

Over the past several years coffee consumption in the United States has declined while the total combined revenues of American coffee companies have increased substantially. Although all coffee companies have increased prices on all brands of coffee they sell, the increase in revenues is much higher than can be accounted for by the increase in prices.

Which of the following, if true, most contributes to an explanation of the increase in revenues not accounted for by the increase in prices?

- A.
The decline in coffee consumption has forced many smaller coffee companies to sell their operations to companies that are market leaders.
- B.
Many former coffee drinkers have switched to drinking herbal teas and caffeine-free sodas.
- C.
Many coffee drinkers have switched from bargain brands of coffee to more expensive premium brands.
- D.
Coffee-exporting countries have placed larger export tariffs on coffee to compensate for declining sales.
- E.
New brewing technologies allow coffee drinkers to use less ground coffee per cup of brewed coffee.

Many economists assume that governmental corruption hinders economic development, because businesses must spend much of their income on expensive bribes. But an international survey found that in the past decade, economic growth in percentage terms has been just as rapid in nations with more corrupt governments as in other nations.

Which of the following, if true, most helps resolve the apparent discrepancy described above?

- A.
In most nations, businesses spend much of their income on taxes and compliance with regulations, regardless of the level of governmental corruption.
- B.
In the past decade, the proportion of business income spent on taxes has, on average, declined faster in nations with more corrupt governments than in other nations.
- C.
In general, an increase in the amount of income that businesses must spend on bribes substantially reduces the after-tax income of those businesses.
- D.
The strengthening of laws against corrupt practices can make a country's economy more attractive to investors.
- E.
In the past decade, the proportion of business income spent on bribes has, on average, been

highest in the nations with the most corrupt governments.

Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

The Metroville Transit Authority's bus from downtown Metroville to neighboring Crowestown is currently a nonstop service. Because of planned road repairs, the bus is going to be

rerouted along Metroville's Main Street, where several stops will be added. Since the bus will pickup passengers making local trips on Main Street in addition to its Crowestown passengers, its ridership will increase; but the rerouting will probably not increase the transit authority's overall revenue, because .

A.

the fare for local trip on Main Street is less than fare for trip from Metroville to Crowestown

B.

the Metroville Transit Authority will increase the number of trips the Crowestown bus makes per day

C.

local passengers picked up by Crowestown bus on Main Street would otherwise have taken other transit authority buses

D.

the Metroville Transit Authority bus is the only way to get from downtown Metroville to Crowestown using mass transit

E.

the planned road repairs are expected to require several months to complete

The material traditionally used for make kettles in which water for teas is boiled is iron. When water is brought to a boil in these tea kettles, minute traces of iron dissolve in the water. These trace amounts of iron affect the taste of the tea. The use of tea kettles made of nontraditional materials that do not dissolve in water would therefore generally improve the taste of the tea.

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

A.

Some metals do not dissolve in boiling water.

B.

Iron from kettles is the only impurity that is found frequently in water used for tea.

C.

Trace amount of dissolved iron do not improve the taste of tea.

D.

A significant number of people would be willing to switch from iron tea kettles to tea kettles made of nontraditional materials.

E.

Tea can be made without bringing the water to a boil.

In the country of Malan, companies caught dumping industrial waste illegally on public property will soon face fines. Fines at fixed amount per violation have been proposed. Critics object that such mixed fines would encourage companies to be violators to make sure each violation pays, which they would do by dumping so much waste that the savings, relative to the costs of legal disposal, exceed the fine.

The critics' objection assumes which of the following?

- A.
Companies convicted of illegal dumping on public property will not be required to clean up the site and to dispose of the recovered waste properly.
- B.
Companies that currently dump some part of their industrial waste illegally on public property usually dump all of it in that manner.
- C.
The cost of disposing the industrial waste legally is less per unit of volume If the quantities disposed of are large rather than small.
- D.
Much illegal dumping is a perpetuation of customary practices rather than a defiant response to legal restrictions.
- E.
Fines based on volume of illegally dumped industrial waste would be no more difficult to assess than fixed fines.

House cats suffering from hyperthyroidism——A condition characterized by weight loss, hyperactivity and eventually heart disease——often show high blood levels of polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE), a chemical used as a fire retardant in rugs and furniture covers.

Clearly the use of PBDE for this purpose can contribute to hyperthyroidism in house cats.

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

- A.
Any sensitivity to PBDE that a house cat may have is at least partly based on genetic factors.
- B.
Some animals other than house cats can develop hyperthyroidism when exposed to PBDE.
- C.
House cat sometimes develop hyperthyroidism even when not exposed to PBDE.
- D.
Some diseases other than hypothyroidism produce symptoms in house cats like those produced by hyperthyroidism.
- E.
The effects of hyperthyroidism in house cat include an inability to expel PBDE from the blood

In an experiment, psychologists tracked the eye movements of adults and of infants from four to twelve months old watching a video of a woman speaking. The adults and the infants younger than six months mainly watched the woman's eyes, but the infants older than six months switched their attention between her eyes and her mouth. The psychologists concluded that lip-reading plays a role in how most infants learn language.

