

Sample LSAT Critical Reasoning Section Answers

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|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 13. A |
| 2. D | 14. D |
| 3. C | 15. E |
| 4. D | 16. C |
| 5. B | 17. A |
| 6. E | 18. A |
| 7. B | 19. E |
| 8. B | 20. C |
| 9. A | 21. E |
| 10. B | 22. E |
| 11. C | 23. E |
| 12. E | 24. A |
| | 25. C |

1.

Lou observes that if flight 409 is canceled, then the manager could not possibly arrive in time for the meeting. But the flight was not canceled. Therefore, Lou concludes, the manager will certainly be on time. Evelyn replies that even if Lou's premises are true, his argument is fallacious. And therefore, she adds, the manager will not arrive on time after all.

Which of the following is the strongest thing that we can properly say about this discussion?

- A) Evelyn is mistaken in thinking Lou's argument to be fallacious, and so her own conclusion is unwarranted.
- B) Evelyn is right about Lou's argument, but nevertheless her own conclusion is unwarranted.
- C) Since Evelyn is right about Lou's argument, her own conclusion is well supported.
- D) Since Evelyn is mistaken about Lou's argument, her own conclusion must be false.
- E) Evelyn is right about Lou's argument, but nevertheless her own conclusion is false.

explanation 1.

(B) It is useful to notice that all of the alternatives have at least two parts. One is about Lou's argument and the other is about Evelyn's conclusion, so we might try to evaluate Lou's argument first. It is certainly fallacious. We can see that it is fallacious because there are many other factors that might keep the manager from arriving on time; he may have missed the flight because of traffic delays, or he may have felt ill and canceled his trip, and so on. Therefore, Evelyn is right in saying that Lou's argument is fallacious. That eliminates responses (A) and (D). If we were to choose response (E), we would ourselves be committing the same fallacy we just ascribed to Evelyn. The fact that Evelyn's argument is fallacious does not give us any reason for supposing that her conclusion is false. And nothing else in the problem gives us a reason for thinking that the manager will not arrive on time. So (E) is not correct. (B) is correct. Evelyn is right about Lou's

argument. And her own conclusion, even if it happens to be true, is unsupported by anything she has said in this interchange.

2.

Sally has never received a violation from the Federal Aviation Administration during her 16-year flying career. Sally must be a great pilot.

Which of the following can be said about the reasoning above?

- A) The definitions of the terms create ambiguity.
- B) The argument uses circular reasoning.
- C) The argument works by analogy.
- D) The argument is built upon hidden assumptions.
- E) This is an example of an argument that is directed against the source of the claim rather than the claim itself.

explanation 2.

(D) The argument concludes that Sally must be a great pilot. This conclusion cannot be true unless it is true that, as choice (D) says, there are hidden assumptions. The assumption that this argument is based upon is that if a person has not been cited by the FAA, then that person is a good pilot.

3.

The Japanese economic model created strong domestic industries through subsidies from its Ministry of Trade and by closing off competitive foreign firms to its domestic market. This strategy promised to help economic growth by incubating domestic industries. New Japanese industries could count on a known local demand and would be protected from competition by tariffs and other barriers. The program could reduce the amount of imports and therefore improve the nation's balance of trade.

Which of the following, based on the passage above, is a weakness in this economic strategy?

- A) A protectionist policy will create animosity among other nations.
- B) Fast growth of small industries will create a class of millionaires and increase the inequality of income.
- C) Subsidies and import constraints keep domestic prices high and impose a burden on consumers.
- D) Quotas are more regressive than tariffs.
- E) The demand for the products made by the incubated industries would not be known.

explanation 3.

(C) Although these measures may create domestic industry, what is the cost? (C) Defines the cost of the policy, which is shifting the cost of industrial subsidies to the consumers. Setting up trade barriers will raise the prices of consumer products that are imported, meaning that consumers will have trouble buying the products of their choice. (A) This is a plausible answer, but the dislike of foreign leaders is not strong enough to create serious economic problems unless they started a trade war (which is not mentioned in the passage). (B) Inequality of income would not necessarily weaken the economy as a whole based on the

passage. (D) The difference between quotas and tariffs is not suggested here.
(E) The passage states that the demand of domestic industries would be known.

4.

Historically, famines have generally been followed by periods of rising wages, because when a labor force is diminished, workers are more valuable in accordance with the law of supply and demand. The Irish potato famine of the 1840s is an exception; it resulted in the death or emigration of half of Ireland's population, but there was no significant rise in the average wages in Ireland in the following decade.

