

1.

The prairie vole, a small North American grassland rodent, breeds year-round, and a group of voles living together consists primarily of an extended family, often including two or more litters. Voles commonly live in large groups from late autumn through winter; from spring through early autumn, however, most voles live in far smaller groups. The seasonal variation in group size can probably be explained by a seasonal variation in mortality among young voles.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest support for the explanation offered?

A.

It is in the spring and early summer that prairie vole communities generally contain the highest proportion of young voles.

B.

Prairie vole populations vary dramatically in size from year to year.

C.

The prairie vole subsists primarily on broad-leaved plants that are abundant only in spring.

D.

Winters in the prairie voles' habitat are often harsh, with temperatures that drop well below freezing.

E.

Snakes, a major predator of young prairie voles, are active only from spring through early autumn.

2.

For years the beautiful Renaissance buildings in Palitito have been damaged by exhaust from the many tour buses that come to the city. There has been little parking space, so most buses have idled at the curb during each stop on their tour, and idling produces as much exhaust as driving. The city has now provided parking that accommodates a third of the tour buses, so damage to Palitito's buildings from the buses' exhaust will diminish significantly.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the argument?

A.

The exhaust from Palitito's few automobiles is not a significant threat to Palitito's buildings.

B.

Palitito's Renaissance buildings are not threatened by pollution other than engine exhaust.

C.

Tour buses typically spend less than one-quarter of the time they are in Palitito transporting passengers from one site to another.

D.

More tourists come to Palitito by tour bus than by any other single means of transportation.

E.

Some of the tour buses that are unable to find parking drive around Palitito while their passengers are visiting a site.

3.

Twelve years ago and again five years ago, there were extended periods when the Darfir Republic's currency, the pundra, was weak: its value was unusually low relative to the world's most stable currencies. Both times a weak pundra made Darfir's manufactured products a bargain on world markets, and Darfir's exports were up substantially. Now some politicians are saying that, in order to cause another similarly sized increase in exports, the government should allow the pundra to become weak again.

Which of the following, if true, provides the government with the strongest grounds to doubt that the politicians' recommendation, if followed, will achieve its aim?

A.

Several of the politicians now recommending that the pundra be allowed to become weak made that same recommendation before each of the last two periods of currency weakness.

B.

After several decades of operating well below peak capacity, Darfir's manufacturing sector is now operating at near-peak levels.

C.

The economy of a country experiencing a rise in exports will become healthier only if the country's currency is strong or the rise in exports is significant.

D.

Those countries whose manufactured products compete with Darfir's on the world market all currently have stable currencies.

E.

A sharp improvement in the efficiency of Darfir's manufacturing plants would make Darfir's products a bargain on world markets even without any weakening of the pundra relative to other currencies.

4.

First-time computer buyers buying PXC home computers typically buy models that cost much less and have a smaller profit margin per computer than do PXC computers bought by people replacing their computers with more powerful models. Last year PXC's profits from computer sales were substantially higher than the previous year, although about the same number of PXC computers were sold and the prices and profit margins for each computer model that PXC sells remained unchanged.

If the statements above are true, which of the following is most strongly supported by them?

A.

PXC's competitors raised the prices on their computers last year, making PXC computers more attractive to first-time computer buyers.

B.

The number of people buying PXC computers who also bought PXC computer-related products,

such as printers, was larger last year than the previous year.

C.

Among computer buyers who bought a PXC computer to replace their existing computer, the proportion who were replacing a computer made by a competitor of PXC was greater last year than the previous year.

D.

The proportion of PXC computers bought by first-time computer buyers was smaller last year than the previous year.

E.

PXC's production costs for its computers were lower last year than they had been the previous year.

5.

For several years, per capita expenditure on prescription drugs in Voronia rose by fifteen percent or more annually. In order to curb these dramatic increases, the ministry of health prohibited drug manufacturers from raising any of their products' prices. Even though use of prescription drugs did not expand after this price freeze, per capita expenditure for prescription drugs continued to increase by a substantial percentage each year.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why the ministry's action did not achieve its goal?

A.

After price increases were prohibited, drug manufacturers concentrated on producing new medications to replace existing products.

