appeal. But our income from the sales of t-shirts and other memorabilia at the concerts is equal to or greater than that for similar sales at comparable series. So those critics are mistaken.

The concert promoter's argument is flawed in that it

- (A) attacks the critics on the basis of emotional considerations rather than factual ones
- (B) takes for granted that income from sales of memorabilia is the sole indicator of popular appeal
- (C) takes for granted that the comparable series possess popular appeal
- (D) draws a conclusion about the popularity of a series based on a comparison with other, dissimilar events
- (E) fails to adequately distinguish the series as a whole from individual concerts in it

PrepTest56 Sec3 Q10

16. Economist: A country's rapid emergence from an economic recession requires substantial new investment in that country's economy. Since people's confidence in the economic policies of their country is a precondition for any new investment, countries that put collective goals before individuals' goals cannot emerge quickly from an economic recession.

Which one of the following, if assumed, enables the economist's conclusion to be properly drawn?

- (A) No new investment occurs in any country that does not emerge quickly from an economic recession.
- (B) Recessions in countries that put collective goals before individuals' goals tend not to affect the country's people's support for their government's policies.
- (C) If the people in a country that puts individuals' goals first are willing to make new investments in their country's economy, their country will emerge quickly from an economic recession.
- (D) People in countries that put collective goals before individuals' goals lack confidence in the economic policies of their countries.
- (E) A country's economic policies are the most significant factor determining whether that country's economy will experience a recession.

PrepTest52 Sec3 Q15

17. People who need to reduce their intake of fat and to consume fewer calories often turn to fat substitutes, especially those with zero calories such as N5. But studies indicate that N5 is of no use to such people. Subjects who ate foods prepared with N5 almost invariably reported feeling hungrier afterwards than after eating foods prepared with real fat and consequently they ate more, quickly making up for the calories initially saved by using N5.

The reasoning in the argument is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that the argument fails to consider the possibility that

- (A) many foods cannot be prepared with N5
- (B) N5 has mild but unpleasant side effects
- (C) not everyone who eats foods prepared with N5 pays attention to caloric intake
- (D) people who know N5 contains zero calories tend to eat more foods prepared with N5 than do people who are unaware that N5 is calorie-free
- (E) the total fat intake of people who eat foods prepared with N5 tends to decrease even if their caloric intake does not

PrepTest58 Sec1 Q9

18. Nutritionists believe that a person's daily requirement for vitamins can readily be met by eating five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. However, most people eat far less than this. Thus, most people need to take vitamin pills.

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

- (A) Even five servings of fruits and vegetables a day is insufficient unless the intake is varied to ensure that different vitamins are consumed.
- (B) Certain commonly available fruits and vegetables contain considerably more nutrients than others.
- (C) Nutritionists sometimes disagree on how much of a fruit or vegetable constitutes a complete serving.
- (D) Many commonly consumed foods that are neither fruits nor vegetables are fortified by manufacturers with the vitamins found in fruits and vegetables.
- (E) Fruits and vegetables are also important sources of fiber, in forms not found in vitamin pills.

PrepTest58 Sec4 Q10