

1)

Jonathan: Have you heard about this new proposed development project? They want to build a 950-unit apartment complex along the waterfront. That means that over 1,000 additional vehicles will be passing through the main downtown intersection each day, which will increase fumes and congestion to unacceptable levels.

Daria: Is that really such a large increase? When I'm sitting at the downtown coffee shop, I see at least 50 vehicles go through that intersection every time the light changes. Assuming the light changes every three minutes, that's 1,000 vehicles passing through every hour.

Daria's argument relies on the assumption that

- (A) changes in the traffic light patterns could mitigate the effect of the development
- (B) the traffic at the time of day Daria sits at the coffee shop represents a typical level
- (C) residents of apartment complexes usually own at least one car per apartment
- (D) Jonathan's understanding of the impact of fumes and congestion on the quality of life downtown is reasonably accurate
- (E) large numbers are useful talking points for political opponents of development because they are easily misinterpreted

2)

Psychiatrist: There is no reason to categorically avoid mind-enhancing drugs, which allow people to stay awake longer and perform better on tests. Although some drugs can be harmful if abused or have deleterious effects over the long term, there are many societal benefits from the responsible use of these substances. For example, poor students can concentrate longer and focus better while studying for university admissions exams, giving them the same advantage as students who can afford expensive tutoring and test-preparation classes.

In evaluating the columnist's position, it would be most useful to determine which of the following?

- (A) Whether the long-term benefits of higher exam scores outweigh the risk taken by poor students who use mind-enhancing drugs
- (B) Whether students who can afford tutoring also use mind-enhancing drugs to prepare for exams
- (C) Whether overuse of mind-enhancing drugs can ultimately lead to lower test scores
- (D) Whether some subjects, such as art and music, are more effectively studied without the use of mind-enhancing drugs
- (E) Whether university admissions personnel take socio-economic status into account when deciding whom they should admit to their school

3)

Developed countries around the world have pledged to reduce global carbon emissions to half their 1990 levels by 2050. Taking into account these countries' plans for emissions reduction, countries in the developing world would need to cut emissions by 23%. However, this goal will translate into a much greater per-capita requirement on people in the developing world. This is because their populations are still growing, increasing the energy and resources needed in coming years.

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

- (A) Industrial plants are one of the prime targets for emissions reductions, and most global industrial production takes place in developed nations.
- (B) On a per-capita basis, emissions from countries in the developing world are less than one-tenth those from developed countries.
- (C) A handful of developing nations committed to emissions reduction targets equal or greater than those of developed nations.
- (D) In developing nations, emissions levels are more heavily dependent on the activities of a small ruling class.
- (E) By 2050, many countries in the developing world are expected to have undergone drastic economic transformation such that they will resemble more closely developed nations than developing ones.

4)

In many states landowners may make use of a conservation easement, a legal agreement that restricts the use of land. A landowner can donate an easement to a land trust, which amounts to a charitable donation equal to the difference between the market value of the land and its value under the easement restrictions. Normally, owners of unused farmland and other undeveloped property are often under market pressure to sell to developers, who can offer much more for it than could be made from renting the property. These owners should take advantage of conservation easements to prevent unwanted development.

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

- (A) Some land trusts are for-profit enterprises that buy and sell properties whose use is restricted.
- (B) Land donated using an easement is usually located in areas with very low population density.
- (C) Some landowners are able to split up their properties such that part of the land is donated to a trust and the rest continues to earn rents for the owner.
- (D) Most property owners can make more money by renting their property than by donating an easement and taking the corresponding tax benefits.
- (E) When land use is restricted, the value of surrounding unrestricted land rises.

5)

Environmental activists in Santilia are calling for a stop to deforestation, pointing out that deforestation in the tropics is responsible for 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Deforestation accounts for half of Santilia's greenhouse gas emissions. However, government officials counter that Santilia contributes to less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the discrepancy between the claims of environmental activists and government officials in Santilia?

- (A) Compared to other tropical countries, emissions in Santilia have less of an impact on the global climate.
- (B) Many factories that emitted industrial pollutants have recently relocated from Santilia to neighboring countries.
- (C) Activists in Santilia have begun re-planting forests covering approximately 10 percent of land once covered by rainforest in the country.
- (D) Santilia is one of the smallest nations in the tropics, and a substantial percentage of its territory was once covered by rainforest.
- (E) Activists in Santilia have much more political influence in their country than do activists in other tropical countries.

6)

Economist: The economy of the Republic of Nantau has experienced lower than expected growth in the past year, **and the value of its currency has dropped against the Yen.** As a result, purchases of imported goods, such as usually luxury items or high-end electronics, will likely decrease as people turn to cheaper domestic equivalents. **However, this will likely help reverse the negative economic trends by creating a trade surplus as export goods become cheaper.**

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

- (A) The first supplies a context for the argument; the second is the argument's main conclusion.
- (B) The first introduces a development that the argument predicts will have a certain outcome; the second is a state of affairs that the argument denies will be part of that outcome.
- (C) The first presents a development that the argument predicts will have a certain outcome; the second acknowledges a consideration that weighs against that prediction.
- (D) The first provides evidence to support a prediction that the argument seeks to defend; the second is that prediction.
- (E) The first and the second each provide evidence to support the argument's main conclusion.