B.

The population of Voronia rose steadily throughout the period.

C.

Improvements in manufacturing processes enabled drug manufacturers to maintain high profit levels on drugs despite the price freeze.

D.

In addition to imposing a price freeze, the government encouraged doctors to prescribe generic versions of common drugs instead of the more expensive brand-name versions.

E.

After price increases were prohibited, some foreign manufacturers of expensive drugs ceased marketing them in Voronia.

6.

Capuchin monkeys in Venezuela often rub a certain type of millipede into their fur. Secretions of these millipedes have been shown to contain two chemicals that are potent mosquito repellents, and mosquitoes carry parasites that debilitate the capuchins. The rubbing behavior is rare except during the rainy season, when mosquito populations are at their peak. Therefore, the monkeys probably rub the millipedes into their fur because doing so helps protect them against mosquitoes.

Which of the following would it be most useful to determine in order to evaluate the argument?

A.

Whether the two chemicals provide any protection for the millipedes against their own predators

B.

Whether the type of millipede used by the capuchin monkeys in Venezuela is found in other parts of the world

C.

Whether animals other than capuchins rub insects of any kind into their fur

D.

Whether the only time the millipedes are readily available to the capuchins is during the rainy season

E.

Whether secretions of any other insects accessible to the capuchins contain chemicals that repel mosquitoes

7.

In the two years following the unification of Germany in 1989, the number of cars owned by residents of East Germany and the total distance traveled by cars in East Germany both increased by about 40 percent. In those two years, however, the number of East German residents killed each year as car occupants in traffic accidents increased by about 300 percent.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the disproportionate increase in traffic fatalities?

A.

The average number of passengers per car was higher in the years before unification than it was in the two years after.

B.

After unification, many people who had been living in East Germany relocated to West Germany.

C.

After unification, a smaller proportion of the cars being purchased by East German residents were used vehicles.

D.

Drivers who had driven little or not at all before 1989 accounted for much of the increase in the total distance traveled by cars.

E.

Over the same two-year period in East Germany, other road users, such as motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, experienced only small increases in traffic fatalities.

8.

Archaeologists in Michigan have excavated a Native American camp near Dumaw Creek. Radiocarbon dating of animal bones found at the site indicates that the camp dates from some time between 1605 and 1755. However, the camp probably dates to no later than 1630, since no European trade goods were found at the site, and European traders were active in the region from the 1620's onward.

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

A.

Due to trade among Native Americans, some European trade goods would have reached the area before the European traders themselves did.

B.

At all camps in the region that have been reliably dated to the late 1620's, remains of European trade goods have been found.

C.

The first European trade goods to reach the area would have been considered especially valuable and preserved as much as possible from loss or destruction.

D.

The first European traders in the area followed soon after the first European explorers.

E.

The site is that of a temporary camp that would have been used seasonally for a few years and then abandoned.

9.

Roland: The alarming fact is that 90 percent of the people in this country now report that they know someone who is unemployed.

Sharon: But a normal, moderate level of unemployment is 5 percent, with 1 out of 20 workers unemployed. So at any given time if a person knows approximately 50 workers, 1 or more will very likely be unemployed.

Sharon's argument relies on the assumption that

A.

normal levels of unemployment are rarely exceeded

B.

unemployment is not normally concentrated in geographically isolated segments of the population

C.

the number of people who each know someone who is unemployed is always higher than 90% of the population

D.

Roland is not consciously distorting the statistics he presents

E.

knowledge that a personal acquaintance is unemployed generates more fear of losing one's job than does knowledge of unemployment statistics

10.

A certain mayor has proposed a fee of five dollars per day on private vehicles entering the city, claiming that the fee will alleviate the city's traffic congestion. The mayor reasons that, since the fee will exceed the cost of round-trip bus fare from many nearby points, many people will switch from using their cars to using the bus.

Which of the following statements, if true, provides the best evidence that the mayor's reasoning is flawed?

A.

Projected increases in the price of gasoline will increase the cost of taking a private vehicle into the city.

B.

The cost of parking fees already makes it considerably more expensive for most people to take a private vehicle into the city than to take a bus.