Which one of the following, if true, would LEAST contribute to an explanation of the exception to the generalization?

- (A) Improved medical care reduced the mortality rate among able-bodied adults in the decade following the famine to below prefamine levels.
- (B) Eviction policies of the landowners in Ireland were designed to force emigration of the elderly and infirm, who could not work, and to retain a high percentage of able-bodied workers.
- (C) Advances in technology increased the efficiency of industry and agriculture, and so allowed maintenance of economic output with less demand for labor.
- (D) The birth rate increased during the decade following the famine, and this compensated for much of the loss of population that was due to the famine.
- (E) England, which had political control of Ireland, legislated artificially low wages to provide English-owned industry and agriculture in Ireland with cheap labor.

explanation 4.

(D) The phenomenon going on is that the decrease in able-bodied workers will decrease the supply of workers and thereby increase the value of labor. Choice D would make no impact on the labor pool. The problem with choice D is that a difference in birth rate will make no difference in the labor pool of able-bodied workers. Those new babies will take years to mature. (A) would help increase the able-bodied labor pool. (B) would mean that the famine did not reduce the working-age population. (C) Would mean decreased demand for labor because of new technology. (E) would artificially keep labor prices low.

5.

Cars are safer than planes. Fifty percent of plane accidents result in death, while only one percent of car accidents result in death. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument above?

- A) Planes are inspected more often than cars.
- B) The number of car accidents is several hundred thousand times higher than the number of plane accidents.
- C) Pilots never fly under the influence of alcohol, while car drivers often do.
- D) Plane accidents are usually the fault of air traffic controllers, not pilots.
- E) Planes carry more passengers than cars do.

explanation 5

(B). The argument concludes that cars are safer than planes. The evidence used

to support this conclusion deals with the percentages of accidents that result in fatalities. To justify the conclusion, one must assume that these percentages are the key statistic, that there isn't some other factor that would explain the supposed 50 to 1 advantage of cars over planes.

Choice (B) wipes out the 50 to 1 advantage. One out of every two plane accidents results in fatalities, but for every two plane accidents, there are approximately one million car accidents. One percent of one million is ten thousand. This means that for every one fatal plane accident, there are about ten thousand fatal car accidents. Suddenly, cars don't seem so safe.

Choices (A) and (C) simply indicate that humans make efforts to ensure that planes and flying are as safe as possible. They do not weaken the argument, though, because it still could be the case that many people die in plane accidents.

Assigning blame does nothing to show that planes are safer than what is suggested by the statistics. This eliminates choice (D). If it does anything, choice (E) strengthens the argument. It could be used to say that there are not only more fatal plane accidents but also more fatalities per fatal accident. The choice goes right along with an argument that claims planes are dangerous because many people die.

6.

The body of anyone infected by virus X will, after a week, produce antibodies to fight the virus; the antibodies will increase in number for the next year or so.

There is now a test that reliably indicates how many antibodies are present in a person's body. If positive, this test can be used during the first year of infection to estimate to within a month how long that person has had the virus.

Which one of the following conclusions is best supported by the statements above?

(A) Antibodies increase in number only until they have defeated the virus.

(B) Without the test for antibodies, there is no way of establishing whether a person has virus X.

(C) Antibodies are produced only for viral infections that cannot be fought by any other body defenses.

(D) If a person remains infected by virus X indefinitely, there is no limit to the number of antibodies that can be present in the person's body.

(E) Anyone infected by virus X will for a time fail to exhibit infection if tested by the antibody test.

explanation 6.

(E) The first line states that it takes a week for the body to produce antibodies.

This means that someone infected with a virus will not have antibodies for that virus. This means that someone infected with a virus might not test positive. This answer is most easily solved by eliminating the answer choices, A through D, which are entirely unsupported by the statements.

7.

Ever since I arrived at the college last week, I've been shocked by the poor behavior of the students. The student population is completely lacking in proper social skills. Which of the following, if true, would weaken the above conclusion?

- A) Students who are away from their parents often exhibit rude behavior.
- B) The college numbers over 50,000 students.
- C) The narrator is a student and has interacted with many students.
- D) Social skills should not be expected of college students.
- E) The narrator was reluctant to stay at the college.

explanation 7.

