

1)

D

The author is arguing to nix the plan to improve the schools. We want to strengthen his argument, but before we do, there is usually at least one answer choice that actually weakens the argument. It is helpful to get rid of these first, since they are usually easier to spot. In this case, choice A gives a compelling reason to *improve* the school system; eliminate it. Now, the reason the author gives for defeating the plan is that the people who pay for it will not benefit. To strengthen this argument, we need to show why this would be true. Choice B is against the school improvements, but for a different reason: in other towns, similar improvements didn't increase the quality of education. While important in the real world, this is slightly outside the scope of this argument. Choice C provides another possible negative of the plan, but again it doesn't show why the people who pay for it will not benefit. Choice E implies that taxpayers will delay their own capital improvements to avoid paying for the schools' capital improvements, but again this doesn't strengthen the author's particular argument—that the plan should be defeated because the people who must pay for it do not benefit. The best answer is D, which explains how this could be true: Most of the people slotted to pay for the school improvements don't even have school-age children.

2)

D

The author says the plan is unfair to the people who must pay for it. How do we counter that? By showing that they actually do receive a benefit. Before we weaken the author's argument, let's eliminate any answers that strengthen it. In this case, that means only choice E. Now, choice A points out that property taxes would still be quite low even after the increase, but that doesn't mean the increase is fair. Choice B tells us why an alternate way to finance the improvements won't work, but doesn't address the fairness of the way being discussed. Choice C tells us why the funds are urgently needed, but again doesn't show that the people who have to supply the funds actually would receive a benefit. Choice D finally gives us a reason the property tax increase might actually benefit those who pay for it: Good schools translates to higher property values.

3)

E

To evaluate the significance of the author's claims, we need to recognize what kind of argument it is: an analogy. The author is saying that the situation in Country Y is analogous to that of Country Z. To weaken an analogy, you merely have to question whether the two situations were really analogous. Choices A and B are outside the scope of the argument. Choice C is incorrect because the author's argument stated that *more-stringent laws* were needed, making it irrelevant whether Country Y had any laws about this in the first place. Choice D goes off on an interesting tangent by asking if there were business ties between the two countries, but it does not weaken the argument's analogy. Only choice E questions whether the two situations are in fact analogous. E is the best answer.

4)

E

During a period of robust home sales, one would expect the prices of all homes to increase; that would be the natural effect of the law of supply and demand. The question tells us, however, that the real price of resale homes during this period actually decreased. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that the demand for resale homes decreased. How can we resolve this apparent contradiction? If all the increased demand for homes was in the new home market, then it would be

possible that the overall increase in home sales would not result in an increase in resale home prices and may, in fact, even accompany a drop in those prices. The best answer is E.

5)

C

To answer this parallel-the-reasoning question, you have to break down the original argument, and then find an answer choice that mimics it exactly. In this case, the argument says a bullet train travels in excess of 150 miles per hour (if A, then B). Therefore, if a train travels less than 150 miles per hour, then it is not a bullet train (if not B, then not A). Now all you have to do is find an answer choice that mimics that reasoning exactly. Choice A, broken down, reads, “if A, then B ... so if B, then not A.” This isn’t it. Eliminate it. Choice B breaks down to “if A, then B ... therefore C will also cause B.” That’s not it either. Choice C breaks down to “if A, then B ... therefore if not B, then not A.” This is the best answer. Choice D might seem tempting because it also has to do with a fast means of transportation, but what counts here is the reasoning: if A, then B ... if not A, then not B. This is close, but no cigar. Choice E is also appealing; you may even think it mimics the argument exactly. But there’s a trick. The first half of the sentence reads, “Fluoride generally prevents cavities” (if A then B). Note that the B part is about the prevention—not the presence—of cavities. So the second half, “If there are no cavities, there was no fluoride,” actually breaks down to “if B, then not A.”