C.

Most of the people currently riding the bus do not own private vehicles.

D.

Many commuters opposing the mayor's plan have indicated that they would rather endure traffic congestion than pay a five-dollar-per day fee.

E.

During the average workday, private vehicles owned and operated by people living within the city account for twenty percent of the city's traffic congestion.

11.

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

At a recent conference on environmental threats to the North Sea, most participating countries favored uniform controls on the quality of effluents, whether or not specific environmental damage could be attributed to a particular source of effluent. What must, of course, be shown, in order to avoid excessively restrictive controls, is that _____.

A.

any uniform controls that are adopted are likely to be implemented without delay

B.

any substance to be made subject to controls can actually cause environmental damage

C.

the countries favoring uniform controls are those generating the largest quantities of effluents

D.

all of any given pollutant that is to be controlled actually reaches the North Sea at present

E.

environmental damage already inflicted on the North Sea is reversible

12.

Sales of telephones have increased dramatically over the last year. In order to take advantage of this increase, Mammoth Industries plans to expand production of its own model of telephone, while continuing its already very extensive advertising of this product.

Which of the following, if true, provides most support for the view that Mammoth Industries cannot increase its sales of telephones by adopting the plan outlined above?

A.

Although it sells all of the telephones that it produces, Mammoth Industries' share of all telephone sales has declined over the last year.

B.

Mammoth Industries' average inventory of telephones awaiting shipment to retailers has declined slightly over the last year.

C.

Advertising has made the brand name of Mammoth Industries' telephones widely known, but few consumers know that Mammoth Industries owns this brand.

D.

Mammoth Industries' telephone is one of three brands of telephone that have together accounted for the bulk of the last year's increase in sales.

E.

Despite a slight decline in the retail price, sales of Mammoth Industries' telephones have fallen in the last year.

13.

Manufacturers sometimes discount the price of a product to retailers for a promotion period when the product is advertised to consumers. Such promotions often result in a dramatic increase in amount of product sold by the manufacturers to retailers. Nevertheless, the manufacturers could often make more profit by not holding the promotions.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the claim above about the manufacturers' profit?

A.

The amount of discount generally offered by manufacturers to retailers is carefully calculated to represent the minimum needed to draw consumers' attention to the product.

B.

For many consumer products the period of advertising discounted prices to consumers is about a week, not sufficiently long for consumers to become used to the sale price.

C.

For products that are not newly introduced, the purpose of such promotions is to keep the products in the minds of consumers and to attract consumers who are currently using competing

products.

D.

During such a promotion retailers tend to accumulate in their warehouses inventory bought at discount; they then sell much of it later at their regular price.

E.

If a manufacturer fails to offer such promotions but its competitor offers them, that competitor will tend to attract consumers away from the manufacturer's product.

14.

On Pacific islands, a newly arrived gecko species, the house gecko, is displacing the previously established mourning gecko in urban areas, but populations of the two species are more stable in rural areas far from human settlement. The house gecko does not attack the mourning gecko, but in areas where insects congregate it prevents the mourning gecko from feeding on them.

Which of the following contributes most to an explanation of the difference between gecko populations in urban and rural areas?

A.

In urban areas, geckos are valued because they eat so many insects.

B.

Geckos defend territories against other members of the same species.

C.

House geckos that arrive on islands are carried there in boats and planes.

D.

In places where there are lighted buildings, insects tend to gather around the light.

E.

Mourning geckos are all females and reproduce asexually, but house geckos reproduce sexually.

15.

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A new machine for harvesting corn will allow rows to be planted only fifteen inches apart, instead of the usual thirty inches. Corn planted this closely will produce lower yields per plant. Nevertheless, the new machine will allow corn growers to double their profits per acre because _____.

A.

with the closer spacing of the rows, the growing corn plants will quickly form a dense canopy of leaves, which will, by shading the ground, minimize the need for costly weed control and irrigation

B.

with the closer spacing of the rows, corn plants will be forced to grow taller because of increased competition for sunlight from neighboring corn plants

C.

with the larger number of plants growing per acre, more fertilizer will be required

D.

with the spacing between rows cut by half, the number of plants grown per acre will almost double

E.

with the closer spacing of the rows, the acreage on which corn is planted will be utilized much more intensively than it was before, requiring more frequent fallow years in which corn fields are left unplanted

16.

