

1. It is repeatedly claimed that the dumping of nuclear waste poses no threat to people living nearby. If this claim could be made with certainty, there would be no reason for not locating sites in areas of dense population. But the policy of dumping nuclear waste only in the more sparsely populated regions indicates, at the very least, some misgiving about safety on the part of those responsible for policy. Which one of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument?

(A) Evaluation plans in the event of an accident could not be guaranteed to work perfectly except where the population is small.  
(B) In the event of an accident, it is certain that fewer people would be harmed in a sparsely populated than in a densely populated area.  
(C) Dumping of nuclear waste poses fewer economic and bureaucratic problems in sparsely populated than in densely populated areas.  
(D) There are dangers associated with chemical waste, and it, too, is dumped away from areas of dense population.  
(E) Until there is no shred of doubt that nuclear dumps are safe, it makes sense to situate them where they pose the least threat to the public.

**Link :** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/cr-dumping-of-nuclear-waste-84112.html>

2. In the United States, injuries to passengers involved in automobile accidents are typically more severe than in Europe, where laws require a different kind of safety belt. It is clear from this that the United States needs to adopt more stringent standards for safety belt design to protect automobile passengers better.

Each of the following, if true, weakens the argument above EXCEPT:

(A) Europeans are more likely to wear safety belts than are people in the United States.  
(B) Unlike United States drivers, European drivers receive training in how best to react in the event of an accident to minimize injuries to themselves and to their passengers.  
(C) Cars built for the European market tend to have more sturdy construction than do cars built for the United States market.  
(D) Automobile passengers in the United States have a greater statistical chance of being involved in an accident than do passengers in Europe.  
(E) States that have recently begun requiring the European safety belt have experienced no reduction in the average severity of injuries suffered by passengers in automobile accidents.

**Link:** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/in-the-united-states-injuries-to-passengers-89450.html>

3. The average age of chief executive officers (CEO's) in a large sample of companies is 57. The average age of CEO's in those same companies 20 years ago was approximately eight years younger. On the basis of those data, it can be concluded that CEO's in general tend to be older now. Which of the following casts the most doubt on the conclusion drawn above?

(A) The dates when the CEO's assumed their current positions have not been specified.  
(B) No information is given concerning the average number of years that CEO's remain in office.  
(C) The information is based only on companies that have been operating for at least 20 years.  
(D) Only approximate information is given concerning the average age of the CEO's 20 years ago.  
(E) Information concerning the exact number of companies in the sample has not been given.

**Link:** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/the-average-age-of-chief-executive-officers-ceo-s-89347.html>

4. Industrialists from the country Distopia were accused of promoting the Distopian intervention in the Arcadian civil war merely to insure that the industrialists' facilities in Arcadia made substantial profits during the war. Yet this cannot be the motive since, as the Distopians foresaw, Distopia's federal expenses for the intervention were eight billion dollars, whereas, during the war, profits from the Distopian industrialists' facilities in Arcadia totaled only four billion dollars. Which of the following, if true, exposes a serious flaw in the argument made in the second sentence above?
- (A) During the Arcadian war, many Distopian industrialists with facilities located in Arcadia experienced a significant rise in productivity in their facilities located in Distopia.  
(B) The largest proportion of Distopia's federal expenses is borne by those who receive no significant industrial profits.  
(C) Most Distopian industrialists' facilities located in Arcadia are expected to maintain the level of profits they achieved during the war.  
(D) Distopian industrialists' facilities in Arcadia made substantial profits before the events that triggered the civil war.  
(E) Many Distopians expressed concern over the suffering that Arcadians underwent during the civil war.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/cr-flaw-68191.html>**

5. Loggerhead turtles live and breed in distinct groups, of which some are in the Pacific Ocean and some are in the Atlantic. New evidence suggests that juvenile pacific loggerheads that feed near the Baja peninsula hatch in Japanese waters 10,000 kilometers away. Ninety-five percent of the DNA samples taken from the Baja turtles match those taken from turtles at the Japanese nesting sites. Which one of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the reasoning above?
- (A) Nesting sites of loggerhead turtles have been found off the Pacific coast of North America several thousand kilometers north of the Baja peninsula.  
(B) The distance between nesting sites and feeding sites of Atlantic loggerhead turtles is less than 5,000 kilometers.  
(C) Loggerhead hatchlings in Japanese waters have been declining in number for the last decade while the number of nesting sites near the Baja peninsula had remained constant.  
(D) Ninety-five percent of the DNA samples taken from the Baja turtles match those taken from Atlantic loggerhead turtles.  
(E) Commercial aquariums have been successfully breeding Atlantic loggerheads with Pacific loggerheads for the last five years.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/cr-loggerhead-turtles-90454.html>**