7)

Zoologist: Meerkats are desert mammals that live in groups and are believed to exhibit altruistic behavior. While the group is foraging, a single meerkat will stand guard, keeping watch for predators and giving loud warning cries when danger appears. However, this behavior is not true altruism: Meerkats on guard duty do not face a greater risk of being killed, and solitary meerkats will also stand guard.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the reasoning in the zoologist's argument?

- (A) Some meerkat populations are nomadic and rarely return to the same place to find food.
- (B) The degree to which an activity may lead to immediate death is not the only determinant of altruism.
- (C) Several desert species prey on meerkats, and meerkats are most at risk when they are foraging for food, even if one of the group stands guard.
- (D) A solitary meerkat who stands guard may be part of a group except for when it forages for food.
- (E) When meerkats stand guard, they forego opportunities to forage for food even though others in the group may not share food with them.

8)

Technology that enables drivers to pay tolls automatically, using a small device mounted to their cars, has become increasingly popular. Economists compared the toll rates in places using automated collection with those that collect tolls manually. They found that automated collection is associated with toll rate increases 20 to 40 percent higher than in places using manual collection. This difference may be due to the costs associated with the technology. However, another study showed that manually collected tolls increased the least during election years, while automatic tolls showed no such pattern.

Which of the following hypotheses is best supported by the statements given?

- (A) Despite lower increases, manual toll collection is much more expensive than is automated collection.
- (B) Rates where tolls are manually collected are less politically motivated than rates where tolls are automatically collected.
- (C) Politicians seeking reelection try to keep manually collected tolls low in order to garner favor with their constituents, while they do not make the same effort with automatically collected tolls.
- (D) In the years following election years, manually collected tolls increase more than do automatically collected tolls.
- (E) As voters grow accustomed to automatically collected tolls, they will associate those rates with their elected officials, so politicians seeking reelection will attempt to limit those rate increases, as well.

9)

To meet growing energy needs in Ibernian, companies built more energy plants that burn oil, coal, and natural gas. To limit carbon dioxide emissions and encourage the development of "green" energy, the Ibernian governmental recently imposed a carbon tax that directly affects the newly built plants. We should therefore expect to see more money and innovation in the development of alternative energy and a decrease in the country's reliance on fossil fuels.

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

- (A) The plants that burn oil, coal, and natural gas can easily be converted so that they use "green" energy.
- (B) The carbon tax will lead to the closure of many of the plants that burn oil, coal, and natural gas.
- (C) Ibernian's energy needs will continue to grow even if the carbon tax results in higher energy costs.
- (D) Ibernian's reliance on fossil fuels is likely to cause the country to fall behind its neighbors in efforts to develop "green" energy.
- (E) The cost of developing alternative energy is less than the cost to existing energy plants of the government's carbon tax.

10)

Many cities face the problem of sprawl--unchecked development in areas outside of a city center where adequate transportation infrastructure may not yet exist. The city of Masonville is experiencing rapid population growth, which can lead to sprawl. The city council recently passed a transportation concurrency measure, which requires that roads and other infrastructure be in place before developers can build in an area.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the usefulness of the proposal?

- (A) In neighboring Dorsetville, a similar measure caused transportation infrastructure costs to nearly double in the first year after its passage.
- (B) Where rapid population growth exists, sprawl is rarely avoided.
- (C) Some developers include privately funded transportation infrastructure in their plans for new suburban shopping malls and neighborhoods.
- (D) The concurrency measure ensures that any development likely to attract more than 100 new residents would be served by at least one of Masonville's bus routes.
- (E) The majority of new areas in which developers build do not attract large populations that require significant transportation infrastructure.

11)

Every year, children are born with neural tube defects, which can prevent full formation of the brain or closing of the base of the spine, causing paralysis. A primary cause was found to be a deficiency of folic acid, an essential nutrient, in the diets of pregnant women. To reduce the incidence of these birth defects, the country of Islandia began to require folic acid supplementation of all wheat flour. This ensured that everyone received adequate amounts of folic acid in their diets, thereby preventing neural tube defects in children.

Each of the following, if true, helps to explain how the supplementation of wheat flour could have prevented neural tube defects in children EXCEPT:

- (A) Pregnant women whose families did not traditionally eat food containing folic acid found it easier to supplement their diets with the nutrient when it was already contained in a staple such as wheat flour.
- (B) Aware that wheat flour had additional health benefits, Islandia residents consumed larger amounts of wheat flour than before the supplementation began.
- (C) The supplementation of folic acid caused wheat flour distributors to more aggressively compete for customers, who they expected to seek out their products for health reasons.
- (D) Pregnant women who ignored recommended supplements such as folic acid could not avoid including wheat flour in their daily diet.
- (E) Prompted by the country's emphasis on folic acid supplementation, pregnant women sought out other foods that naturally contain folic acid.