(B) If, as the passage states, the narrator spent only a week at a college that has over 50,000 students, how could he or she possibly draw a conclusion about the entire group? This is an example of an overgeneralization, so choice (B) is correct. Choices (A), (C), (D), and (E) may or may not be true, but they are irrelevant to the validity of the narrator's conclusion.

8.

Smoking in bed has long been the main cause of home fires. Despite a significant decline in cigarette smoking in the last two decades, there has been no comparable decline in the number of people killed in home fires. Each one of the following statements, if true over the last two decades, helps to resolve the apparent discrepancy above EXCEPT:

- A) Compared to other types of home fires, home fires caused by smoking in bed usually cause relatively little damage before they are extinguished.
- B) Home fires caused by smoking in bed often break out after the home's occupants have fallen asleep.
- C) Smokers who smoke in bed tend to be heavy smokers who are less likely to quit smoking than are smokers who do not smoke in bed.
- D) An increasing number of people have been killed in home fires that started in the kitchen.
- E) Population densities have increased, with the result that one home fire can cause more deaths than in previous decades.

explanation 8.

(B) What does NOT resolve the apparent paradox? The paradox is that smoking has declined, yet fatalities from home fires have increased. Therefore, we are looking for an alternative cause of fires or that smoking is not related to home fires. (B) does not resolve the paradox; it simply reinforces the fatality of smoking. (A) would explain the paradox because it shows that the fires are rarely fatal. (C) resolves the paradox because it suggests that the reduction in smoking rates has not reduced the fatality rates. (D) resolves the paradox because it finds alternative causes for the fires. (E) explains the paradox by suggesting fires have become more fatal, despite declining smoking rates.

9.

Mrs. Mason is gifted with psychic powers that enable her to foretell future events. In the past, Mrs. Mason has predicted such actual events as the election of President Clinton, the stock market crash of 1987, and the St. Louis Cardinals' 1982 World Series victory. These are just a few of Mrs. Mason's accurate predictions. The answer to which of the following questions would be most useful in evaluating the strength of the argument above?

- A) What percentage of Mrs. Mason's predictions has come true?
- B) Could the election of President Reagan have been predicted without the help of psychic powers?
- C) What is the actual mechanism by which Mrs. Mason's psychic powers are supposed to operate?
- D) How long before the events in question did Mrs. Mason make her accurate predictions?
- E) Do most scientists accept the idea that the power to predict the future through psychic means really exists?

explanation 9.

(A) The passage cites just three accurate predictions by Mrs. Mason and alludes to others. However, the existence of three successful predictions means nothing by itself; one would need to know what percentage of Mrs. Mason's predictions has been accurate (or inaccurate). A success rate of 95 percent would mean that she is almost surely a legitimate talent; a success rate of 5 percent would strongly suggest that she is a fraud.

10.

An ingredient in coffee, known as RTC, has been found to inactivate common cold viruses in experiments. In previous experiments, researchers found that inactivated common cold viruses can convert healthy cells into cancer cells. It can be concluded that the use of coffee can cause cancer.

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

- A) Several teams of scientists performed the various experiments, and all of the teams had similar results.
- B) The carcinogenic effect of RTC could be neutralized by the other ingredients found in coffee.
- C) When RTC kills common cold viruses it weakens the immune system, and it might thus diminish the body's ability to fight other viruses, including viruses linked to cancers.
- D) If chemists modify the structure of RTC, RTC can be safely incorporated into medications to prevent the common cold.
- E) To lessen the undesirable side effects of chemotherapy, the use of coffee has been recommended for cancer patients who are free of the common cold virus.

explanation 10.

(B) Look through the answer choices to find one that would do serious damage to the argument. The argument states that coffee can cause cancer because of an ingredient (RTC). Choice (B) eliminates this choice because it suggests that other ingredients in coffee could neutralize the effect of RTC, thus eliminating the argument that coffee causes cancer. (A), (C), (D), and (E) are not relevant.

11.

Jack Bygrave is an executive at a major South African diamond company that produces 2% of the world's total annual diamond production. The CFO is anxious to maximize revenues and increase sales. Bygrave, however, believes that increased production would only drive down the world price of diamonds and lower revenues.

Which of the following represents the logical flaw in Bygrave's reasoning?

- A) Jack connects the price of unrefined diamonds and the price of jewelry-quality diamonds.
- B) He assumes that production goals are similar to financial goals.
- C) He assumes that the supply produced by a single company can significantly alter the aggregate supply for the market.
- D) He assumes that seasonal and long-term supply are proportional.
- E) He correlates long-term and short-term demand.

explanation 11.