6)

D

This is an even more subtle “scope shift” which occurs with the addition of the words “on a regular basis.” Without these words, the argument is otherwise sound. From a content standpoint, this problem is similar to an allocation or distribution scenario within number-based assumptions. Just because a driver with a yearly pass enters the Park more often than does a driver with a day pass, this does not technically mean that a driver enters the Park on a more regular or consistent basis. Case in point: a driver with a yearly pass might enter the Park ten times a month but do so at the beginning and end of the month only, or even with multiple frequency on given days. Such “concentrated entries” would not constitute regular entries — “more” does not necessarily mean “more regularly.” The argument does not depend on choices A, B, C, or E. In fact, it is virtually certain that the number of entries made by drivers with yearly permits does exceed the number of yearly entry permits issued by the Park. After all, almost all drivers with yearly permits will likely enter the Park more than once during the year (that’s why they have yearly permits). The argument does not depend on drivers with yearly permits staying longer in the Park (choice B); it is an “entry” that counts, not the duration of the stay. It is also not necessary for all drivers to have entered the Park at least once during the period of the report (choice C). Some of the drivers with yearly passes might not have entered the Park once. The only thing that is important is that the 8 percent of drivers possessing yearly permits do in fact constitute

7)

E.

This is an example of proof by selected instances. Each person — Steve and John — will simply choose examples which support his intended claim. Steve picks red-haired people who have bad tempers to support his claim that red-haired people are bad tempered. John picks red-haired people who have good tempers to support his claim that red-haired people are not bad-tempered. The fact that the number of red-haired people (choice A) that one person knows is more or less than the number of red-haired people that the other person knows has no clear effect on reconciling the two statements. In fact, it is quite possible that the percentage of red-haired people that each knows is quite close, say five percent. After all, that’s the magic of percentages as opposed to numbers — percentages express things in relative terms. In choice B, it is only plausible that the number of red-haired people both Steve and John know would be, in aggregate, less than the total of non-red-haired people both know. Confirmation of this likely reality will not reconcile the two seemingly contradictory statements. It is also unclear whether choice C has any effect. Any mis-assessments may prove net positive or net negative or may have a counter-balancing effect. It is almost axiomatic that both Steve and John know of friends who are not red-haired and have bad tempers, but this will do nothing to reconcile the contradictory

statements, so choice D is out. Note that the procedure for actually proving whether or not red hair is correlated with bad temper falls within the context

8)

D

If ... then statements may be viewed in terms of necessary conditions versus sufficient conditions. If a person needs water to remain healthy, this does not mean that water alone is enough to keep a person healthy. "If healthy, then water" does not mean "If water, then healthy." This is because water is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for good health. If we want to stop global warming then we must pass legislation (Formulaically: If stop global warming \rightarrow pass legislation). Distinguish between necessary and sufficient conditions. It is necessary to pass legislation to stop global warming, but it is not a sufficient condition for doing so. It is not a sufficient condition because there are likely several other factors necessary to stop global warming. For starters, we may in all cases need more than just legislation; we may need legal enforcement of approved laws. Moreover, other factors may need to be present as well such as the need to legislate to preserve forested areas. Furthermore, choice C is a near identical restatement of the original statement. Answer choices A and B are all correct "interpretations" of Jacques' original If ... then statement. However, since Pierre believes Jacques' statement is not true, we must look for an erroneous answer choice. Choice E is an opposite answer choice. Pierre's mistake consists in believing that legislation is the sole causal agent in stopping global warming (as opposed to one of several factors); his misunderstanding does not lie in the belief that legislation is an ineffective step toward stopping global warming.

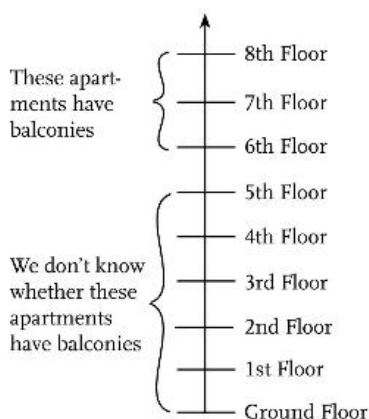
Author's note: Here's a related but simpler example: Jacques: "If you want to keep your pet dog alive, you must give it water." Pierre: "That's not true. It takes a lot more than water to keep your pet dog alive." Pierre's response is inaccurate because he mistakenly believes that what Jacques has said is that A) the giving of water is necessary for keeping your pet dog alive. B) the giving of water is a key ingredient in keeping your pet dog alive. C) if your pet dog is to be kept alive, it must be given water. D) the giving of water is enough to keep your pet dog alive.