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Utrania was formerly a major petroleum exporter, but in recent decades economic stagnation and restrictive regulations inhibited investment in new oil fields. In consequence, Utranian oil exports dropped steadily as old fields became depleted. Utrania's currently improving economic situation, together with less-restrictive regulations, will undoubtedly result in the rapid development of new fields. However, it would be premature to conclude that the rapid development of new fields will result in higher oil exports, because _____.

A.

the price of oil is expected to remain relatively stable over the next several years

B.

the improvement in the economic situation in Utrania is expected to result in a dramatic increase in the proportion of Utranians who own automobiles

C.

most of the investment in new oil fields in Utrania is expected to come from foreign sources

D.

new technology is available to recover oil from old oil fields formerly regarded as depleted

E.

many of the new oil fields in Utrania are likely to be as productive as those that were developed during the period when Utrania was a major oil exporter

17.

Radio stations with radio data system (RDS) technology broadcast special program information that only radios with an RDS feature can receive. Between 1994 and 1996, the number of RDS radio stations in Verdland increased from 250 to 600. However, since the number of RDS-equipped radios in Verdland was about the same in 1996 as in 1994, the number of Verdlanders receiving the special program information probably did not increase significantly.

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

A.

Few if any of the RDS radio stations that began broadcasting in Verdland after 1994 broadcast

to people with RDS-equipped radios living in areas not previously reached by RDS stations.

B.

In 1996 most Verdlanders who lived within the listening area of an RDS station already had a radio equipped to receive RDS.

C.

Equipping a radio station with RDS technology does not decrease the station's listening area.

D.

In 1996 Verdlanders who did not own radios equipped to receive RDS could not receive any programming from the RDS radio stations that began broadcasting in Verdland after 1994.

E.

The RDS radio stations in Verdland in 1996 did not all offer the same type of programming.

18.

Situation: For five years the Souper restaurant chain has maintained rapid sales growth in Danport, primarily by opening new restaurants that draw patrons away from other restaurants in their vicinity.

Goal: Souper wishes to achieve continued rapid sales growth in Danport over the next two years.

Proposal for consideration: Continue to open new restaurants in Danport during the next two years at the same rate as in the last two years.

In light of the situation, which of the following, if true, most strongly argues that adopting the proposal would be an ineffective way of achieving the goal?

A.

At times at which customers find Souper restaurants too crowded, they often go to other restaurants nearby.

B.

The Souper chain has generally opened new restaurants in locations that are in the vicinity of a large number of other restaurants.

C.

Souper restaurants generally offer a much smaller variety of foods than many of the other restaurants in their vicinity.

D.

Virtually all potential sites for new Souper restaurants in Danport are located in the vicinity of existing Souper restaurants.

E.

Souper restaurants have always offered meals that are somewhat less expensive than meals at restaurants that compete with Souper for patrons.

19.

Some airlines allegedly reduce fares on certain routes to a level at which they lose money, in order to drive competitors off those routes. However, this method of eliminating competition

cannot be profitable in the long run. Once an airline successfully implements this method, any attempt to recoup the earlier losses by charging high fares on that route for an extended period would only provide competitors with a better opportunity to undercut the airline's fares.

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

A.

In some countries it is not illegal for a company to drive away competitors by selling a product below cost.

B.

Airline executives generally believe that a company that once underpriced its fares to drive away competitors is very likely to do so again if new competitors emerge.

C.

As part of promotions designed to attract new customers, airlines sometimes reduce their ticket prices to below an economically sustainable level.

D.

On deciding to stop serving particular routes, most airlines shift resources to other routes rather than reduce the size of their operations.

E.

When airlines dramatically reduce their fares on a particular route, the total number of air passengers on that route increases greatly.

20.