(C) Since the company only makes 2% of the world's total diamond production, its output can hardly affect world diamond supply and prices. Jack erroneously assumes that what happens at his company will affect the world diamond market.

12.

The crux of creativity resides in the ability to manufacture variations on a theme. If we look at the history of science, for instance, we see that every idea is built upon a thousand related ideas. Careful analysis leads us to understand that what we choose to call a new theme or a new discovery is itself always and without exception some sort of variation, on a deep level, of previous themes. If all of the statements in the passage are true, each of the following must also be true EXCEPT:

- A) A lack of ability to manufacture a variation on a previous theme connotes a lack of creativity
- B) No scientific idea is entirely independent of all other ideas.
- C) Careful analysis of a specific variation can reveal previous themes of which it is a variation.
- D) All great scientific discoverers have been able to manufacture a variation on a theme.
- E) Some new scientific discoveries do not represent, on a deep level, a variation on previous themes.

explanation 12.

(E) This question is asking the test taker which one of the following is NOT a reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the question. The argument states that creativity and new discovery connotes discovering variation of a pre-existing theme. (E) is the correct choice because it states that scientific discoveries are not variations on a previous theme. (A) Since the crux of creativity is simply the ability to create a variation on a theme, the inability to manufacture variation is a lack of creativity. (B) The argument states that every idea in the history of science is built upon a thousand related ideas. This is a paraphrase of that point. (C) This is a paraphrase of the last sentence of the argument. (D) Since all discovery is simply variation on a theme, to be a discoverer you need discovery

which entails variation on a theme. (E) This answer contradicts "new theme or a new discovery is itself always and without exception some sort of variation, on a deep level, of previous themes" and is therefore the credited response.

13.

Studies of fatal automobile accidents reveal that, in the majority of cases in which one occupant of an automobile is killed while another survives, it is the passenger, not the driver, who is killed. It is ironic that the innocent passenger should suffer for the driver's carelessness, while the driver often suffers only minor injuries or none at all.

Which of the following is an assumption underlying the reasoning in the passage above?

- A) In most fatal automobile accidents, the driver of a car in which an occupant is killed is at fault.
- B) Drivers of automobiles are rarely killed in auto accidents.
- C) Most deaths in fatal automobile accidents are suffered by occupants of cars rather than by pedestrians.
- D) Auto safety experts should increase their efforts to provide protection for those in the passenger seats of automobiles.
- E) Automobile passengers sometimes play a contributing role in causing auto accidents.

(A) The passage assumes that a surviving driver is guilty of "carelessness" in causing an accident that is fatal to one of the passengers in the driver's car. This is not necessarily so, of course. The driver of another car might have been at fault, for example, or a mechanical failure could have been responsible.

14.

The editors of *Business Today* magazine conducted a poll of its readers regarding the proposed increase in the rate of income tax paid on profits from the sale of stocks. More than 60% of the readers opposed the proposed tax. The editors announced that the majority of Americans opposed any increase in the tax on profits from stock sales.

Which one of the following statements, if true, would most weaken the editor's conclusion?

- A) Some readers of *Business Today* magazine are citizens of countries other than the United States.
- B) Decisions concerning the income tax laws are made by the Congress rather than directly by the people.
- C) Most of those who earn profits from stock sales are wealthy and can afford to pay higher taxes.
- D) The viewpoints of the vast majority of the readers of *Business Today* magazine differ from the views of most Americans.
- E) Not all readers of *Business Today* magazine responded to the editors' poll.

explanation 14.

(D) The evidence on which the conclusion is based concerns only the readers of *Business Today* magazine, but the conclusion concerns "the majority of Americans." Because there is not necessarily a connection between the two groups, this argument is flawed. The reasoning error is described in (D), which is

the best answer. Choices (A) and (E) raise questions concerning the validity of the poll; however, the poll's validity is not in the scope of this argument. Choice (B) and (C) are out of scope because we are merely talking about people's opposition, and not about their ability to act.

15.

Several movie versions of Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities* have been made. The original movie version made in 1939 is the best because it is closest in spirit to the original novel.