E) your pet dog will not be kept alive by giving it water. Choice D above is, of course, the correct answer. Jacques' statement correctly identifies water as a necessary condition for keeping your pet dog alive. Pierre has mistakenly assumed that Jacques has said that water is a sufficient condition for keeping your pet dog alive.

9)

C

One way to think about an If ... then statement in the form of "If A, then B," is that just because A leads to B does not mean that C, D, or E could not also lead to B. We are told that all apartments above the fifth floor have balconies. We cannot, however, logically infer that apartments on or below the fifth floor do not have balconies. Answer choices B and E provide tempting traps. For all we know, every apartment from the first floor on up has a balcony.



Author's note: The statement "If a person is rich, then he or she will vote in favor of a tax cut" does not mean that if a person is middle-class then he or she will not also vote in favor of a tax cut. Let's take another example from the world of advertising: The fact that increased expenditures on advertising has led to an increase in company sales does not mean that an increase in company sales could not have been achieved through other means — hiring more salespersons, lowering retail price, or hiring a famous, talented manager.

10)

A

Since this is an Inference question, let's look at each option and eliminate.

A. The argument clearly states that increasing debt is worsening the inflation rate, so then A can definitely be inferred

B. Cannot necessarily be concluded. We don't even know what all things constitute a badly managed country, so then we definitely cannot conclude this.

C. We know that high level of debt to GDP ratio is detrimental for the growth of a country but from this we cannot necessarily conclude that high level of debt by itself is extremely detrimental. If the GDP is also high then high level of debt could be a good thing

D. This may not necessarily be true because the argument states that all the things together constitute a badly managed country, but what is true for the whole may not be true for each part

E. The argument states that it's *difficult* for this country to grow in a dynamic manner and not that it is *impossible* for this country to do so

11)

D

Note that the argument states that G. Bell sold 80% of its total production (and not of the total market size) and H. Wells sold 50% of its total production. For the conclusion to be true the argument has to assume that the total number of handsets manufactured by the two manufacturers are the same, but this may not be the case. (D) questions this fact and so is the correct answer.

A. Future sales are outside the scope of the argument. For all you know G. Bell could also have equally large advance order bookings

B. The argument assumes no such thing

C. The argument is concerned with units sold so the price is outside the scope

D. The correct answer

E. The total market size is again irrelevant because we don't know how much of the total market size each of the two manufacturers account for

12)

D

This argument consists of a series of cause and effects, wherein the effect of one event becomes the cause of another event. The last item in this chain is the reduction of movie ticket prices by movie theatres in Marco City. So one entire chain of cause and effect has ended with movie theatres lowering their ticket prices. Now why will the movie theatres lower their ticket prices even further? Only if the cycle of cause and effect were to start all over again and continue on and on. Since the cycle starts with the decline in supply of iron ore to Marco city, for the cycle to continue the supply of iron ore has to keep on decreasing in future as well. (D) states this and is the correct answer.

A. Unless we are told whether the expenditure on eating out is essential or non essential expenditure, this point will be irrelevant to the argument

B. This should actually weaken the argument by suggesting that the impact of reduced iron ore supply could be absorbed by the reduction in transport cost.

C. The presence of blockbuster movies is outside the scope of the argument

D. The correct answer

E. Even if this is so, the movie ticket prices should stabilize at their new low prices. Why should they go down further?

13)

E

To get the maximum benefit out of transfer pricing, a company would want to show maximum earnings in a low tax country or minimum earnings in a high tax country. (E) states that the company would pay its subsidiary in a low tax country high prices i.e. the earnings of the subsidiary will be high and these will be taxed at a low rate, so the company will benefit overall.

A. When the company sells products it receives money. Since we have no idea about the tax rate in the country where the company is located, this option is irrelevant.

B. Same as (A). (When the company charges its subsidiary, it receives money)

C. If the company pays high prices to its subsidiary in a high tax rate country, the income of the subsidiary will be high and the tax on this income will also be high. So the company will lose money.

D. In this case, even though the subsidiary will pay lower taxes, its revenues will also be less because of the low prices charged.

E. The correct answer

14)

B

We have to somehow show that the statistics are not a sign for worry. (B) does this best by stating that the original statistics were most likely inflated so the fall in numbers may not actually be as steep as it looks.