6. In Brazil, side-by-side comparisons of Africanized honeybees and the native honeybees have shown that the Africanized bees are far superior honey producers. Therefore, there is no reason to fear that domestic commercial honey production will decline in the United States if local honeybees are displaced by Africanized honeybees. Each of the following, if true, would weaken the argument EXCEPT:
- (A) The honeybees native to Brazil are not of the same variety as those most frequently used in the commercial beekeeping industry in the United States.  
(B) Commercial honey production is far more complicated and expensive with Africanized honeybees than it is with the more docile honeybees common in the United States.  
(C) If Africanized honeybees replace local honeybees, certain types of ornamental trees will be less effectively pollinated.  
(D) In the United States a significant proportion of the commercial honey supply comes from hobby beekeepers, many of whom are likely to abandon beekeeping with the influx of Africanized bees.

(E) The area of Brazil where the comparative study was done is far better suited to the foraging habits of the Africanized honeybees than are most areas of the United States.

**Link:** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/lsat-90724.html>

7. Eclampsia in pregnancy is especially prevalent among women who are seriously malnourished. In order to achieve early detection of eclampsia in these individuals, public health officials distributed pamphlets explaining the importance of early detection of this potentially fatal disease. Which of the following, if true, is the best criticism of the use of the pamphlet as a method of achieving the public health officials' goal?

(A) Many prenatal diseases produce symptoms that cannot be detected by the patient.  
(B) Once Eclampsia has been detected, the effectiveness of treatment can vary from person to person.  
(C) The pamphlet was sent to all town residents, including those individuals who are not pregnant.  
(D) Eclampsia is much more common in very young and very old mothers, rather than in those at the height of their productive years.  
(E) Pregnant women who are seriously malnourished are often homeless and thus unlikely to receive and read the pamphlet.

**Link:** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/eclampsia-in-pregnancy-is-especially-prevalent-among-women-91104.html>

8. It is theoretically possible that bacteria developed on Mars early in its history and that some were carried to Earth by a meteorite. However, strains of bacteria from different planets would probably have substantial differences in protein structure that would persist over time, and no two bacteria strains on Earth are different enough to have arisen on different planets. So, even if bacteria did arrive on Earth from Mars, they must have died out.

The argument is most vulnerable to which of the following criticism:

A: It fails to establish whether bacteria actually developed on Mars  
B: It fails to establish how likely it is that Martian bacteria were transported to Earth  
C: It fails to consider whether there were means other than meteorites by which Martian bacteria could have been carried to Earth  
D: It fails to consider whether all bacteria now on Earth could have arisen from transported Martian bacteria  
E: It fails to consider whether there could have been strains of bacteria that originated on Earth and later died out

**Link:** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/martian-bacteria-on-earth-91665.html>

9. Brownlea's post office must be replaced with a larger one. The present one cannot be expanded. Land near the present location in the center of town is more expensive than land on the outskirts of town. Since the cost of acquiring a site is a significant part of the total construction cost, the post office clearly could be built more cheaply on the outskirts of town.

Which one of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the argument's stated conclusion?

(A) The new post office will have to be built in accordance with a demanding new citywide building code.  
(B) If the new post office is built on the outskirts of town, it will require a parking lot, but if sited near the present post office it will not.  
(C) If the new post office is built on the outskirts of town, current city bus routes will have to be expanded to provide access.  
(D) If the new post office is built on the outskirts of town, residents will make decreased use of post

office boxes, with the result that mail carriers will have to deliver more mail to homes.

(E) If the new post office is built near the center of town, disruptions to city traffic would have to be minimized by taking such steps as doing some construction work in stages at night and on weekends.

**Link:** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/brownleas-post-office-94187.html>

10. Two paleontologists, Dr. Tyson and Dr. Rees, disagree over the interpretation of certain footprints that were left among other footprints in hardened volcanic ash at site G. Dr. Tyson claims they are clearly early hominid footprints since they show human characteristics: a squarish heel and a big toe immediately adjacent to the next toe. However, since the footprints indicate that if hominids made those prints they would have had to walk in an unexpected cross-stepping manner, by placing the left foot to the right of the right foot. Dr. Rees rejects Dr. Tyson's conclusion.

The disagreement between the two paleontologists is over which one of the following?

- (A) the relative significance of various aspects of the evidence
- (B) the assumption that early hominid footprints are distinguishable from other footprints
- (C) the possibility of using the evidence of footprints to determine the gait of the creature that made those footprints
- (D) the assumption that evidence from one paleontologic site is enough to support a conclusion
- (E) the likelihood that early hominids would have walked upright on two feet

Which one of the following, if true, most seriously undermines Dr. Tyson's conclusion?