Which of the following would, if true, most strengthen the support for the psychologists' conclusion?

A.

Most infants start the process of learning language when they are about four months old.

B.

Watching people's eyes and facial expressions also plays a substantial role in how most infants learn language.

C.

Watching the woman's mouth did not help the adults or the youngest infants understand what she was saying.

D.

While watching the woman's lips, the infants older than six months repeated the vocal sounds she made then more often than those she made at other times.

E.

The infants generally paid closer attention to the video when the woman's mouth was concealed than when her eyes were concealed.

Yawning is most often a social animal's way of signaling to the pack that it needs quiet in order to sleep. Without yawning to synchronize sleep patterns in a group of individuals, one or more of them would keep the others awake. Animals that do not sleep do not survive.

Which of the following, if true, would most significantly strengthen the position developed above?

A.

Before-sleeping yawning occurs more often than after-sleep yawning, and the difference in the frequency of yawning is much greater when an animal is in a group than it's alone.

B.

The tendency of an animal to associate with a pack, rather than go about alone, is likely to be genetically determined.

C.

Animals that spend a large percentage of their day sleeping do not yawning any more during each period just before sleep than do animals that spend a small percentage of their day sleeping.

D.

Even if a trait has survival value for some animals that roam in packs, it needs to be present in all species of animals that roam in packs.

E.

Yawning is common behavior in beers, which do not live in packs.

Sales manager: My salespeople are required to attend classes to keep their sales skills current. We use a lot of company time organizing this training—renting meeting rooms, hiring trainers, and holding sessions during business hours. We can decrease the amount of company time devoted to salespeople's training by requiring the sales staff to use online tutorials and videos instead.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the idea that the sales manager's proposal will have the predicted effect?

- A.
Studies have shown that supplementing classroom activities with online materials can greatly increase peoples' ability to learn the subject matter.
- B.
The online tutorials and videos can be tailored to address issues specific to the sale manager's industry.
- C.
Employees will be more willing to take the sales classes if they can do so at their own pace.
- D.
The sales staff are likely to access the online classes and videos during business hours.
- E.
Online tutorials and videos once created require almost no work to maintain.

The Acme Corporation plans to improve productivity by giving staff more-powerful computers with faster Internet connections. But some of the corporation's managers claim that many employees play games over the Internet at work, and conclude from this claim that the plan will be counterproductive.

Assuming that the managers' claim is correct, which of the following would, if true, most strongly support the prediction that the Acme Corporation's plan will succeed?

- A.
The Acme Corporation has a written policy forbidding staff from playing computer games at work.
- B.
None of the managers at Acme Corporation play games over, the Internet at work.
- C.
At most corporations, there is no correlation between the amount of time employees spend playing computer games and the power of their computers or speed of their Internet connections.
- D.
Few if any employees at Acme Corporation have duties that could be performed more efficiently with more-powerful computers or faster Internet connections.
- E.

Managers at Acme Corporation have observed that those employees with the more- powerful computers and fast Internet connections spend a significant amount of time playing computer games.

Moto Company plans to publish some of its advertisements for its new, lightweight motorcycle in children's magazines. Yet virtually no child could manage to purchase a motorcycle, and even if a child could convince his or her parents to buy one, it would be illegal for that child to ride it.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly suggests that it will be to Moto's advantage to advertise its new motorcycle in children's magazines?

A.

Moto's advertising practice is to advertise its new motorcycle only in magazines that currently carry no motorcycle advertising.

B.

The advertising firm hired to manage Moto's campaign for its new motorcycle receives a discount for placing advertisements in certain children's magazines with which the advertising firm does a great deal of business.

C.

Moto's advertisement for its new motorcycle is being run with a message stating that all motorcyclists are required by law to wear protective headgear.

D.

Moto's advertisements are likely to predispose children to purchase the nonmotorized bicycle that it is about to market.

E.

Moto designed its new motorcycle with the intention that it was to be marketed primarily to young adults living in urban areas where it is inconvenient to own a car.

In an experiment, one group of volunteers were shown words associated with money, such as "salary", whereas another group was shown neutral words. Afterwards, individuals in both groups solved puzzles unrelated to money. Those who had been shown words associated with money were much less likely to request or offer help with the puzzles. The researchers concluded from this evidence that preoccupation with money makes people less cooperative.

Which of the following is an assumption the researchers reasoning requires?

A.

At least some of the volunteers were preoccupied with money before being shown the words.

B.

Being from the neutral words did not cause the volunteers to become preoccupied with subjects other than money.

C.

Most of the volunteers who were shown neutral words requested or offered help with the

puzzles.

D.

Most of the volunteers in both groups succeeded in solving the puzzles, either with or without help.

E.

The volunteers who were shown neutral words were, on average, less preoccupied with money while solving the puzzles than the other volunteers were.

Which of the following most logically completes the passage below?