A. But what about after a few months? This would still be a worrying sign for the companies

B. The correct answer

C. There is no real connection between the sale of mobile phone handsets and how many subscribers join mobile phone companies every month

D. If despite this fact the numbers are going down, then there must be some problem

E. This is irrelevant to the argument

15)

A

Since this is an Inference question, let's look at each option and eliminate.

A. The correct answer. This can clearly be inferred from the first sentence of the stimulus

B. This may not necessarily be true on the basis of the information in the stimulus.

C. The argument clearly says this is not the case. As long there is demand for the product at that price, the manufacturer is doing no wrong in selling it at that price.

D. No such conclusion can be arrived at from the argument. If there is a high demand for the product, then it can be sold at a high price

E. Extreme option. The manufacturer may or may not fail but doesn't necessarily have to fail

16)

C

Since this is an Inference question, let's look at each option and eliminate.

A. We can't say this for sure. There may have been more people who believed so but were scared of speaking up

B. We know for sure that some scientists do not agree with the theory of evolution. However, whether they are in majority or not is something we do not know.

C. The correct answer, this almost paraphrases the opening lines of the stimulus

D. While a lot of you may know that this is true, this cannot be inferred from the stimulus

E. Extreme generalization. May not be true for everything and the argument never suggests this anyway.

17)

E

If the advertising suggests that the use of Italian marble has been done in the entire apartment and in fact only one out of hundred tiles is made of Italian marble, then it is as good as not having Italian marble in the apartment at all.

A. This does not suggest that the laptop has a short battery back up

B. The book claims to cover all the concepts, which it apparently does; it never claims to provide several examples of every concept

C. Irrelevant. We have no idea whether 3% of these vitamins and amino acids is adequate or inadequate. Even if the 23 ingredients are equally divided each will comprise around 4% of the capsule, so 3% is not as low as it sounds. In any case we don't have any reference data

D. Again we don't have any reference data. It is possible that 20% of the magic ingredient coming from one source is a very good thing because the other sources contain less than 1% of the daily recommended intake of this ingredient

E. The correct answer. This option is the best of the lot because it gives you a reference figure of 99 tiles. If the apartment had five slabs of marble and one of them was Italian marble, then this may not necessarily be an example of Angel dusting, but the use of one tile out of ninety nine is definitely an example of Angel Dusting. This is the best option in our lot.

18)

A

According to the stimulus, 300 of the 1000 people would be willing to work for a company with a bad reputation. Also 900 people would consider leaving their current jobs if they were offered a role with a company that had an excellent corporate reputation. Since the total number of people is only 1000, it has to be the case that (300-100) 200 people will be such that they would belong to both the above groups. (A) states this best and is the correct answer. Don't be confused by the fact that (A) mentions 10% and not 20% (200 out of 1000); notice that (A) uses the term at least 10% i.e. at least 100 people.

A. The correct answer

B. The argument only talks about the pool of 1000 people who were surveyed and does not conclude anything for workers across the United States

C. The argument never really describes what constitutes an unethical act

D. We cannot really conclude this for all workers in the United States

E. Extreme inference. There could be a third situation as well apart from these two.

19)

D

Let's look at each of the option and check whether it is relevant to the argument.

A. Relevant. If there is no cost benefit of telecommuting, then companies may not want to make use of it

B. Relevant. If employees' work requires physical interaction then telecommuting may not make sense

C. Relevant. If most of an employees' work entails coming to the office then it may not make sense to use telecommuting

D. Irrelevant. Even if the revenues remain the same, the cost could go down because of telecommuting, leading to increased profits from the same revenue base. So it does not matter whether the revenues go up or not

E. Relevant. If the traffic situation improves dramatically in the future, then it might take care of the problem associated with coming to work

20)

E

The argument describes a criticism of an act of the government and the government's justification of the same. The first bold part describes why the government has been criticized and the second provides the government's explanation of the same.

- A. While the first part is correct, the second is not an action taken in response to this. In fact the second bold part is not an action at all, it's just an explanation
- B. The argument never takes a stand on the issue so we don't know what it agrees or disagrees with.
- C. The first is a criticism which cannot exactly be described as a point of view. Even if this were the case, the second just provides an explanation for this; it doesn't attack this
- D. The stimulus does not have any conclusion as such
- E. The correct answer

21)

A

Since this is an inference question, let's look at each option and eliminate.

