

In a certain wildlife park, park rangers are able to track the movements of many rhinoceroses because those animals wear radio collars. When, as often happens, a collar slips off, it is put back on. Putting a collar on a rhinoceros involves immobilizing the animal by shooting it with a tranquilizer dart. Female rhinoceroses that have been frequently recollared have significantly lower fertility rates than uncollared females. Probably, therefore, some substance in the tranquilizer inhibits fertility.

In evaluating the argument, it would be most useful to determine which of the following?

- A.
Whether there are more collared female rhinoceroses than uncollared female rhinoceroses in the park
- B.
How the tranquilizer that is used for immobilizing rhinoceroses differs, if at all, from tranquilizers used in working with other large mammals
- C.
How often park rangers need to use tranquilizer darts to immobilize rhinoceroses for reasons other than attaching radio collars
- D.
Whether male rhinoceroses in the wildlife park lose their collars any more often than the park's female rhinoceroses do
- E.
Whether radio collars are the only practical means that park rangers have for tracking the movements of rhinoceroses in the park

Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

Twenty percent of the stores in Morganville's downtown shopping district will fail within five years because they will be competing directly with the SaveMart discount department store newly opened in East Morganville. The downtown shopping district has lost business at this rate before and has always completely rebounded. Confidence that it will rebound again from the losses it is now about to suffer is ill founded, however, because _____.

- A.
the stores likely to be put out of business by direct competition from SaveMart are the downtown shopping district's anchor stores, on whose ability to draw shoppers many of the other downtown stores depend
- B.
the bus line that has long connected the downtown area of Morganville with East Morganville has a tradition of carrying shoppers who reside in East Morganville into downtown Morganville to shop
- C.

when the downtown shopping district has rebounded before, the business premises of a failed business were typically taken over by a business of the same kind as had been there before

D.

SaveMart's business plan for the East Morganville store is based on earning low profits, if any, during the first five years of the store's existence

E.

it is conceivable that the downtown shopping district could shrink substantially without collapsing altogether

To improve the long-term savings rate of the citizens of Levaska, the country's legislature decided to implement a plan that allows investors to save up to \$1,000 per year in special accounts without paying taxes on the interest earned unless withdrawals are made before the investor reaches age sixty-five. Withdrawals from these accounts prior to age sixty-five would result in the investor's having to pay taxes on all the accumulated interest at the time of withdrawal.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the prediction that the legislature's plan will have its intended effect?

A.

The money saved in the tax-free savings accounts will be deposited primarily in those banks and financial institutions that supported the legislation instituting the plan.

B.

The majority of people choosing to take advantage of the tax-free savings accounts will withdraw their money prior to age sixty-five.

C.

A significant number of the citizens of Levaska will invest in the tax-free savings accounts well before they reach the age of sixty-five.

D.

During the ten years prior to implementation of the plan, Levaskans deposited an increasingly smaller percentage of their annual income in long-term savings accounts.

E.

People who are not citizens of Levaska are not eligible to invest in the tax-free savings accounts, even if their income is taxable in Levaska.

Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

Concerned about the financial well-being of its elderly citizens, the government of Runagia decided two years ago to increase by 20 percent the government-provided pension paid to all Runagians over 65. Inflation in the intervening period has been negligible, and the increase has been duly received by all eligible Runagians. Nevertheless, many of them are no better off financially than they were before the increase, in large part because _____.

- A.
they rely entirely on the government pension for their income
- B.
Runagian banks are so inefficient that it can take up to three weeks to cash a pension check
- C.
they buy goods whose prices tend to rise especially fast in times of inflation
- D.
the pension was increased when the number of elderly Runagians below the poverty level reached an all-time high
- E.
in Runagia children typically supplement the income of elderly parents, but only by enough to provide them with a comfortable living

Goronian lawmaker: Goronia's Cheese Importation Board, the agency responsible for inspecting all wholesale shipments of cheese entering Goronia from abroad and rejecting shipments that fail to meet specified standards, rejects about one percent of the cheese that it inspects. Since the health consequences and associated costs of not rejecting that one percent would be negligible, whereas the cost of maintaining the agency is not, the agency's cost clearly outweighs the benefits it provides.

Knowing the answer to which of the following would be most useful in evaluating the lawmaker's argument?

- A.
Are any of the types of cheeses that are imported into Goronia also produced in Goronia?
- B.
Has the Cheese Importation Board, over the last several years, reduced its operating costs by eliminating inefficiencies within the agency itself?
- C.
Does the possibility of having merchandise rejected by the Cheese Importation Board deter many cheese exporters from shipping substandard cheese to Goronia?
- D.
Are there any exporters of cheese to Goronia whose merchandise is never rejected by the Cheese Importation Board?
- E.
How is the cheese rejected by the Cheese Importation Board disposed of?