- (A) The foot prints showing human characteristics were clearly those of at least two distinct individuals.
- (B) Certain species of bears had feet very like human feet, except that the outside toe on each foot was the biggest toe and the innermost toe was the smallest toe.
- (C) Footprints shaped like a human's that do not show a cross-stepping pattern exist at site M, which is a mile away from site G, and the two sets of footprints are contemporaneous.
- (D) When the moist volcanic ash became sealed under additional layers of ash before hardening, some details of some of the footprints were erased.
- (E) Most of the other footprints at site G were of animals with hooves.

**Link:** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/tyson-and-dr-rees-94264.html>

11. Archaeologists have discovered various paintings on the walls and ceiling of a Chinese cave whose entrance was blocked by a volcanic eruption in the 25th century B.C. and only recently cleared by an earthquake. Since the paintings depict warriors using Type C bronze weapons, these archaeologists have concluded that Type C bronze weapons were already widely used in this area by 2500 B.C., far earlier than was previously believed.

Which of the following pieces of additional evidence would most seriously weaken the archaeologists' conclusion?

- (A) Another entrance to the cave remained clear until a second volcanic eruption 1,000 years after the first.
- (B) Archaeologists have evidence that Type C bronze weapons were in wide use in areas of present-day India as early as 2500 B.C.
- (C) Alternative methods of dating place the time of the volcanic eruption somewhat earlier, at around 3000 B.C.
- (D) Most experts believe that Type C bronze weapons were not in use anywhere in present-day China until 2000 B.C.
- (E) The paintings were very faded when the archaeologists found them, making identification of the depicted weapons difficult.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/marked-this-by-poe-explanations-invited-96636.html>**

12. Air travel is becoming increasingly more dangerous. In the last year there have been seven major collisions resulting in over 700 deaths, more deaths than in any previous year. Which statement, if true, would most weaken the argument above?
- (A) Since the volume of air traffic has been increasing all the time, an increase in the number of deaths due to collisions does not necessarily mean greater danger.
  - (B) The increase in collisions can be explained by statistical coincidence, hijackings, and unusual weather.
  - (C) Mortality per passenger mile is lower for air travel than for any kind of surface transportation.
  - (D) The increase in deaths due to collision in air travel has proceeded at a rate identical to that for deaths in all other major forms of transportation.
  - (E) Last year the average number of passengers per flown plane was significantly lower than that of previous years.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/third-kaplan-cr-very-subtle-96637.html>**

13. In Kravonia, the average salary for jobs requiring a college degree has always been higher than the average salary for jobs that do not require a degree. Over the last few years, the number of Kravonians enrolled in college has been growing steadily. Therefore, the number of Kravonians entering the job market who have at least the qualification of a college degree will eventually be significantly higher than it has been over the last few years.
- Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?
- A. Kravonians with more than one college degree earn little more, on average, than do Kravonians with only one college degree
  - B. The average number of years Kravonian college students remain enrolled before completing a degree has been increasing over the past several of years.
  - C. Despite the increase in the number of Kravonians attending college, the percentage of the population attending college is lower in Kravonia than in most other countries.
  - D. In recent years, employers have been requiring college degrees for workers in jobs that were previously performed successfully by Kravonians who did not have college degrees.
  - E. For many years, employers in Kravonia have had difficulty finding enough college graduates to fill the high-paying jobs that were available.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/average-salary-in-kravonia-95939.html?view-post=738698>**

14. In the modern era, society should accept the premise that equality before the law is not appropriate to the marketplace, where modern methods of marketing, packaging, and financing have reduced the ordinary consumer to a subordinate position. To protect the consumer from the hardship and oppression that could result from this inferior position, the law should limit the freedom of action of the enterprises with which the consumer deals.

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

- a) When a consumer buys a product in a cardboard box or can, there is no way to know what there is inside.
- b) The concept of equality is contradicted by the reality that the consumer is not equal in power to the supplier
- c) The health and well-being of consumers are protected by a variety of statutes that have been in effect for decades.
- d) Equality before the law is an essential part of the American way of life and should not be restricted.

e) Society should recognize the right of consumers not to be subjected to unfair and deceptive advertising practices.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/freedom-in-the-market-place-99439.html>**

15. Demographers doing research for an international economics newsletter claim that the average per capita income in the country of Kuptala is substantially lower than that in the country of Bahlton. They also claim, however, that whereas poverty is relatively rare in Kuptala, over half the population of Bahlton lives in extreme poverty. At least one of the demographer's claim must, therefore be wrong.

the argument above is most vulnerable to which of the following criticism ?