- A. The correct answer. Since the numbers in the upper 1900s are more popular than the rest, 1981 has to be more popular than 1922
- B. While you may think this is correct based on the last sentence of the argument, all that can be inferred from the last sentence is that the password 0123 will be a popular one. We cannot infer anything about how it would compare with the password 2331. There could be some other characteristic of 2331 that makes it more popular than 0123
- C. Not necessarily. All that the argument states is that these three comprise close to 20% of all passwords, so there's only a 20% chance that the chosen password will be one of these three.
- D. In fact one out of five four digit passwords will be one of the three mentioned since the chances are 20%
- E. We know that passwords starting with 19 are popular but we don't know anything about passwords starting with 21

22)

D

The problem with the thinking of the early Europeans was that they assumed that the absence of lice was the cause and the disease was the effect whereas in fact disease was the cause and absence of lice was the effect. Thus they mistook the cause for the effect. (D) states this best and is the correct answer.

- A. This still does not explain why the lice went away
- B. The correlation is indeed a cause and effect relation; they just reversed the cause and the effect
- C. The problem is never of representativeness
- D. The correct answer
- E. This argument is not one of necessary and sufficient conditions

23)

D

The sentence leading to the blank states that the argument is flawed so the blank basically has to highlight a flaw in the argument. Remember that the flaw is always linked to the assumption. Those who suggest that some men are meant to be slaves are obviously assuming that there is some way in which one can make out who these men are. The argument cannot be that just because somebody is a slave, he was meant to be a slave. It has to be the other way round that is somebody is a slave because he was meant to be a slave. Since there is no criteria for distinguishing between the two, the argument does not hold weight. (D) states this and is the correct answer.

- A. This could be a negative aspect of slavery in general, but is definitely not a flaw with the

argument

- B. Again this may make sense logically, but isn't necessarily a flaw with the argument.
- C. Same as (A) and (B)
- D. The correct answer
- E. Again logical but not a flaw

24)

C

Since this is an Inference question, let's analyze each option one by one.

- A. We know that the Swiss have lower deductions from their salary but we don't necessarily know whether these are on account of taxes are some other heads
- B. All that the stimulus tells us is that the average wage in Delhi is considerably lower than in Tokyo. We don't even know whether we have data for each city in the Asian continent so there is no way we can conclude that Delhi is the poorest city in the continent
- C. The correct answer. The argument states that the difference between the highest and lowest wage rates is highest in Asia, so it has to be lower in all other places such as Eastern Europe
- D. In fact the argument suggests that Switzerland is most likely situated in Western Europe.
- E. Again this depends on the population of the two countries because the wage level in consideration is an average. So it's possible for Delhi to have more rich people than Tokyo but since Delhi also has many more relatively poorer people, this fact pulls the average wage down.

25)

E

Don't mistake this question for an Inference question; it is in fact an Assumption question. Notice the wording of the question stem; it states which of the options has to be true for the argument to be true i.e. the assumption.

- The evidence states that customers would be willing to pay more for products that they perceive higher than the others. However the conclusion states that these customers would be willing to spend more on products that are high quality and durable. Thus the assumption has to be that high quality and durability are factors that increase the perception of a product in the customer's minds. (E) states this and is the correct answer.
- A. Extreme option, the price may play a role but a smaller role than the perception of the product in the customer's mind.
 - B. No such connection can be arrived at on the basis of the argument
 - C. Opposite. In fact according to the last sentence of the argument, the quality of the product will be a deciding factor for the modern consumer
 - D. This could be an inference from the argument but is definitely not an assumption. If you are confused try negating this option. It will not make any difference to the argument.
 - E. The correct answer. If you negate this the argument falls apart

26)

A

The argument states that since every top sportsperson has some superstition or irrational belief, it must be true that these superstitions help them perform better (because they are all top sportspersons). But what if this was a mere correlation? What if all sportspersons in general have superstitions and not just these top sportspersons? Then there has to be some other explanation for the success of the top sportspersons. (A) points out this fact and is the correct answer.