Mayor: Commuters working in Ornvile must cross either North Bridge or South Bridge. During impending repair work at the North Bridge toll plaza, North Bridge will remain open to traffic, but the usual 25 cent toll will not be collected. So as not to lose toll revenue overall, the city plans to temporarily raise the toll on South Bridge by 20 cents. The plan is likely to accomplish its objective, since more commuters currently use South Bridge, and .

A.

the current toll for South Bridge is 20 cents

B.

substantial amounts of toll revenue collected at South Bridge will go toward paying for the North Bridge toll plaza

C.

very few commuters could switch from one bridge to the other without serious inconvenience to themselves

D.

the rates for commuters' monthly bridge toll passes will not increase

E.

at both bridges, tolls are currently collected not only on vehicles entering Ornvile but also on vehicles leaving Ornvile

Palm oil plantations in the Republic of Yaveria have produced more palm oil this year than they can sell. Some plantation managers plan to process their surplus oil into fuel for diesel engines used on their plantations. However, this is unlikely to be a cost-effective use for the surplus, since processing palm oil into a gallon of diesel fuel costs more than the average retail price for a gallon of ordinary diesel fuel in Yaveria.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest defense of the plantation managers' plan against the criticism?

A.

The average annual fuel cost in Yaveria of running a diesel engine is far lower than the corresponding cost for a gasoline engine.

B.

Due to declining international demand for palm oil, the price that unprocessed palm oil can bring on the export market is expected to fall drastically over the next few years.

C.

Processed palm oil can be mixed with ordinary diesel fuel for use in diesel engines.

D.

Most plantations are in remote areas where the cost of bringing in supplies is much higher than in the rest of the country.

E.

On most plantations, diesel engines are used not only in trucks but also in generators that supply electricity to the plantations.

Psychologist: On average, people who read at least one book a month for pleasure go far more frequently to museums, concerts, and sporting events than do people who read less than one book a year. This shows that recreational reading tends to promote a healthy interest in other social and cultural activities.

The psychologist's argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

A.

It overlooks the possibility that the more time one spends on recreational reading, on average, the less time will remain available for other social and cultural activities.

B.

It takes for granted that the greater a person's level of interest in an activity, the more often the person participates in that activity.

C.

It overlooks the possibility that two or more phenomena may tend to occur together even if none of those phenomena causally contributes to any of the others

D.

It fails to adequately address the possibility that, even if one phenomenon tends to produce a certain effect, other phenomena may also contribute to that effect.

E.

It takes for granted that frequent attendance of museums, concerts, and sporting events does not tend to reduce interest in recreational reading.

Journalist: Researchers surveyed 1,000 people who had experienced personal catastrophes. They found that those who formulated new personal goals after such disasters achieved personal readjustment more effectively and more quickly than those who had not done so. Assuming that the study was done correctly, it follows that to bring about readjustment in such people most quickly and most effectively, counselors should mainly focus on encouraging their clients to formulate new personal goals.

Which of the following most accurately describes a flaw in the journalist's reasoning?

A.

The journalist relies on the use of emotively colored language, rather than on the presentation of data.

B.

The argument fails to consider that the readjustment even of those who have not experienced personal catastrophes might be expedited by the formulation of new personal goals.

C.

The argument fails to consider whether, for those who have experienced personal catastrophes in their lives, maintaining previous personal goals might be beneficial for readjustment.

D.

The journalist's generalization about what counselors should do relies on a study that, in its collection of data, did not include a sample of counselors.

E.

The argument fails to consider the possibility that formation of new personal goals is an early stage of readjustment rather than its cause.

Researchers placed a slime mold in the middle of a map of Spain and Portugal with pieces of food on the largest cities. To reach the food, the slime mold grew a network of tentacles nearly identical to the network pattern of the actual highway system in Spain and Portugal. On this basis, highway planners in another nation proposed to raise the efficiency of their nation's new highway system by using similar mapping technique and following the routes found by the slime mold.

The highway planners' proposal relies on which of the following assumptions?

A.

Most other slime mold species form networks similar to that formed by the slime mold in the researchers' experiment.

B.

At least some highway routes in Spain and Portugal were planned using the slime-mold mapping technique.

C.

No highway planning techniques other than the slime mold mapping technique is as likely to maximize the efficiency of the new highway system.

D.

The highway system connecting the largest cities in Spain and Portugal is relatively efficient.

E.

In all similar experiments using maps of other regions, slime molds have grown tentacles closely matching actual highway systems.

A preliminary announcement from the government of the Republic of Bilong indicated that the country's year-to-date trade deficit dropped again last month. In fact, according to a government spokesperson, last month was the third month in a row that Bilong's exports were substantially greater in value than its imports. The government has not yet released any actual figures, but clearly the trend reported indicates that government efforts to promote Bilong's export trade are finally bearing fruit.

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

A.

There has not been a sharp contraction in the total value of goods imported into Bilong in recent months.

B.

There has been no lessening in recent months in the government's efforts to promote exports.

C.