1. It rejects an empirical claim about the average per capita incomes in the two countries without making any attempt to discredit that claim by offering additional economic evidence.
2. It treats the vague term "poverty" as though it had a precise and universally accepted meaning.
3. It overlooks the possibility that the number of people in the two countries who live in poverty could be the same even though the percentages of the two populations that live in poverty differ markedly.
4. It fails to show that wealth and poverty have the same social significance in Kuptala as in Bahlton.
5. It does not consider the possibility that incomes in Kuptala, unlike those in Bahlton, might all be very close to the country's average per capita income.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/demographers-81936.html>**

16. Some of our federal legislators are opposed to government endowments or other financial support for photography as an art form on the basis that much of modern photography portrays nudity and is thus obscene. These legislators are mistaken, however, since even they would agree that Michelangelo's works of art, most of which depict nudity, are not obscene.

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

- (A) The artistic level of the works of the vast majority of modern photographers does not approach that of Michelangelo's works.
- (B) Many modern photographic works of art have been displayed in museums alongside Michelangelo's works.
- (C) The majority of Michelangelo's work was not funded or otherwise supported by the government.
- (D) What these legislators consider to be obscene does not coincide with what the general citizenry views as obscene.
- (E) Due to their relatively high artistic value, works of Michelangelo that portray nudity are not considered obscene.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/nudity-in-photography-100711.html>**

17. The trustees of the Avonbridge summer drama workshop have decided to offer scholarships to the top 10 percent of local applicants and the top 10 percent of nonlocal applicants as judged on the basis of a qualifying audition. They are doing this to ensure that only the applicants with the most highly evaluated auditions are offered scholarships to the program.

Which one of the following points out why the trustees' plan might not be effective in achieving its goal?

- (A) The best actors can also apply for admission to another program and then not enroll in the Avonbridge program.

- (B) Audition materials that produce good results for one actor may disadvantage another, resulting in inaccurate assessment.
- (C) The top 10 percent of local and nonlocal applicants might not need scholarships to the Avonbridge program.
- (D) Some of the applicants who are offered scholarships could have less highly evaluated auditions than some of the applicants who are not offered scholarships.
- (E) Dividing applicants into local and nonlocal groups is unfair because it favors nonlocal applicants.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/lsat-test-vi-90928.html>**

18. In 1998, more citizens from the country of Monrovia migrated from Monrovia to neighboring Abstantia than during any prior year. In 1998, the number of reported violent crimes in Abstantia increased dramatically over 1997. The unavoidable conclusion is that Monroviaans who migrated from Monrovia to Abstantia were responsible for this increase.

Which of the following statements, if true, would most seriously weaken the claim that Monroviaans were responsible for the increase in violent crime in Abstantia during 1998?

- (A) Each year more violent criminals are apprehended in Abstantia than in Monrovia.
- (B) During 1998 more violent crimes were reported in Abstantia than in Monrovia.
- (C) In 1998 no Monroviaans migrated from either Monrovia or Abstantia to any country other than Monrovia or Abstantia.
- (D) In 1998 the number of unreported violent crimes in Abstantia increased as well.
- (E) In 1998 fewer Monroviaans migrated from Monrovia to Abstantia than from Abstantia to Monrovia.

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/monroviaans-in-abstantia-100713.html>**

19. Aggressive fertility treatments are not responsible for the rise in the incidence of twin births. Rather, this increase can be attributed to the fact that women are waiting longer to become mothers. Statistically, women over 35 are more likely to conceive twins, and these women now comprise a greater percentage of women giving birth than ever before. The argument above is flawed in that it ignores the possibility that

- A. many women over 35 who give birth to twins are not first-time mothers
- B. women over 35 are not the only women who give birth to twins
- C. the correlation between fertility treatments and the increased incidence of multiple births may be a coincidence
- D. on average, women over 35 are no more likely to conceive identical twins than other women are
- E. women over 35 are more likely to resort to the sorts of fertility treatments that tend to yield twin births

**Link: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/cr-aggressive-fertility-treatments-40471.html>**



20. After observing the Earth's weather patterns and the 11-year sunspot cycle of the Sun for 36 years, scientists have found that high levels of sunspot activity precede shifts in wind patterns that affect the Earth's weather. One can conclude that meteorologists will be able to improve their weather forecasts based on this information.

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

- (A) Weather forecasts are more detailed today than they were 36 years ago.
- (B) Scientists can establish that sunspot activity directly affects the Earth's weather.
- (C) Evidence other than sunspot activity has previously enabled meteorologists to forecast the weather conditions that are predictable on the basis of sunspot activity.
- (D) Scientists have not determined why the sunspot activity on the Sun follows an 11-year cycle.
- (E) It has been established that predictable wind patterns yield predictable weather patterns.

**Link:** <http://gmatclub.com/forum/cr-aggressive-fertility-treatments-40471.html>



**Answers**

1. c
2. d
3. c
4. b
5. d
6. c
7. e
8. d
9. b
10. a, b
11. a
12. a
13. b
14. d
15. e
16. e
17. d
18. e
19. e
20. c