- A. The correct answer
- B. Even if there is no empirical evidence, it is a fact that almost all leading sportspersons have a superstition.
- C. This doesn't help negate the fact that those who succeed do so because of their superstitions. There may be other things that work for these sportspersons (who don't have superstitions) but for those who have superstitions, it could be the superstition itself that is responsible for their performance.

- D. How superstition helps boost performance is outside the scope of the argument
- E. The argument clearly states that most successful sportspersons have some superstition or the other so we don't need to know whether all successful sportspersons have some superstition or not.

27)

B

Since this is an Inference question, let's look at each option and eliminate.

- A. The argument never states this. In fact if the fruit has been coloured (in addition to being placed in some kind of packaging), then even looking at the colour of the actual fruit may not help
- B. This can be inferred from the first sentence of the argument. Since this statement qualifies that food colouring can be deceptive only when used for a particular purpose, it can be concluded that food colouring may have other non-deceptive uses as well.
- C. This may or may not be true but does not have to be true all the time
- D. The argument in fact states the opposite
- E. The argument states that fresh and ripe fruits are full of antioxidants and phytochemicals. Then there is no reason why a fruit with phytochemicals should dissuade customers from buying it

28)

C

This is an inference question. Because of the wording of the two findings it may appear that they are contradictory in nature but this does not have to be so because finding 1 only talks about the likelihood of a student doing well. It never states that students attending Professor James' Economics classes were the only ones scoring in the top 10% of the class. So there could be other students as well who were scoring in the top 10% of the class and who had not taken classes from Professor James. Thus (C) can clearly be inferred from this as there must have been some other reason (other than Professor James' classes) for the excellent performance of these other students.

- A. From the information in the argument, no inference can be made about the quality of classes
- B. Again this may or may not have been the case but does not necessarily have to be the case
- C. The correct answer
- D. It is possible that the quality has remained constant or has even decreased in that the students outside the top 10% are probably doing much better than were earlier students.
- E. No such inference can be arrived at from the information in the stimulus

29)

B

Here's a difficult paradox to resolve. Our first task is to understand the discrepancy. The author tells us that a high volume of pirating sales causes studios to lose a great deal of money. However (a "contrast" Keyword which signals the discrepancy in the stimulus), a low volume of pirating sales generally indicates a period of economic weakness in the movie industry. Why does a low level of pirating sales, which would seem to benefit the industry, actually signal a period of economic weakness in the industry? This is the question that we need to answer, so let's proceed to the answer choices.

- (A) doesn't address the issues involved in the discrepancy, focusing as it does on whether these studios distribute smaller films.
- (B) is correct because it creates a direct connection between pirating and the financial success of the entire industry. If pirating is related exclusively to big hits, then a low level of pirating signals a lack of blockbuster hits, in which case it's more understandable how a low level

of pirating would correspond to periods of economic downturns in the industry.

(C) is off base, focusing as it does on the methods of pirated tape production and not on the connection between pirating and the economic health of the movie industry.

(D) is similarly off base, since it offers a comparative analysis between the largest and not so large studios, which isn't a comparison relevant to the original discrepancy.

(E) gives us information about the profitability of selling pirated movies, which may be interesting but doesn't explain why low pirating sales

would signal an economic low point in the entire movie industry.

30)