The government's efforts to promote export trade did not lead Bilong's exporters to reduce prices in order to achieve a higher volume of exports.

D.

Bilong's government is able to discern broad trends in foreign trade long before actual figures are available.

E.

There has been no significant shift in Bilong's exports from one category of exported goods to another in recent months.

Biologist: if reports of people's observations along the newly constructed highway are to be believed, many large herbivores such as deer and moose are grazing there. The reported numbers are about equal to our overall population estimates of the past three years, and if there are that many near the road, the animals must be even more abundant in more distant reaches of the forest. So concerns that local populations of these animals are threatened by the construction of the new highway are clearly misplaced.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the biologist's reasoning?

A.

Animals that prey on large herbivores tend not to venture anywhere near roads and cars.

B.

Road construction in an area reduces the availability of plants in that area to large herbivores.

C.

The distant reaches of the forest cover much more area than does the part of the forest visible from the new highway.

D.

Vacationers accustomed to encountering large herbivores make up most of the traffic on the new highway.

E.

The new highway was built over approximately three years.

Which of the following logically completes the reasoning in the passage?

The Roman emperors issued coins made of silver-copper alloy. Over time the silver content in the alloy used for minting was reduced from an original 90% to less than 10%. The coins, however, continued to appear silver on the outside. It is therefore tempting to suspect that the

silver surfaces were added to hide the reduction in silver content. However, that suspicion is probably groundless, since .

A.

surviving late Roman coins that are much worn often do not appear silver at all.

B.

the Roman emperors were increasingly unable to afford to maintain a high silver content in their coins.

C.

in Roman times it would not have been possible to analyze the exact proportions of the metals in a coin once it had been minted.

D.

most members of the public were probably unaware of what the coins looked the inside.

E.

Roman metalworking methods of the time would have naturally resulted in a thin silver layer on the surface of any silver copper alloy.

The panic touched off by Orson Welles's 1938 radio broadcast of the science-fiction classic War of the Worlds has often been ascribed to the lingering anxieties of the Depression era and apprehension about the a second world war; political and economic unease supposedly made people psychologically prepared to believe that Earth had been invaded by Martians.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the attempt above to explain the panic of 1938?

A.

Film adaptations of War of the Worlds are generally regarded as less realistic than Welles's radio version.

B.

Rebroadcasts of Welles's War of the Worlds during times of peace and economic optimism have on occasion resulted in similar panics.

C.

The 1898 publication of the novel on which the radiobroadcast of War of the Worlds was based resulted in no public disturbances.

D.

Even after the invasion depicted in the 1938 radio broadcast had been widely publicized as fictitious, some people maintained that they had seen the Martian invaders.

E.

Some people who had not listened to the 1938 radio broadcast were nonetheless caught up in the resulting panic.

Comparative ads, which compare and advertised products with a competing product, generate fewer favorable attitudes towards the ads than do noncomparative ads. A likely explanation is that users of the competitor brand see the comparison as an attack on their favorite brand,

causing them to either disparage the source of message or mentally argue against message content. Therefore, comparative ads are ineffective, and likely to be detrimental as vehicles for product promotion.

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

- A.
Comparative ads do not base their comparisons on objective facts.
- B.
Consumers that have unfavorable attitudes to comparative ads are usually not persuaded by those ads to buy the product advertised.
- C.
Positive or negative attitudes of consumers toward an ad do not always transfer to the product advertised.
- D.
Noncomparative ads are generally effective vehicles for product promotion.
- E.
Users of competing products mentioned in the comparative ads are influenced by the ads to buy more of those products than they otherwise would.

Psychiatrist: an analysis of psychological and health data collected on almost 100,000 individuals found that during an eight-year period, those who were especially cheerful and optimistic had 30 percent lower risk of heart disease than those who were pessimistic. This shows that many people could improve their healthy by deliberately cultivating an optimistic attitude.

The psychiatrist's argument is most valuable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

- A.
It fails to adequately address the possibility that several factors in addition to an optimistic or pessimistic attitude affect the risk of heart disease.
- B.
It takes for granted that lowering the risk of heart disease is the most effective way to improve overall health.
- C.
It reaches a general conclusion about the population as a whole based on a sample that is not representative of that population in certain relevant respects.
- D.
It assumes that what is true of a certain span of time is also true of a longer span of time.
- E.
It concludes, without sufficient evidence, that a certain causal relationship accounts for the correlation between two factors.

Legislation has been proposed that would allow herbal treatment manufacturers to use in their

advertisements customers' claims that this treatment effectively combat certain diseases. Such advertisements would be permitted only for products that have long been in common use with no record of harm, even when used in high doses. The proposal's backers reason that this criterion should ensure that such advertisement do no harm even if they lead people to take ineffective treatments, for if the products are safe when taken regularly in large doses, they should remain safe at smaller or equal doses.

Which of the following would, if true, most undermine the reasoning of the proposal's backers?

A.

Most people who believe that herbal treatments are medicinally efficacious base their belief on rumors and folklore.

B.