An underlying assumption of the argument above is that a movie based on a novel should:

- A) reflect the director's original interpretation of the main themes of the novel
- B) accurately depict the time and place in which the novel is set
- C) feature actors and actresses who closely resemble the characters in the novel both in body and spirit
- D) faithfully render the details of the plot from the narrator's point of view
- E) capture the true meaning and intention of the novel

explanation 15.

(E) The passage states that the 1939 version of *Tale of Two Cities* is "best because it is closest in spirit to the original novel." The assumption underlying this statement is that a movie based on a novel should capture the true meaning and intention of the novel.

16.

A study of a math program implemented in several pre-schools indicates that children who received the specialized Math Plus math education between the ages three and five had significantly higher math scores in 3rd and 4th grade than their classmates who did not receive this instruction. The proponents of the math argue that the introduction of this program for all children age three to five will significantly improve their chances for success in school.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the above argument?

- A) Most parents send their children to preschool for social development and do not have a clear idea about what types of education they want for their children.
- B) Cognitive abilities of 3- to 5-year-old children are constantly changing.
- C) The children in the pre-schools that were studied had previously been exposed to another math enrichment program.
- D) Children are not really interested in enrichment programs in preschool.
- E) The cost factor needs to be specified and established before a large scale program can be undertaken.

explanation 16.

Choice (C) is the correct answer. (A) The proponents of the program appear to assume quite reasonably that parents will want a program which improves the chance of school success, even if they lack clear idea about what types of education they want. This alternative does not weaken that argument for the experimental program. (B) The experimental program was effective despite the fact that, or perhaps because, the abilities of the children were changing. This is

more an argument supporting the program than one weakening it. (C) If true, this fact would weaken the argument because it may be that the proposed program would be effective only if preceded by the another enrichment program. The other program could have been responsible for the results. This is the correct alternative. (D) Whether the children were interested or not, the program did work, at least as reported. (E) The proponents argue that the program will work to improve chances for school success, not that it is practically or financially feasible.

17.

The symptoms of mental disorders are behavioral, cognitive, or emotional problems. Some patients with mental disorders can be effectively treated with psychotherapy, but it is now known that in some patients' mental disorders result from chemical imbalances affecting the brain. Thus, these patients can be effectively treated only with medication that will reduce or correct the imbalance. The argument depends on assuming which one of the following?

- A) Treatment by psychotherapy can produce no effective reduction in or correction of chemical imbalances that cause mental disorders.
- B) Treatment with medication always shows faster results for patients with mental disorders than does treatment with psychotherapy
- C) Most mental disorders are not the result of chemical imbalances affecting the brain.
- D) Medication is always more effective in treating patients with mental disorders than is psychotherapy
- E) Treatment with psychotherapy has no effect on mental disorders other than a reduction of the symptoms.

explanation 17.

(A) The assumption is that chemical imbalances can only be treated with chemicals. Thus, according to the author, non-chemical forms of treatment will not work with chemical forms of mental illness. (A) reflects this assumption. (B) is not discussed in the argument. (C) The argument is a conclusion about treatment, not numbers. (D) This statement "always" is too strong, the argument does not go this far. (E) The exact function of psychotherapy is not addressed or necessary for the argument.

18.

Dear Editor: I feel obliged to comment on the unfair review you published last week written by Robert Duxbury. Your readers should know that Mr. Duxbury recently published his own book that covered the same topic as my book, which you asked him to review. It is regrettable that Mr. Duxbury should feel the need to belittle a competing work in the hope of elevating his own book. The author of the letter above makes her point by employing which method of argument?

- A) Attacking the motives of the author of the unfavorable review.
- B) Attacking the book on the same topic written by the author of the review.
- C) Contrasting her own book with that written by the author of the review.
- D) Questioning the judgment of the author of the unfavorable review.

E) Stating that her book should not have been reviewed by the author of a competing work.

explanation 18.

(A) The author makes no defense of her book, nor does she refute any statements made by Mr. Duxbury about the book. She merely states (in the last sentence) that Mr. Duxbury's negative review was prompted by a desire to promote his own book.

19.

The government of Zunimagua has refused to schedule free elections, release political prisoners, or restore freedom of speech; therefore, no more financial aid from the United States should be provided to Zunimagua.

Which of the following is an assumption made in the argument above?

A) Withdrawal of U.S. aid from Zunimagua will force a change in the policies of its government.

B) The people of Zunimagua would be better off if their present despotic government were overthrown.

C) The government of Zunimagua is dependent on continued U.S. aid for its existence.