C

Hart's 70 percent figure pretty much tells us that numbers and statistics is the name of the game here. We're asked to evaluate Hart's response to Choi, so let's see what Choi has in mind. Choi's statement is a comparison among individuals: If my parents have earned doctorates and yours didn't, then Choi says that the odds are better that I will earn a doctorate than you will. Choi's claim goes no further. He doesn't claim that children of doctors are guaranteed to earn doctorates, and he doesn't even claim that they are likely to earn doctorates. He merely claims that these children are more likely to earn doctorates than their counterparts who do not have a parent that earned a doctorate. So even if only 5 percent of doctors' children earn doctorates themselves, Choi's claim is still correct as long as fewer than 5 percent of children whose parents didn't earn a doctorate went on to earn a doctorate themselves. Thus the irrelevancy of Hart's 70 percent figure, which gives us information on a different group—those who already earned their doctoral degree. Because she has shifted the scope, the data Hart presents can be true and still have no bearing on Choi's claim. An example: Suppose that there are 10 people in the world with doctorates. Choi merely claims that children of these people are more likely to get doctorates than children of other people. Hart comes along and says that of the 10 people, say, 8 of them (over 70%) come from doctorate-less parents. Does that alter Choi's claim in any way? No. All other factors being equal, the children of those doctors could still be more likely to earn doctorates, even if most doctorate holders don't have that particular heritage. Because of this, Hart's consideration doesn't contradict Choi's claim in any way, and we can therefore say that Hart's statement is consistent with it. (C) is the answer. (A), (B), and (D) are all off the mark in that they require a connection between Hart and Choi that simply isn't there. Because the speakers' target groups are different, no positive or negative connection can be made between the two claims, and so we therefore cannot say that one shows the other to be exaggerated (A) or false (B), or that one helps the other (D). (E) The concept of necessity versus sufficiency cannot be invoked against Hart because Hart's statement is merely the presentation of a statistic. As such, in this case there is no "event" to which this type of mistake could apply.

31)

A

We're told that four of the five answer choices make the argument correct, but that one will not, so we're dealing with another "odd-man-out" scenario. This implies that the argument contains a lot of ambiguity, since each of the four wrong choices is able to fill in a gap in the argument. Our best bet is to read the stimulus and get a sense of its possibilities, thinking about what else might be needed to make the argument work. There are two pieces of evidence here: Rats are generally more active than mice, and gerbils are generally more active than hamsters. From these statements, the argument concludes that rats are generally more active than hamsters. (For the sake of brevity, we will eliminate the word generally from here on.). The key to making the argument work is to link the two pieces of evidence in a way that places rats above hamsters. The correct answer, however, will be the one that does not make this connection. It may be helpful here to jot down a quick sketch with R above M and G above H. This may help you to test the choices, eliminating the ones that force R above H as the argument contends. Let's try the choices. (A) leaves the argument hanging: Gerbils may be more active than rats, but this still leaves the rats/hamsters relationship up for grabs—it would not necessarily follow that rats are more active than hamsters as the author maintains. That means (A) is our winner here. The rest of the choices, however, do validate the conclusion: (B) If mice are more active than hamsters and rats are more active than mice, then rats are also more active than hamsters. (C) If mice are more active than gerbils, then mice are also more active than hamsters—which are less active than gerbils. This means that rats, which are more active than mice, are also more active than gerbils and hamsters. (D) If mice and gerbils are equally active, then rats, which are

more active than mice, must be more active than hamsters, which are less active than gerbils. (E) Same basic reasoning: Hamsters are less active than gerbils, so if rats and gerbils are equal, then rats would trump hamsters again.

32)

A

Here we have a case in which an apparent paradox stems from a misunderstanding of statistics. Clear up the misunderstanding, and the paradox vanishes—that is, the rise described at the end no longer seems surprising. Here are the facts: In the early years, the prisons were 82% full, and just over 9% of the total possible occupancy arrived each year in the form of new prisoners. Now that the latter figure is down to 7.3%, the author is surprised that the prisons are more full: 89% full. She evidently expects that as one figure drops, so should the other. The key is seeing that she is focusing on the trend in incoming prisoners only, when the totals take into account all prisoners. Consider the long-termers. If the average length of sentences of all prisoners is increasing, then it's small wonder that the prisons are more crowded now, even if a smaller percentage of the inmates are newcomers. That's what (A), the correct answer, is all about. (B) Where the prisoners came from has no impact on how many are, or should be, here in this state. (C) Nothing in the evidence concerns the nature of crime, so no information about what landed these people in jail in the first place can resolve the paradox. (D) A "proposed revision" is way too weak. Was it instituted? And even if it was, what effect would it have? There's no way to know, so (D) is irrelevant and does nothing to clear up what the author considers to be a surprising result. (E), even if true, begs the question of why the percentage of the prison total entering the system is lower than years ago, but the prisons are fuller. All (E) says is that fewer criminals are getting off scot free.