In the nation of Partoria, large trucks currently have a much higher rate of traffic accidents per mile driven than other vehicles do. However, the very largest trucks—those with three trailers—had less than a third of the accident rate of single- and double-trailer trucks. Clearly, therefore, one way for Partoria to reduce the number of traffic accidents would be to require shippers to increase their use of triple-trailer trucks.

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

A.

Partorian trucking companies currently use triple-trailer trucks only for long trips using major highways, which is the safest kind of trip for large trucks.

B.

No matter what changes Partoria makes in the regulation of trucking, it will have to keep some smaller roads off-limits to all large trucks.

C.

Increased use of triple-trailer trucks would mean that large trucks would account for a smaller proportion of all miles driven on Partoria's roads than they currently do.

D.

In Partoria, the safety record of the trucking industry as a whole has improved slightly over the past ten years.

E.

The volume of truck traffic on Partoria's highways could be reduced by encouraging shippers to use rail transport whenever possible.

Early in the twentieth century, Lake Konfa became very polluted. Recently fish populations have recovered as release of industrial pollutants has declined and the lake's waters have become cleaner. Fears are now being voiced that the planned construction of an oil pipeline across the lake's bottom might revive pollution and cause the fish population to decline again. However, a technology for preventing leaks is being installed. Therefore, provided this technology is effective, those fears are groundless.

The argument depends on assuming which of the following?

A.

Apart from development related to the pipeline, there will be no new industrial development around the lake that will create renewed pollution in its waters.

B.

There is no reason to believe that the leak-preventing technology would be ineffective when installed in the pipeline in Lake Konfa.

C.

The bottom of the lake does not contain toxic remnants of earlier pollution that will be stirred into the water by pipeline construction.

D.

Damage to the lake's fish populations would be the only harm that a leak of oil from the pipeline would cause.

E.

The species of fish that are present in Lake Konfa now are the same as those that were in the lake before it was affected by pollution.

Denoma, a major consumer-electronics maker, had a sizable decline in sales revenue for its most recent fiscal year. This result appears surprising, because electronics retailers report that although their overall sales were considerably lower than in the previous year, their sales revenue from Denoma models actually grew, largely thanks to some innovative and popular models that Denoma introduced.

Which of the following, if true, does most to explain the apparently surprising result?

A.

Because of the need to educate the public about its new models' capabilities, Denoma's advertising spending was higher than normal over the period.

B.

For the period at issue, Denoma's major competitors reported declines in revenue that were, in percentage terms, greater than Denoma's.

C.

A significant proportion of Denoma's revenue comes from making components for other consumer-electronics manufacturers.

D.

Unlike some of its major competitors, Denoma has no lines of business outside consumer electronics to provide revenue when retail sales of consumer electronics are weak.

E.

During the period, consumer-electronics retailers sold remaining units of Denoma's superseded models at prices that were deeply discounted from those models' original prices.

Brochure: Help conserve our city's water supply. By converting the landscaping in your yard to a water-conserving landscape, you can greatly reduce your outdoor water use. A water-conserving landscape is natural and attractive, and it also saves you money.

Criticism: For most people with yards, the savings from converting to a water-conserving landscape cannot justify the expense of new landscaping, since typically the conversion would save less than twenty dollars on a homeowner's yearly water bills.

Which of the following, if true, provides the best basis for a rebuttal of the criticism?

A.

Even homeowners whose yards do not have water-conserving landscapes can conserve water by installing water-saving devices in their homes.

B.

A conventional landscape generally requires a much greater expenditure on fertilizer and herbicide than does a water-conserving landscape.

C.

A significant proportion of the residents of the city live in buildings that do not have yards.

D.

It costs no more to put in water-conserving landscaping than it does to put in conventional landscaping.

E.

Some homeowners use more water to maintain their yards than they use for all other purposes combined.

Two computer companies, Garnet and Renco, each pay Salcor to provide health insurance for their employees. Because early treatment of high cholesterol can prevent strokes that would otherwise occur several years later, Salcor encourages Garnet employees to have their cholesterol levels tested and to obtain early treatment for high cholesterol. Renco employees generally remain with Renco only for a few years, however. Therefore, Salcor lacks any financial incentive to provide similar encouragement to Renco employees.

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

A.

Early treatment of high cholesterol does not eliminate the possibility of a stroke later in life.

B.

People often obtain early treatment for high cholesterol on their own.

C.

Garnet hires a significant number of former employees of Renco.