When an airplane is taken out of service for maintenance, it is often repainted as well, and during the repainting no other maintenance work can be done on the plane. In order to reduce maintenance time, airline officials are considering using a new nontoxic plastic film instead of paint. The film takes just as long to apply as paint does, but many other maintenance tasks can be carried out at the same time.

Which of the following, if true, is further evidence that using the film will help the airline officials achieve their goal?

A.

Unlike paint, the film gives a milky tone to certain colors.

B.

At the end of its useful life, the film can be removed much more quickly than paint can.

C.

The film can be applied only by technicians who have received special training.

D.

The metal exteriors of airplanes have to be protected from high temperatures and caustic chemicals such as exhaust gases.

E.

Even at speeds considerably higher than the normal speed of a passenger jet, the film remains securely attached.

21.

At present the Hollywood Restaurant has only standard-height tables. However, many customers come to watch the celebrities who frequent the Hollywood, and they would prefer tall tables with stools because such seating would afford a better view of the celebrities. Moreover, diners seated on stools typically do not stay as long as diners seated at standard-height tables. Therefore, if the Hollywood replaced some of its seating with high tables and stools, its profits would increase.

The argument is vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it gives reason to believe that it is likely that

A.

some celebrities come to the Hollywood to be seen, and so might choose to sit at the tall tables if they were available

B.

the price of meals ordered by celebrities dining at the Hollywood compensates for the longer time, if any, they spend lingering over their meals

C.

a customer of the Hollywood who choose to sit at a tall table would be an exception to the generalization about lingering

D.

a restaurant's customers who spend less time at their meals typically order less expensive meals than those who remain at their meals longer

E.

with enough tall tables to accommodate all the Hollywood's customers interested in such seating, there would be no view except of other tall tables

22.

With a record number of new companies starting up in Derderia and with previously established companies adding many jobs, a record number of new jobs were created last year in the Derderian economy. This year, previously established companies will not be adding as many new jobs overall as such companies added last year. Therefore, unless a record number of companies start up this year, Derderia will not break its record for new jobs created.

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

A.

Each year, new companies starting up create more new jobs overall than do previously established companies.

B.

Companies established last year will not add a greater number of jobs overall this year than they did last year.

C.

This year, the new companies starting up will not provide substantially more jobs per company

than did new companies last year.

D.

This year, the overall number of jobs created by previously established companies will be less than the overall number of jobs lost at those companies.

E.

The number of jobs created in the Derderian economy last year was substantially larger than the number of jobs lost last year.

23.

During the past year, Pro-Tect Insurance Company's total payout on car-theft claims has been larger than the company can afford to sustain. **Pro-Tect cannot reduce the number of car-theft policies it carries, so it cannot protect itself against continued large payouts that way.** Therefore, Pro-Tect has decided to offer a discount to holders of car-theft policies whose cars have antitheft devices. Many policyholders will respond to the discount by installing such devices, since the amount of the discount will within two years typically more than cover the cost of installation. **Thus, because cars with antitheft devices are rarely stolen, Pro-Tect's plan is likely to reduce its annual payouts.**

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

A.

The first and the second are both evidence offered by the argument as support for its main conclusion.

B.

The first presents a problem a response to which the argument assesses; the second is the judgment reached by that assessment.

C.

The first is the position the argument seeks to establish; the second is a judgment the argument uses to support that position.

D.

The first is a development that the argument seeks to explain; the second is a prediction the argument makes in support of the explanation it offers.

E.

The first presents a development whose likely outcome is at issue in the argument; the second is a judgment the argument uses in support of its conclusion about that outcome.

24.

Herbicides allow cereal crops to be grown very efficiently, with virtually no competition from weeds. In Britain, partridge populations have been steadily decreasing since herbicide use became widespread. Some environmentalists claim that these birds, which live in and around cereal crop fields, are being poisoned by the herbicides. However, tests show no more than trace quantities of herbicides in partridges on herbicide-treated land. Therefore, something other than herbicide use must be responsible for the population decrease.

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

A.

The elimination of certain weeds from cereal crop fields has reduced the population of the small insects that live on those weeds and that form a major part of partridge chicks' diet.

B.

Since partridges are valued as game birds, records of their population are more carefully kept than those for many other birds.