D) U.S. aid should be given only to countries willing to adopt policies in line with U.S. interests and goals.

E) U.S. aid should be withdrawn from any country that refuses to operate its government along democratic lines.

explanation 19.

(E) is the correct answer. (A) is a trick answer. This passage is not about the impact of sanctions on the actions of dictators. Instead, the primary focus of the argument is about putting sanctions on a country as punishment. The argument runs like this: Zunimagua is undemocratic; therefore, Zunimagua should receive no U.S. aid. This is true only if we assume that no undemocratic country should receive U.S. aid --the point made by choice (E). Note that choice (D) is a slight distortion of the point of the original argument; U.S. "interests and goals" do not seem to be involved in the original argument, unless we stretch "interests and goals" to mean democracy in all nations as a U.S. goal (an unwarranted assumption). (C) Zunimagua does not need to be dependent on U.S. the aid (this does not impact the argument).

20.

Many people argue that the death penalty deters murder. However, the notorious killer Ned Grandy deliberately moved to a state that imposes the death penalty just before embarking on a series of ferocious murders. Thus, it seems clear that the existence of the death penalty does not serve as a deterrent to murder.

The argument above may best be characterized as:

A) an appeal to emotion.

B) a flawed analogy.

C) a general conclusion based on a specific example.

D) circular reasoning.

E) an application of a general principle to a specific example.

explanation 20.

(C) The argument cites the case of Ned Grandy to support the conclusion that the death penalty does not deter murder. Since the argument attempts to support a general conclusion by citing a single example, choice (C) is correct. Choice (A) is tempting, since the passage does use some emotionally charged language ("notorious killer," "ferocious murders"). However, the language isn't used to bolster the argument; in fact, it might more naturally be used in an argument supporting, rather than opposing, the death penalty.

21. Steve and JoAnne are both members of a certain club, though they are not speaking to each other. Cecily, the club president, is appointing members to the fundraising committee, but she has resolved that she will not appoint anyone without his or her explicit consent. Steve tells Cecily, "I will not consent to appointment on that committee unless I know whether JoAnne is to be a member of it." And JoAnne says, "I will not consent to be a member of that committee unless I know whether Steve will be appointed to it."

If all three of these people stick by these resolutions, then:

- A) Neither of them can be appointed to the committee.
- B) The situation described in the scenario cannot arise, because it is inherently incoherent.
- C) They must either both be appointed or both be left out.
- D) The committee may finally have one of them, both of them, or neither of them as members.
- E) Either one of them can be appointed, but not both.

explanation 21.

(E) Because of the resolutions of Steve and JoAnne, neither of them can be appointed before a decision is made about the other one. That rules out making a positive decision to appoint in either case because no such decision could be the FIRST decision. But nothing in the scenario rules out Cecily's first making a negative decision (the decision, say, not to appoint Steve). Then she could inform JoAnne of that fact; JoAnne might then consent to the appointment and thus be appointed. Or, of course, the first negative decision might have been made about JoAnne, resulting in the possible appointment of Steve.

22.

Russia's aggressive fishing in the prime fishing grounds of the Northern Pacific has led to a sharp decline in the populations of many fish and a general increase in the retail price of fish. This same pattern has occurred with far too many of our scarce vital natural resources, resulting in high prices for many products. It is likely then, that fish prices will continue to rise in the near future.

In making the argument above, the author relies on all of the following assumptions EXCEPT:

- A) The scarcity of fish is a determining factor in its price.
- B) The decline in the number of fish available will result in higher prices for fish in stores.
- C) There will not be any substantial decrease in other costs involved in the

- fishing process that could keep the price of fish from increasing.
D) Fish populations will not recover in the near future.
E) Fishing practices can substantially influence the demand for fish.

explanation 22.

(E) The question in this argument is: will a further drop in fish supply lead to higher prices? The question asks "relies on all the following assumptions EXCEPT" so we are looking for an assumption that is not necessary. (A) and (B) are supply and demand assumptions, necessary for the argument's assertion that decreasing supply increases price. (C) The argument assumes that prices will rise as a result of decreased supply, if costs decreased this argument would not be valid. (D) The argument assumes that fish populations will not recover and populations will continue to decline in the near future. Choice (E), that fishing practices could determine demand, is not discussed or implied in the passage, so this is the exception.

23.