D.

Renco and Garnet have approximately the same number of employees.

E.

Renco employees are not, on average, significantly younger than Garnet employees.

In parts of South America, vitamin-A deficiency is a serious health problem, especially among children. In one region, agriculturists hope to improve nutrition by encouraging farmers to plant a new variety of sweet potato called SPK004 that is rich in betacarotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. The plan has good chances of success, since sweet potato is a staple of the region's diet and agriculture, and the varieties currently grown contain little beta-carotene.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the prediction that the plan will succeed?

A.

There are other vegetables currently grown in the region that contain more beta-carotene than the currently cultivated varieties of sweet potato do.

B.

The flesh of SPK004 differs from that of the currently cultivated sweet potatoes in color and texture, so traditional foods would look somewhat different when prepared from SPK004.

C.

For successful cultivation of SPK004, a soil significantly richer in nitrogen is needed than is needed for the varieties of sweet potato currently cultivated in the region.

D.

There are no other varieties of sweet potato that are significantly richer in beta-carotene than SPK004 is.

E.

The currently cultivated varieties of sweet potato contain no important nutrients that SPK004 lacks.

A prominent investor who holds a large stake in the Burton Tool Company has recently claimed that the company is mismanaged. As evidence for this claim, the investor cited the company's failure to slow production in response to a recent rise in its inventory of finished products. It is doubtful whether an investor's sniping at management can ever be anything other than counterproductive, but **in this case it is clearly not justified.** It is true that an increased inventory of finished products often indicates that production is outstripping demand. **In Burton's case** it indicates no such thing, however: the increase in inventory is entirely attributable to products that have already been assigned to orders received from customers.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

A.

The first provides evidence to support the conclusion of the argument as a whole; the second states that conclusion.

B.

The first states the conclusion of the argument as a whole; the second states an intermediate conclusion that is drawn in order to support that conclusion.

C.

The first is the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second provides evidence against the position being opposed.

D.

The first states an intermediate conclusion that is drawn in order to support the conclusion of the argument as a whole; the second states the conclusion of the argument as a whole.

E.

The first and the second both state intermediate conclusions that are drawn in order to support jointly the conclusion of the argument as a whole.

Until now, only injectable vaccines against influenza have been available. They have

been used primarily by older adults, who are at risk for complications from influenza. A new vaccine administered in a nasal spray has proven effective in preventing influenza in children. Since children are significantly more likely than adults to contract and spread influenza, making the new vaccine widely available for children will greatly reduce the spread of influenza across the population.

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

A.

If a person receives both the injectable and the nasal-spray vaccine, the two vaccines do not interfere with each other.

B.

The new vaccine uses the same mechanism to ward off influenza as injectable vaccines do.

C.

Government subsidies have kept the injectable vaccine affordable for all older adults.

D.

Of the older adults who contract influenza, relatively few contract it from children with influenza.

E.

Many parents would be more inclined to have their children vaccinated against influenza if the vaccination did not require an injection.

Outbreaks of Rift Valley fever occur irregularly in East Africa, several years apart. When outbreaks do occur, they kill thousands of cattle. A livestock vaccine against the disease exists but is rarely used. It is too expensive for farmers to use routinely, and since it is not effective until a month after vaccination, administering it after an outbreak begins helps very little. Nevertheless, experts predict that use of the vaccine will increase significantly within the next few years.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest justification for the experts' prediction?

A.

Rift Valley fever is spread by mosquitoes, but each outbreak is so widespread that it is impractical to control it by using insecticides.

B.

When an outbreak of Rift Valley fever occurs, unaffected countries often refuse to import livestock from the countries affected by the outbreak.

C.

It would take less than a month for producers of the vaccine to adjust their production operations to cope with a large increase in demand.

D.

Many cattle farmers in East Africa are nomadic or live in remote villages, and such

farmers, who have little access to modern veterinary medicine, are particularly hard hit by outbreaks of Rift Valley fever.

E.

Recently published research has shown that certain identifiable climatic conditions are almost invariably followed, within two to five months, by an outbreak of Rift Valley fever.

Newspaper editorial:

In an attempt to reduce the crime rate, the governor is getting tough on criminals and making prison conditions harsher. Part of this effort has been to deny inmates the access they formerly had to college-level courses. However, this action is clearly counter to the governor's ultimate goal, since after being released from prison, inmates who had taken such courses committed far fewer crimes overall than other inmates.

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

A.

Not being able to take college-level courses while in prison is unlikely to deter anyone from a crime that he or she might otherwise have committed.

B.

Former inmates are no more likely to commit crimes than are members of the general population.

C.