C.

Some of the weeds that are eliminated from cereal crop fields by herbicides are much smaller than the crop plants themselves and would have no negative effect on crop yield if they were allowed to grow.

D.

Birds other than partridges that live in or around cereal crop fields have also been suffering population declines.

E.

The toxins contained in herbicides typically used on cereal crops can be readily identified in the tissues of animals that have ingested them.

25.

A product that represents a clear technological advance over competing products can generally command a high price. **Because technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed and companies want to make large profits while they still can, many companies charge the maximum possible price for such a product.** But large profits on the new product will give competitors a strong incentive to quickly match the new product's capabilities. **Consequently, the strategy to maximize overall profit from a new product is to charge less than the greatest possible price.**

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

A.

The first is a consideration that has been raised to argue that a certain strategy is counterproductive; the second presents that strategy.

B.

The first is a consideration raised to support the strategy that the argument recommends; the second presents that strategy.

C.

The first is a consideration raised to explain the appeal of a certain strategy; the second presents that strategy.

D.

The first is an assumption, rejected by the argument, that has been used to justify a course of action; the second presents that course of action.

E.

The first is a consideration that has been used to justify pursuing a goal that the argument rejects;

the second presents a course of action that has been adopted in pursuit of that goal.

26.

Although exposure to asbestos is the primary cause of mesothelioma, a slow-developing cancer, researchers believe that infection by the SV40 virus is a contributing cause, since in the United States 60 percent of tissue samples from mesotheliomas, but none from healthy tissue, contain SV40. SV40 is a monkey virus; however, in 1960 some polio vaccine was contaminated with the virus. Researchers hypothesize that this vaccine was the source of the virus found in mesotheliomas decades later.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the researchers' hypothesis?

A.

SV40 is widely used as a research tool in cancer laboratories.

B.

Changes in the technique of manufacturing the vaccine now prevent contamination with SV40.

C.

Recently discovered samples of the vaccine dating from 1960 still show traces of the virus.

D.

In a small percentage of cases of mesothelioma, there is no history of exposure to asbestos.

E.

In Finland, where the polio vaccine was never contaminated, samples from mesotheliomas do not contain SV40.

27.

In the past year Harborville has had an unusually high rate of new cases of a certain disease. An investigation revealed that over the past five years Harborville's public water supply has had a high level of pollutants. Medical researchers have hypothesized that Harborville's water is responsible for the high rate of new cases of the disease.

Each of the following, if true, provides additional support for the researchers' hypothesis EXCEPT:

A.

Most of the people afflicted with new cases of the disease had regularly drunk larger quantities of Harborville's water than had other Harborville residents.

B.

The same type of pollutants that were found in Harborville's water have independently been linked to occurrences in other towns of high rates of the disease.

C.

Some of the people with newly diagnosed cases of the disease began to develop the disease before Harborville's water became polluted.

D.

The rate of new cases of the disease among residents of Harborville who get their water from

private sources is not unusually high.

E.

Towns with geographic and demographic characteristics similar to those of Harborville but without polluted water do not have as high a rate of the disease as does Harborville.

28.

To prevent harbor porpoises from getting tangled in its nets and suffocating, a fishing company installed acoustic alarms on all its boats that fish in waters off Massachusetts. The sound emitted temporarily disorients the porpoises and frightens them away. Since the installation of the alarms, the average number of porpoises caught in the company's nets has dropped from eight to one per month. The alarms, therefore, are saving the lives of harbor porpoises in those waters.

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

A.

The use of acoustic alarms increases the number of commercial fish caught by the fishing company's boats.

B.

When disoriented, harbor porpoises are not significantly more likely to be killed by other boats.

C.

Environmentalists advocate the use of acoustic alarms as a means of protecting the harbor porpoise population.

D.

The alarms were installed at the time of year when harbor porpoises are most plentiful in the Massachusetts waters.

E.

The cost of installing acoustic alarms on fishing boats is less than the cost of repairing nets damaged by harbor porpoises.

29.