The active ingredients in many orthodox medicines are extracted from herbs.

C.

If people are told that herbal treatments have health benefits, they may buy greater quantities of them.

D.

Most people who are taking a particular treatment for health problem generally will not at the same time try other treatments that may be more effective.

E.

If herbal treatments are widely believed to have benefits, then the prices of these products will increase.

For several reasons, it can be concluded that, as compared with the promise of reward, the threat of punishment is a poorer means of motivating desired behavior. One reason is that people, and animals as well, exercise considerable ingenuity in avoiding punishment while continuing to engage in behavior subject to punishment.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the force of the evidence offered?

A.

Punishment tends not to be effective unless it is applied consistently over a sufficient period of time for learning to occur.

B.

People, in contrast to animals, tend to be able to learn desired ways of behaving by observing punishments being meted out to others.

C.

The severity of punishment and magnitude of reward that are effective in producing desired behavior depend on the individual who is to be punished or rewarded.

D.

Often people and animals cheat to obtain rewards without engaging in the behavior for which the rewards are offered.

E.

Not all people find the same sorts of promised rewards attractive and worth striving for.

The more viewers a television show attracts, the greater the advertising revenue the show generates. The television network Vidnet's most popular show, Starlight, currently earns the network's highest profit, but next year, because of unavoidable increases in production costs, its profits are projected to fall to below the average for Vidnet shows. Therefore, Vidnet would earn greater profits overall if replaced Starlight with a show of average popularity and production costs.

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

- A.
The average profit of Vidnet shows have increased in each of the last three years.
- B.
Shows that occupy time slots immediately before and after very popular shows tend to have far more viewers than they otherwise would.
- C.
Starlight currently has the highest production costs of all Vidnet shows.
- D.
Last year Vidnet lost money on a weekly show that was substantially similar to Starlight And was broadcast on a different day from Starlight.
- E.
Even if, as a result of increased production costs, Starlight becomes less profitable than the average for Vidnet shows, it will still be more profitable than the average for television shows of all networks combined.

Proponents of the electric car maintain that when the technical problems associated with its battery design are solved, such cars will be widely used and, because they are emission- free, will result in an abatement of the environmental degradation caused by auto emissions. But unless we dam more rivers, the electricity to charge these batteries will come from nuclear or coal-fired power plants. Each of these three power sources produces considerable environmental damage. Thus, the electric car .

Which one of the following most logically completes the argument?

- A.
will have worse environmental consequences than its proponents may believe
- B.
will probably remain less popular than other types of cars
- C.
requires that purely technical problems be solved before it can succeed
- D.
will increase the total level of emissions rather than reduce it
- E.

will not produce a net reduction in environmental degradation

Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

Commentator: The number of people who report that they have been seriously depressed at least once in their lives is three times as great today as it was 50 years ago. This statistic is often used to support the view that people no longer believe in the validity of certain social institutions that once gave individuals a sense of psychological stability. How much support the statistic provides is an open question, however, since

- A.
many social institutions are not considered important in promoting individuals' sense of psychological stability
- B.
increased public awareness about mental health issues has eliminated the stigma that was associated with admitting to feelings of depression 50 years ago
- C.
the number of people who seek treatment for serious depression is greater now than it was 50 years ago
- D.
many of the social institutions that once gave individuals a sense of psychological stability still exist as social institutions
- E.
the clinical definition of what constitutes serious depression has remained unchanged over the course of the past 50 years

Athletic coach: A recent survey of secondary school athletes revealed that those who use vitamins, protein powder, and other similar nutritional supplements were much more likely to be successful in athletics than those who do not. This is clear evidence that such supplements are indeed effective.

The athletic coach's argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

- A.
It overlooks the possibility that athletes might not reveal anything that might be perceived as giving them an unfair advantage.
- B.
It overlooks the possibility that athletes who are more likely to achieve athletic success even without nutritional supplements are more likely to use such supplements.
- C.
It takes for granted that athletes engaged in team sports would be affected by supplements in the same way as competitors in nonteam sports.
- D.
It fails to adequately address the possibility that among those who achieve athletic success,

some might be more fit than others regardless of whether they take supplements or not.

E.

It fails to adequately address the possibility that what is true of athletes as a group might not be true of certain individual athletes.

Certainly, pesticides can have some adverse effects on the environment in localities distant from where the pesticide has actually been used. It is nevertheless clear that regulation of pesticide use should not take place at the national level but at the local level. It is in the areas where pesticides are actually applied that they have by far their most serious effects. Just how serious these effects are depends on local conditions such as climate, soil type, and water supply. And local officials are much more likely than national legislators to be truly knowledgeable about such local conditions.

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

A.

The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second states that conclusion.

B.

The first states the conclusion of the argument; the second provides support for that conclusion.

C.

The first identifies grounds for a potential objection to the conclusion of the argument; the second states that conclusion.

D.

The first identifies grounds for a potential objection to the conclusion of the argument; the second provides support for that conclusion.

E.

Each provides support for the conclusion of the argument.