The group of inmates who chose to take college-level courses were not already less likely than other inmates to commit crimes after being released.

D.

Taking high school level courses in prison has less effect on an inmate's subsequent behavior than taking college-level courses does.

E.

The governor's ultimate goal actually is to gain popularity by convincing people that something effective is being done about crime.

Personnel officer: The exorbitant cost of our health-insurance benefits reflects the high dollar amount of medical expenses incurred by our employees. Employees who are out of shape, as a group, have higher doctor bills and longer hospital stays than do their colleagues who are fit. Therefore, since we must reduce our health-insurance costs, we should offer a rigorous fitness program of jogging and weight lifting to all employees, and require employees who are out of shape to participate.

The conclusion reached by the personnel officer depends on which of the following assumptions?

A.

A person who is fit would receive a routine physical checkup by a doctor less regularly than would a person who is out of shape.

B.

The medical expenses incurred by employees who are required to participate in the fitness program would be less than those incurred by employees who are not required to participate.

C.

The strenuous activities required of out-of-shape employees by the program would not by themselves generate medical expenses greater than any reduction achieved by the program.

D.

The fitness program would serve more employees who are out of shape than it would employees who are fit.

E.

The employees who participate in the fitness program would be away from work because of illness less than would the employees who do not participate.

In the United States, of the people who moved from one state to another when they retired, the percentage who retired to Florida has decreased by three percentage points over the past ten years. Since many local businesses in Florida cater to retirees, this decline is likely to have a noticeably negative economic effect on these businesses.

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

A.

Florida attracts more people who move from one state to another when they retire than does any other state.

B.

The number of people who move out of Florida to accept employment in other states has increased over the past ten years.

C.

There are far more local businesses in Florida that cater to tourists than there are local businesses that cater to retirees.

D.

The total number of people who retired and moved to another state for their retirement has increased significantly over the past ten years.

E.

The number of people who left Florida when they retired to live in another state was greater last year than it was ten years ago.

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Researchers recently asked dozens of shoppers, chosen at random coming out of a FoodBasket supermarket, what they had purchased. The prices of the very same items

at the nearest ShopperKing supermarket were totaled and compared with the FoodBasket total. The ShopperKing totals averaged five percent higher than the FoodBasket totals. Nevertheless, this result does not necessarily show that shoppers at ShopperKing would save money overall by shopping at FoodBasket instead, since _____.

- A.
shoppers who shop regularly at a given supermarket generally choose that store for the low prices offered on the items that they purchase most often
- B.
for shoppers with more than 20 items, the ShopperKing totals averaged more than five percent higher than the FoodBasket totals
- C.
many shoppers consider factors other than price in choosing the supermarket at which they shop most regularly
- D.
there is little variation from month to month in the overall quantity of purchases made at supermarkets by a given shopper
- E.
none of the people who conducted the research were employees of the FoodBasket supermarket

In Arumville, among those young children with elevated levels of lead in their blood, few live in houses containing lead-based paint, but many live in areas where vehicular traffic is heavy. These children's elevated blood-lead levels probably result from lead added to gasoline, since, although gasoline sold in and around Arumville has been lead-free since 1990, lead from vehicle exhaust remains in the soil for many years.

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

- A.
Sales of lead-based paint for use in homes was banned in Arumville in 1977.
- B.
Vehicle traffic in most residential areas of Arumville is heavier today than it was twenty years ago.
- C.
Some lead in the soil comes from deteriorating lead-based paint on the exteriors of buildings.
- D.
In Arumville, children's blood-lead levels typically rise during the warm summer months when children frequently play outdoors but not in the winter when children spend more time indoors.
- E.
If improperly carried out, the removal of lead-based paint from older houses can

significantly increase the risk that children living in such houses will ingest lead dust.

Technological improvements and reduced equipment costs have made converting solar energy directly into electricity far more cost-efficient in the last decade. However, the threshold of economic viability for solar power (that is, the price per barrel to which oil would have to rise in order for new solar power plants to be more economical than new oil-fired power plants) is unchanged at thirty-five dollars.

Which of the following, if true, does most to help explain why the increased cost-efficiency of solar power has not decreased its threshold of economic viability?

- A.
The cost of oil has fallen dramatically.
- B.
The reduction in the cost of solar-power equipment has occurred despite increased raw material costs for that equipment.
- C.
Technological changes have increased the efficiency of oil-fired power plants.
- D.
Most electricity is generated by coal-fired or nuclear, rather than oil-fired, power plants.
- E.
When the price of oil increases, reserves of oil not previously worth exploiting become economically viable.