33)

E

Next up we have "Critical Reasoning meets Top Gun." The general is trying to determine which of two types of aircraft would better fit the needs of the Air Force for an upcoming mission, and there are a number of logical elements present here. While the commander of the Air Force prefers the G28 because it could perform the necessary task more efficiently, the general orders that the D12 be used instead. He provides one piece of evidence to support this decision: Only the D12 can perform the task in time to meet the mission's deadline. When an author argues for one option over another, the author must assume that the benefit provided by the preferred option can only be found in that option. In other words, the author must assume that the G28 would not fulfill the mission in the allotted period of time. But perhaps there's an alternative? The general says that it would take four days for the G28 to be ready for the mission, but he never explicitly says that the G28 couldn't meet the deadline. Perhaps the plane's greater efficiency would enable it to still complete the mission in the allotted period of time, despite the later start. That's a plausible alternative that the general has overlooked. In order for the general's conclusion to be valid, he must assume that the G28 could not perform the mission by the immovable deadline. Thus he assumes that the G28's efficiency would not recoup the extra time that it would take for the G28 to begin the mission. (E) is the answer. The number issue is a common one: The test makers like to create situations in which a decrease in one area is made up, in fact, even surpassed, by an increase in something else. And one could see this scenario in terms of a scope shift, as well: The general speaks of the efficiency of the G28 early on, but then makes his recommendation based solely on the time factor. Recognizing that shift is key to understanding the assumption here. (A) The stimulus never states that one aircraft retrieves higher quality information than the other; one is simply more efficient. So (A) is not relevant to the general's decision. (B) goes too far. The author never states how long the mission would take, so there's no basis for assuming that the D12 would be done before the G28 arrived. (C) The ability to fly low to the ground is a significant consideration to the commander, and the general never contests the importance of this consideration. He just overrides it by making the deadline a more significant consideration, so he need not assume (C) in order to formulate his recommendation. (D) focuses on aircraft other than the G28. Aren't two enough to deal with? The author seems to think so, because he discusses only the D12 and the G28. How long it would take other kinds of planes to get to the scene is irrelevant to the general's argument, which specifically deals with a choice between these two.

34)

E

The stem alerts us to the fact that there's a flaw afoot, so we should expect something in Kopke's speech to get all fouled up. In more official GMAT lingo, that simply means that the evidence won't adequately support the conclusion. And what is that conclusion? Kopke's maintains that clothes manufactured 30 years ago were constructed better than clothes manufactured today. His evidence is that clothes he's purchased within the last ten years have fallen apart, while the clothes he bought in vintage shops are all in excellent shape despite their age. This might sound persuasive so far, but we know from the stem that this is a flawed argument. Think about where Kopke's logic goes astray. For one thing, he compares all the clothes he's bought within the last ten years to only the clothes that have survived 30 years before he purchased them. That's a subtle shift, but a shift nonetheless. The correct answer should point out the dubious nature of this comparison, and indeed, choice (E) points out the inappropriateness of this kind of comparison. The only "vintage" clothes he takes into account are those that have proven to be extremely durable. So it isn't much of a surprise that they're still functional. Kopke doesn't consider the clothes made long ago that have fallen apart, so he can't evaluate the overall standards of that era. Comparing only the extremely durable vintage clothes to all modern clothes is like comparing apples and oranges, so choice (E) gets to the heart of the flaw here. It suggests an alternative explanation for the "favorable" comparison that Kopke relies on in forming his conclusion. (A) The argument doesn't address all eras, so Kopke doesn't have to compare the clothes made 30 years ago with those of every other era. (B) Kopke's argument does not address cost at all—just quality. Considering cost would not affect the validity of the argument. (C) Kopke doesn't take into account vintage clothes that are no longer fit for sale (see the explanation for choice (E) above), but he never equates the proportion of tattered clothes with the total number of clothing items sold. So choice (C) doesn't describe a weakness in the argument. (D) The argument doesn't hinge on explaining why standards have fallen, just that they have.

35)

B

This question asks that you weaken the claim of Healthy-O's that it is one-of-a-kind good for you. To do this, you could either show that Healthy-O's is not one-of-a-kind or that it's not good for you. Begin by eliminating C, which is irrelevant to the product's claims. Next, you can get rid of A and D, because both would strengthen the claim that Healthy-O's are unique. Choices B and E both seem to weaken the claim, but the claim of Healthy-O's unique goodness applies to breakfast cereals and E is talking about other products. Therefore, B is the best answer.