Although automobile manufacturers in Brunia charge the same prices for automobiles as do automobile manufacturers in the neighboring country of Corland and the tax structures of the two countries are nearly identical, the hourly wage that Brunian automobile manufacturers pay their employees is much lower. Therefore, unless automobile manufacturers in Brunia pay substantially more for their raw materials, they make higher profits than do automobile manufacturers in Corland.

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

A.

Automobile manufacturers in Corland pay more for some raw materials than do automobile manufacturers in Brunia.

B.

In Brunia but not in Corland, automobile manufacturers are required by law to pay their employees health care costs in addition to their wages.

C.

In Corland but not in Brunia, most automobile manufacturers restrict their corporate charitable donations to charities in the communities in which their plants are located.

D.

The number of automobiles owned per capita in Corland is significantly higher than the number of automobiles owned per capita in Brunia.

E.

Corland imports more automobiles from Brunia than Brunia does from Corland.

Consultant: Innovation is fostered by frequent exchange and discussion of relevant ideas, but business work spaces divided into individual offices and cubicles encourage employees to work in relative isolation. So, employees whose work requires them to innovate will generally be more productive if assigned to work at desks in large office space without dividing barriers.

Which of the following is an assumption which the consultant's argument depends?

A.

In larger office spaces without dividing barriers, employees whose work requires them to innovate would more often discuss relevant ideas with each other than in other office settings.

B.

Discussing ideas at work reduces the time that employees would otherwise spend alone working on innovative ideas.

C.

In work spaces divided into individual offices and cubicles, employees whose work does not require them to innovate are sometimes more productive than in large openwork spaces.

D.

Most of the ideas employees exchange and discuss at work are consciously considered by those employees to be directly relevant to innovation in their work.

E.

Business consultants generally recommend that innovative employees be assigned to work at desks in larger office spaces without dividing barriers if that will make them more productive.

Bricktown University and Rapids University both have greater numbers of applicants than they have space to admit, and must therefore reject substantial numbers of applicants. The former admits fewer applicants each year than the latter. So we should expect to find that Bricktown University has tougher admissions standards than Rapids University.

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

A.

Compared to those who attend Rapids University, a greater percentage of students who attend Bricktown University graduate.

B.

Rapids University does not have significantly greater numbers of applicants than Bricktown University.

C.

Bricktown University's curriculum is more rigorous than Rapids University's.

D.

The percentage of accepted applicants who actually attend Rapids University is less than the percentage who attend Bricktown University.

E.

Rapids University students tend to be better prepared for university study than Bricktown University students.

Motor vehicles can be powered by many technically feasible alternatives to the traditional petroleum-based fuels produced by the established oil producers. However, these alternatives are at present somewhat too expensive to compete effectively with those traditional fuels. It follows that established oil producers whose goal is to continue to maximize their share of the total global energy market entirely through sales of traditional petroleum products should _____.

Which of the following most logically completes the argument above?

A.

invest a larger proportion of their profits to enhance the efficiency of alternative energy sources

B.

convince automakers to manufacture smaller, less expensive new cars that will be affordable for more people

C.

exercise caution when they raise prices in response to increased demand for their products

D.

seek arrangements with other oil producers to prevent excess inventories of oil by-products

E.

direct their marketing efforts toward those countries in which the alternative means of powering motor vehicles are least popular

Although Thomas Pope, a member of Shakespeare's acting company, specifically asked in his will, dated July 22, 1603, to be buried at St. Saviour's Church, Pope's burial is not recorded in St. Saviour's register. However, the register of Allhallows Church indicates that a Thomas Pope was buried at that church on August 21, 1603. This was at the height of that summer's plague outbreak, and, since a person who died of the plague could not be transported elsewhere for burial, it is likely that the Thomas Pope buried at Allhallows is the same Thomas Pope as the actor.

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

A.

St. Saviour's Church and Allhallows were less than one mile apart.

B.

Shakespeare's acting company appeared regularly in two theaters located very close to Allhallows.

C.

Several actors in Shakespeare's company are known to have survived the plague in the summer of 1603.

D.

The name "Thomas" and the surname "Pope" were each quite common in sixteenth and seventeenth-century England.

E.

St. Saviour's Church was consolidated with Allhallows Church sometime in the mid-seventeenth century.

Instead of fully staffing the intensive care units at each of its five hospitals in Ralinne province, the Quality Healthcare Management Corporation (QHM) is creating a system of electronic monitoring of patients, with data and video continuously reviewed by specialists at a central location. QHM expects the resulting decreased use of doctor and increased use of the expertise of specialists, who will order fewer expensive tests, to result in lower expenses for patients.

Which of the following claims would, if true, support this expectation?

A.

Specialists in such systems report less stress and greater job satisfaction than in more traditional practice.

B.

Studies elsewhere show that, on average, tests ordered in hospitals tend to lengthen hospital stays of patients.

C.

As an enhancement to monitoring by specialists, medical teams within each hospital will review every case.

D.