Traveler: Southern Airways has a far worse safety record than Air Dacentaria over the past few years, in terms of both the frequency of accidents and the severity of accidents. Therefore, although Air Dacentaria is slightly more expensive, I will choose it over Southern Airways for my flight from Pederton to Dacenta, since it is worth paying extra to have a safer flight.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the traveler's argument?

A.

Air Dacentaria's flight from Pederton to Dacenta is nonstop, whereas Southern Airways' flight touches down in Gorinda on the way.

B.

Most Southern Airways flights, but not its flight from Pederton to Dacenta, use Sarmouth airport, which because of its mountainous location is one of the world's most dangerous.

C.

For its flights from Pederton to Dacenta, Southern Airways uses a different model of airplane, with a smaller capacity, than the model Air Dacentaria uses for its flights on the same route.

D.

Only in the last few years has the cost of flying from Pederton to Dacenta been more expensive on Air Dacentaria than on Southern Airways.

E.

Although the frequency of accidents is greater on Southern Airways, on both airlines the proportion of flights that have accidents is very small.

30.

The imposition of quotas limiting imported steel will not help the big American steel mills. In fact, the quotas will help "mini-mills" flourish in the United States. Those small domestic mills will take more business from the big American steel mills than would have been taken by the foreign steel mills in the absence of quotas.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most serious doubt on the claim made in the last sentence above?

A.

Quality rather than price is a major factor in determining the type of steel to be used for a particular application.

B.

Foreign steel mills have long produced grades of steel comparable in quality to the steel produced by the big American mills.

C.

American quotas on imported goods have often induced other countries to impose similar quotas on American goods.

D.

Domestic "mini-mills" consistently produce better grades of steel than do the big American mills.

E.

Domestic "mini-mills" produce low-volume, specialized types of steel that are not produced by the big American steel mills.

31.

Researchers have found that when very overweight people, who tend to have relatively low metabolic rates, lose weight primarily through dieting, their metabolisms generally remain unchanged. They will thus burn significantly fewer calories at the new weight than do people whose weight is normally at that level. Such newly thin persons will, therefore, ultimately regain weight until their body size again matches their metabolic rate.

The conclusion of the argument above depends on which of the following assumptions?

A.

Relatively few very overweight people who have dieted down to a new weight tend to continue to consume substantially fewer calories than do people whose normal weight is at that level.

B.

The metabolisms of people who are usually not overweight are much more able to vary than the metabolisms of people who have been very overweight.

C.

The amount of calories that a person usually burns in a day is determined more by the amount that is consumed that day than by the current weight of the individual.

D.

Researchers have not yet determined whether the metabolic rates of formerly very overweight individuals can be accelerated by means of chemical agents.

E.

Because of the constancy of their metabolic rates, people who are at their usual weight normally have as much difficulty gaining weight as they do losing it.

32.

The recent decline in the value of the dollar was triggered by a prediction of slower economic growth in the coming year. But that prediction would not have adversely affected the dollar had it not been for the government's huge budget deficit, which must therefore be decreased to prevent future currency declines.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion about how to prevent future currency declines?

A.

The government has made little attempt to reduce the budget deficit.

B.

The budget deficit has not caused a slowdown in economic growth.

C.

The value of the dollar declined several times in the year prior to the recent prediction of slower economic growth.

D.

Before there was a large budget deficit, predictions of slower economic growth frequently caused declines in the dollar's value.

E.

When there is a large budget deficit, other events in addition to predictions of slower economic growth sometimes trigger declines in currency value.

33.

Neither a rising standard of living nor balanced trade, by itself, establishes a country's ability to compete in the international marketplace. Both are required simultaneously since standards of living can rise because of growing trade deficits and trade can be balanced by means of a decline in a country's standard of living.

If the facts stated in the passage above are true, a proper test of a country's ability to be competitive is its ability to

- A.
balance its trade while its standard of living rises
- B.
balance its trade while its standard of living falls
- C.
increase trade deficits while its standard of living rises
- D.
decrease trade deficits while its standard of living falls
- E.
keep its standard of living constant while trade deficits rise

34.

Traditionally, decision-making by managers that is reasoned step-by-step has been considered preferable to intuitive decision-making. However, a recent study found that top managers used intuition significantly more than did most middle- or lower-level managers. This confirms the alternative view that intuition is actually more effective than careful, methodical reasoning.