During the past year, Boz Corporation, a cigarette manufacturer, has engaged in a "corporate image" advertising campaign. One executive now urges that the advertising be extended for another year because profits have increased by 29% over the previous year. Another executive, however, is skeptical. She observes that the increases are typical for the industry over the past year, although none of their competitors have used corporate image advertising.

The most accurate way of summarizing the second executive's point would be:

- A) She argues that the effect may not really be due to its supposed cause because there has not been a sufficient lapse of time between the cause and the effect.
B) She argues that the assignment of a cause for this effect is premature, because there is as yet no well-established theory of such interactions.
C) She argues that corporate image advertising is unprofitable, since it has evidently benefited competitors as much as the corporation, which paid for it.
D) She knows that effective advertising requires a constant influx of new ideas and approaches, and she argues that one year of corporate image advertising is enough for awhile.
E) She argues that the effect may not be due to its alleged cause since the same effect is found elsewhere without that cause.

explanation 23.

(E) seems to be the best response. Presumably, the dispute is about whether the increases in sales and profits are due to the advertising campaign. When the second officer cites the fact that other companies in the same field have experienced similar increases, but without such advertising, she can be taken to suggest that these increases may well be due to some other cause, such as an increased public concern over health. That is the point summarized in (E). A case might be made for (C), especially if you know what corporate image advertising is, but generally questions in this test should not appeal to special knowledge. And as it is put here, (C) does not seem to be true. If the effect really is due to the advertising, then even if it has benefited competitors, it has been profitable for Boz (29% increase in profits). (A), (B), and (D) might be true, but they do not seem to connect well with anything in the scenario. They could quickly be eliminated, leading, at worst, a guess between (C) and (E).

24.

The senate candidate expressed outrage that few judges have any background in technology, yet they try to resolve cases involving high tech companies. He stated that not one federal judge has a degree or any experience in computer technology.

A promising response to this concern, arguing that things are not as bad as they might seem, could involve which of the following claims?

- A) Most of the public policy questions in this area are really about the morality and the value of scientific and technological developments. They do not require much technical understanding beyond that of a layperson.
- B) Computer scientists, by and large, have little interest in politics and public policy. It would be difficult to find scientists with the degree of commitment required for a serious contribution to the judicial system.
- C) There is a lack of people who are qualified in both technical and legal areas of expertise.
- D) There is very little opportunity for, and indeed little need for, technical expertise in the judicial branch. There is therefore almost no way for a technical specialist to rise through the ranks to a top-level position in government.
- E) The rewards of a life as a judge, in terms of both money and prestige, are not high enough to attract top-flight technical experts to this area.

explanation 24.

(A) describes the strongest claim that will support the view that things are not as bad as the editorial suggests. For if (A) is true, then the sort of knowledge and understanding which is the special province of technicians is not really needed to make effective public policy decisions. So, the scarcity of scientists at the highest levels may not be a serious concern. All of the other responses suggest possible reasons for the scarcity of scientists in the government, but they do not address the question of whether that shortage is a matter for serious concern.

25.

There has been a sharp increase in the subscription prices of many professional and scholarly journals in the past seven years. Many publishers ascribe the necessity for these increases to the easy availability of photocopying facilities, which enable people simply to copy the articles they want rather than buying the journal.

Which of the following, if it is true, would make this explanation more plausible?

- A) The great majority of professional and scholarly journals have a massive backlog of papers awaiting publication.
- B) Over the past five years there has been a substantial decline in the number of individual subscriptions to professional and scholarly journals, while library subscriptions have remained fairly stable.
- C) In the five years immediately preceding the price surge, there was a substantial decline in the number of individual subscriptions to professional and scholarly journals, while library subscriptions remained fairly stable.
- D) Many libraries have recently begun cutting back on subscriptions to professional and scholarly journals.
- E) In almost every field, several new professional and scholarly journals have begun publication in the past few years.

explanation 25.

(C) describes a development that would severely curtail publishers' revenues PRIOR TO THE PRICE INCREASES. Furthermore, it is a development that can be plausibly connected with easy photocopying. Individuals were dropping their personal subscriptions, and simply going to the library to copy the articles they wanted. (B) describes a similar development, but AFTER THE PRICE INCREASES HAD BEGUN. That development would more likely be a result of the price increases, rather than an explanation of them. Therefore, also with (D). (A) and (E) may well be true, but they do not seem to have any relevance to the question of explaining the necessity for the recent price increases.

End of Test 1 Sample

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