After implementation of the new system, 12 percent of QHM's budget for electronic monitoring will be taken up by administrative costs.

E.

QHM has recently begun implementation of a plan to decrease administrative costs in part by decreasing the sizes of administrative staffs.

Market analysts are technical experts whose special access to the data of large companies gives them unique opportunities to track and predict those companies' earnings and prices on the stock market with uncommon precision. By several statistical measures, however, the accuracy of market analysts' predictions declined suddenly and markedly in the early 1990s.

Which of the following, if true, would best help to explain the decline in market analysts' accuracy that occurred in the early 1990s?

A.

Computer-generated statistical analysis of many forms of economic data become more readily and inexpensively available to market analysts in the early 1990s.

B.

International influences on the stock market performance of most large companies became more complex in the early 1990s, and this made the gathering of reliable data about those companies more difficult.

C.

A wave of corporate mergers and buyouts led market analysts to improve their short-term forecasting models in the mid-1980s.

D.

Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, the predictions of the highest-paid market analysts were not much more accurate than those of market analysts who were less well paid.

E.

Beginning in the late 1990s many large companies started making the information that had once been available only to market analysts more widely available.

Medical researcher: One of the causes of kidney stones is the crystallization of minerals in the kidneys. This occurs more easily when the body is dehydrated. Since dehydration is more common in hot weather, and since global warming continues to increase global temperatures, the worldwide incidence of kidney stones will probably increase substantially in coming decades.

Which of the following, if added as a premise to the medical researcher's argument, would most strengthen it?

A.

Worldwide, the higher the incidence of kidney stones in different regions, the higher are the average temperatures in those regions.

B.

Global warming will probably increase the worldwide incidence of a wide variety of health problems.

C.

Some conditions other than dehydration can make minerals more likely to crystallize in the kidneys.

D.

The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere increases global warming.

E.

In the past decade, the incidence of kidney stones has increased markedly in a few of the nations with the hottest climates, but not in any of those with the coolest.

Editorial: Three years ago, our city council voted to spend \$15 million to construct a new sports stadium. But over \$30 million has been spent, the stadium is still not complete, and in its present half-completed state, it has little or no value. Independent experts estimate that finishing it will

cost another \$20 million, for a total of over \$50 million. Even the stadium's most ardent supporters do not believe it will bring in enough revenue to justify \$50 million in expenditures. Nonetheless, for the city it makes good financial sense to finish the project.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest justification for the editorial's recommendation?

- A.
The costs associated with abandoning the building project are likely to be greater than \$30 million.
- B.
The independent experts may have miscalculated the cost of completing the stadium.
- C.
Many of the city's voters want the city to finish the stadium if it will cost less than \$60 million.
- D.
Residents of the city might no longer regard city council as competent to decide on major projects if the stadium is not completed.
- E.
If the stadium is completed, the city will obtain some revenue from taxes collected on sales of tickets and refreshments.

Commentator: Certain simplistic economic models suggest that as more people compete for jobs in any field, wages will fall. But as more people become interested in watching a professional sport, the salaries of that sport's athletes tend to rise. So, professional athletes' salaries do not fit these simplistic economic models.

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

- A.
The simplistic economic models suggest that as revenues in an industry increase, salaries in that industry will rise.
- B.
Increases in numbers of people interested in watching a professional sport lead to increases in revenue for the organizations that manage and promote that sport.
- C.
Increases in numbers of people interested in watching a professional sport lead to increases in the number of athletes competing for employment in that sport.
- D.
The wages of nonathletes' jobs in certain professional sports have fallen as more people have become interested in watching those sports.
- E.
Professional athletes' salaries will continue to rise as long as sources of revenue, such as television rights, for the organizations that manage and promote that sport continue to increase.

Soltopian economist: To strengthen Soltopia's economy during a recession, our national government should reject plans to offer tax rebates to individual taxpayers and should instead give money to local governments. Individual consumers spend much of their income on imported goods, so their purchases tend to bolster the economies of other nations more than that of our own.

Which of the following is an assumption the economist's argument requires?

A.

To strengthen Soltopia's economy during a recession, the national government must either give money to local government or give tax rebates to individual taxpayers.

B.

On average, local governments in Soltopia spend a lower percentage of their income on imported goods than individual Soltopian consumers do.

C.

Any local government income in Soltopia that is not spent on imported goods bolsters at least some portion of the Soltopian national economy.

D.

The Soltopian national government should not act in a way that bolsters the economies of other nations when its own economy is in a recession.

E.

The portion of a rebate to an individual Soltopian taxpayer that is not spent on goods produced in Soltopia is typically spent on imported goods.

Two species of coffee are commercially grown: arabica, the original source of the drink, and robusta, which has more recently come under cultivation. The proportion of robusta beans in inexpensive blended coffees has increased in recent decades because robusta resists frost and disease better, fruits faster, and grows at lower elevations. Expensive gourmet coffees typically contain only arabica beans because robusta beans, though higher in caffeine than arabicas, are more neutral in flavor and consequently less interesting.