The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- A.
Methodical, step-by-step reasoning is inappropriate for making many real-life management decisions.
- B.
Top managers have the ability to use either intuitive reasoning or methodical, step-by-step reasoning in making decisions.
- C.
The decisions made by middle- and lower-level managers can be made as easily by using methodical reasoning as by using intuitive reasoning.
- D.
Top managers use intuitive reasoning in making the majority of their decisions.
- E.
Top managers are more effective at decision-making than middle- or lower-level managers.

35.

When people evade income taxes by not declaring taxable income, a vicious cycle results. Tax evasion forces lawmakers to raise income tax rates, which causes the tax burden on nonevading taxpayers to become heavier. This, in turn, encourages even more taxpayers to evade income taxes by hiding taxable income.

The vicious cycle described above could not result unless which of the following were true?

A.

An increase in tax rates tends to function as an incentive for taxpayers to try to increase their pretax incomes.

B.

Some methods for detecting tax evaders, and thus recovering some tax revenue lost through evasion, bring in more than they cost, but their success rate varies from year to year.

C.

When lawmakers establish income tax rates in order to generate a certain level of revenue, they do not allow adequately for revenue that will be lost through evasion.

D.

No one who routinely hides some taxable income can be induced by a lowering of tax rates to stop hiding such income unless fines for evaders are raised at the same time.

E.

Taxpayers do not differ from each other with respect to the rate of taxation that will cause them to evade taxes.

36.

The cotton farms of Country Q became so productive that the market could not absorb all that they produced. Consequently, cotton prices fell. The government tried to boost cotton prices by offering farmers who took 25 percent of their cotton acreage out of production direct support payments up to a specified maximum per farm.

The government's program, if successful, will not be a net burden on the budget. Which of the following, if true, is the best basis for an explanation of how this could be so?

A.

Depressed cotton prices meant operating losses for cotton farms, and the government lost revenue from taxes on farm profits.

B.

Cotton production in several countries other than Q declined slightly the year that the support-payment program went into effect in Q.

C.

The first year that the support-payment program was in effect, cotton acreage in Q was 5% below its level in the base year for the program.

D.

The specified maximum per farm meant that for very large cotton farms the support payments were less per acre for those acres that were withdrawn from production than they were for smaller farms.

E.

Farmers who wished to qualify for support payments could not use the cotton acreage that was withdrawn from production to grow any other crop.

37.

Treatment for hypertension forestalls certain medical expenses by preventing strokes and heart

disease. Yet any money so saved amounts to only one-fourth of the expenditures required to treat the hypertensive population. Therefore, there is no economic justification for preventive treatment for hypertension.

Which of the following, if true, is most damaging to the conclusion above?

A.

The many fatal strokes and heart attacks resulting from untreated hypertension cause insignificant medical expenditures but large economic losses of other sorts.

B.

The cost, per patient, of preventive treatment for hypertension would remain constant even if such treatment were instituted on a large scale.

C.

In matters of health care, economic considerations should ideally not be dominant.

D.

Effective prevention presupposes early diagnosis, and programs to ensure early diagnosis are costly.

E.

The net savings in medical resources achieved by some preventive health measures are smaller than the net losses attributable to certain other measures of this kind.

38.

Leaders of a miners' union on strike against Coalco are contemplating additional measures to pressure the company to accept the union's contract proposal. The union leaders are considering as their principal new tactic a consumer boycott against Gasco gas stations, which are owned by Energy Incorporated, the same corporation that owns Coalco.

The answer to which of the following questions is LEAST directly relevant to the union leaders' consideration of whether attempting a boycott of Gasco will lead to acceptance of their contract proposal?

A.

Would revenue losses by Gasco seriously affect Energy Incorporated?

B.

Can current Gasco customers easily obtain gasoline elsewhere?

C.

Have other miners' unions won contracts similar to the one proposed by this union?

D.

Have other unions that have employed a similar tactic achieved their goals with it?

E.

Do other corporations that own coal companies also own gas stations?