The number of applications for teaching positions in Newtown's public schools was 5.7 percent lower in 1993 than in 1985 and 5.9 percent lower in 1994 than in 1985. Despite a steadily growing student population and an increasing number of teacher resignations, however, Newtown does not face a teacher shortage in the late 1990's.

Which of the following, if true, would contribute most to an explanation of the apparent discrepancy above?

- A.
Many of Newtown's public school students do not graduate from high school.
- B.
New housing developments planned for Newtown are slated for occupancy in 1997 and are expected to increase the number of elementary school students in Newtown's public schools by 12 percent.
- C.
The Newtown school board does not contemplate increasing the ratio of students to teachers in the 1990's.
- D.
Teachers' colleges in and near Newtown produced fewer graduates in 1994 than in 1993.
- E.

In 1993 Newtown's public schools received 40 percent more applications for teaching positions than there were positions available.

Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

Using new detection techniques, researchers have found trace amounts of various medicinal substances in lakes and rivers. Taken in large quantities, these substances could have serious health effects, but they are present in quantities far too low to cause any physiological response in people who drink the water or bathe in it. Nevertheless, medical experts contend that eliminating these trace amounts from the water will have public health benefits, since _____.

- A.
some of the medicinal substances found in lakes and rivers are harmless to humans even if taken in large quantities
- B.
some of the medicinal substances found in lakes and rivers can counteract possible harmful effects of other such substances found there
- C.
people who develop undesirable side effects when being treated with medicines that contain these substances generally have their treatment changed
- D.
most medicinal substances that reach lakes or rivers rapidly break down into harmless substances
- E.
disease-causing bacteria exposed to low concentrations of certain medicinal substances can become resistant to them

Twenty years ago, Balzania put in place regulations requiring operators of surface mines to pay for the reclamation of mined-out land. Since then, reclamation technology has not improved. Yet, the average reclamation cost for a surface coal mine being reclaimed today is only four dollars per ton of coal that the mine produced, less than half what it cost to reclaim surface mines in the years immediately after the regulations took effect.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to account for the drop in reclamation costs described?

- A.
Even after Balzania began requiring surface mine operators to pay reclamation costs, coal mines in Balzania continued to be less expensive to operate than coal mines in almost any other country.
- B.
In the twenty years since the regulations took effect, the use of coal as a fuel has

declined from the level it was at in the previous twenty years.

C.

Mine operators have generally ceased surface mining in the mountainous areas of Balzania because reclamation costs per ton of coal produced are particularly high for mines in such areas.

D.

Even after Balzania began requiring surface mine operators to pay reclamation costs, surface mines continued to produce coal at a lower total cost than underground mines.

E.

As compared to twenty years ago, a greater percentage of the coal mined in Balzania today comes from surface mines.

In countries where automobile insurance includes compensation for whiplash injuries sustained in automobile accidents, reports of having suffered such injuries are twice as frequent as they are in countries where whiplash is not covered. Some commentators have argued, correctly, that **since there is presently no objective test for whiplash, spurious reports of whiplash injuries cannot be readily identified**. These commentators are, however, wrong to draw the further conclusion that **in the countries with the higher rates of reported whiplash injuries, half of the reported cases are spurious**: clearly, in countries where automobile insurance does not include compensation for whiplash, people often have little incentive to report whiplash injuries that they actually have suffered.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

A.

The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument criticizes; the second is that conclusion.

B.

The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument criticizes; the second is the position that the argument defends.

C.

The first is a claim that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument accepts; the second is the position that the argument defends.

D.

The first is an intermediate conclusion that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument defends; the second is the position that the argument opposes.

E.

The first presents a claim that is disputed in the argument; the second is a conclusion that has been drawn on the basis of that claim.

Early in the twentieth century, Lake Konfa became very polluted. Recently fish populations have recovered as release of industrial pollutants has declined and the lake's waters have become cleaner. Fears are now being voiced that the planned

construction of an oil pipeline across the lake's bottom might revive pollution and cause the fish population to decline again. However, a technology for preventing leaks is being installed. Therefore, provided this technology is effective, the fears are groundless.

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

A.

The pipeline's construction will disturb sediments at the bottom of the lake, dispersing into the water toxic pollutants that have settled there.

B.

Changes in land use and drainage patterns around the lake mean that the lake's waters are increasingly likely to be affected by agricultural runoff.

C.

The leak-preventing technology has been in use for several years without any pipeline in which it is installed developing serious leaks.

D.

A major leak of oil from the pipeline would harm not only the lake's fish but also populations of other aquatic animals and plants.

E.

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, non-native species of fish have been introduced into the lake and now make up a considerable proportion of its overall fish population.