The information given most strongly supports which of the following?

A.

Robusta cannot be grown successfully in the regions where arabica is commercially cultivated.

B.

Inexpensive coffees sold now contain more caffeine than did coffees sold a few decades ago.

C.

The only factor determining differences in flavor among different coffees is the proportion of robusta beans that they contain.

D.

Although more robusta than arabica beans are sold, the total value of arabica beans sold each year exceeds that of robusta beans.

E.

Arabica and robusta are the only species whose beans can be used to make coffee.

For five years, every auto owner who has switched to Taske Auto Insurance has gotten a rate from 2 to 20 percent less than what they had been paying someone else for the same level of coverage. So clearly, if you are insured by someone else and you call Taske, you can be confident of this: The rate Taske offers you will save you at least 2 percent of what you currently pay!

Which of the following, if true, points to a flaw in the argument in the advertisement?

A.

Current Taske customers with the same level of automobile insurance coverage as each other sometimes pay different rates for that coverage.

B.

Of the people who switched to Taske, the vast majority achieved savings that were closer to 2 percent than to 20 percent.

C.

A large proportion of the auto owners who were quoted auto insurance rates by Taske chose not to switch their insurance to Taske.

D.

Some of Take's competitors do not offer all of the different levels of coverage offered by Taske.

E.

Taske has been offering automobile insurance for only five years.

The cost of coronary bypass surgery along with follow-up treatment varies widely from one United States city to another, independent of variation in either the cost of living or average salaries. This variation in cost must be a consequence of a parallel variation in the quality of care, since providing higher-quality care generally costs more.

Each of the following, if true, casts doubt on the proposed explanation for the variation in cost of bypass surgery and follow-up treatment EXCEPT:

A.

Survival rates after coronary bypass surgery are very similar from one city to another.

B.

Costs of hip replacement surgery vary widely from city to city in parallel to costs of bypass surgery.

C.

The number of unjustified malpractice suits brought against physicians and the resulting additional costs in health care vary widely from one city to another.

D.

Bypass surgery in some cities includes treatment techniques that many medical authorities regard as unnecessary.

E.

The average age and physical condition of patients who undergo bypass surgery vary from one city to another.

Editorial: Our city has been allowing political demonstrators to post fliers on telephone poles downtown. But simultaneously, certain not-for-profit organizations have been fined for doing the same thing. Yet justice requires the city to apply the same standards to all such activity. Thus, the city is morally obligated to allow the not-for-profit organizations to post their fliers on the poles, because .

Which of the following, logically complete the editorial's argument?

- A.
the city is morally obligated to allow the political demonstrators to post their fliers
- B.
Enforcement of laws against posting fliers on telephone poles should not be waived even if the posting occurs as part of a political demonstration
- C.
the owners of various for-profit organizations have lodged complaints against the city because they are banned from posting advertisements on telephone poles
- D.
the city is preparing to take legal action against the political demonstrators within the next few days
- E.
even if the city continues to allow the posting of fliers on telephone poles, the posting activity will probably end within a week

Digitizing academic journals has enabled scholars to find academic articles more easily; most that have been published in the last 50 years are now available online. In the past, scholars would often stumble accidentally upon obscure, yet relevant, research. But digitization is likely to lead to citations drawn from a narrower range of research, since search engines rank highly cited articles first, and .

Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

- A.
obscure articles become so because they are less relevant than other articles to most scholars' work
- B.
scholars have historically tended to rely in their own work on frequently cited articles
- C.
the general scholarly consensus about articles is reflected in the frequency with which they are cited
- D.
most scholars do not look beyond the first few search results to find additional relevant research

E.

most scholars use the same search engines that nonacademics use when performing online searches

In a national survey, 50 percent of the surveyed households reported having credit card debt. But credit card companies reported that 76 percent of the nation's households owed them money. However, detailed follow-up investigations found that almost none of the surveyed households had reported their credit card debt inaccurately and that the credit card companies' reports were also accurate.

Which of the following, if true, would most help resolve the apparent discrepancy described above?

A.

Many of the surveyed households did not answer the question about their credit card debt.

B.

In several other surveys, even households that tried to report their debt levels honestly have tended to significantly underestimate their overall debt

C.

In the nation as a whole, 50 percent of the households owe about 76 percent of the total household debt owed to credit card companies.

D.

The method of choosing households for the survey was unintentionally biased toward selecting households that were especially likely to have credit card debt.

E.

At least 26 percent of the surveyed households owed money to lenders other than credit card companies.

Although Bernini became famous as a sculptor, he was also a painter. It is likely, however, that his painting was a sideline. One reason for thinking this is that none of his surviving paintings seem to have been commissioned. For one thing, the paintings are unsigned. Also, many of them are self-portraits, and .

Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the argument?

A.

Self-portraits by Bernini would not have been commissioned

B.

many of the most accomplished painters have painted-portraits

C.

it is possible to determine the artist of unsigned paintings

D.

it is not uncommon for painters to leave their works unsigned

E.

self-portraits would not need to be signed