12)

An electronics company plans to lure first-time buyers this holiday season. One aspect of its marketing strategy will be to make widely available percent-off coupons for its products that customers can use at any retailer.

Which of the following, if true, would point to a possible flaw in the company's plan?

- (A) The coupons would make it less likely that retailers prominently stock the company's offerings in places likely to attract first-time buyers.
- (B) The company is supporting the coupon distribution effort with a nationwide television advertising campaign.
- (C) The company's competitors are not expected to offer coupons of any kind this holiday season.
- (D) Most retailers are accustomed to accepting percent-off coupons from manufacturers and train their employees accordingly.
- (E) Research has shown that first-time buyers of electronics products often choose which brand to purchase based on price.

13)

Archeologist: The discovery of chicken bones in a recently excavated Incan settlement, dating between 1320 and 1410 C.E., suggests that chickens were brought to the Americas by Polynesians before introduction by the Spaniards. It is also possible that contamination caused the specimens to appear older than they actually are. To settle this, scientists sequenced DNA from the ancient chicken bones and from Polynesian chickens and found that they share a genetic signature. A later genetic study revealed that the same signature is found in chickens from throughout Europe and Asia.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the findings of the later study?

- (A) European explorers in the 16th century collected live animals from throughout the Americas and returned them to Europe for study and breeding.
- (B) The Incas did not raise chicken for food.
- (C) DNA sequencing is a reliable method of identifying the migration of species from one continent to another, even over a period of centuries.
- (D) In diaries of Asian expeditions, European explorers refer to feasting on a game bird that may be related to the Polynesian chicken.
- (E) The Spaniards did not introduce chickens to the Americas until at least 1500 C.E.

14)

Commensalism is any relationship between two living things in which one benefits and the other is neither helped nor harmed. Oxpecker birds are commensal species that flock with the large mammals of the African Savannah. They feed on ticks, fleas, and flies that are attracted to the mammals' fur.

Which of the following, if true, can most reasonably be inferred from the statements above?

- (A) Oxpecker birds are neither helped nor harmed by the large mammals of the African Savannah.
- (B) Ticks, fleas, and flies are commensal species in their relationship with both oxpecker birds and the large mammals of the African Savannah.
- (C) No species exist in a commensal relationship with oxpecker birds except for large mammals of the African Savannah.
- (D) In commensal relationships, the smaller of the species in the relationship usually benefits while the larger is neither helped nor harmed.
- (E) Preying on small creatures drawn to the fur of the large mammals of the African Savannah does not significantly affect those mammals.

15)

Since the 1950s, jets have steadily replaced smaller propeller planes as the preferred method of transportation within the island nation of Kawaii. Jets are quieter and more comfortable for passengers, and can fly faster and higher. The fuel efficiency of jets has steadily improved as much as 70% since the 1950s, and travel at cruising altitude is especially efficient, as motion relies mainly on aerodynamics. However, turboprop planes are now enjoying a resurgence in Kawaii, replacing jets for short trips between the islands.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why turboprop planes are enjoying a resurgence in Kawaii?

- (A) Because trips within Kawaii are relatively short, planes spend little time at cruising altitude.
- (B) As jets have become more popular, their increased price has erased the financial advantages of their fuel efficiency.
- (C) Turboprop planes have also enjoyed a resurgence in other island nations, especially those with extreme climates.
- (D) Many of the independent airlines that once served Kawaii have been purchased by larger multinational airlines.
- (E) Due to Kawaii's remote location, jet fuel is more expensive there than in most other parts of the world.

16)

A small percentage of dogs are believed to be able to detect the onset of seizures in their owners. A dog with this ability will display characteristic behaviors, such as staring intently at its owner, just before a seizure occurs. Observations of epilepsy patients do not reveal any noticeable change in odor, behavior, or appearance before a seizure. However, seizure-detecting dogs can predict a seizure even when the patient is in another room.

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

- (A) Seizure-detecting dogs are not appreciably more accurate in predicting seizures when they are in the room with a patient than when they are in another room.
- (B) No dogs are able to detect the onset of a heart attack in their owners.
- (C) Some dogs must be able to recognize a change in odor that medical science has not yet identified.
- (D) Seizure-detecting dogs do not rely on visual information to predict a seizure.
- (E) When a seizure-detecting dog stares intently at its owner, the owner is likely to have a seizure.

17)

Although the price of gasoline can sometimes reach uncomfortable highs, the true price of gas is not reflected in the price paid at the pump. Oil companies receive billions of dollars in tax credits and subsidies from the government. In addition, taxes pay for the maintenance of roads and highways, which the oil companies rely on to create a market for their product. Therefore, drivers of small, high-mileage vehicles are subsidizing the gas purchases of drivers of gas-inefficient vehicles.

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

- (A) Whether other segments of the population, such as pedestrians or bicyclists, derive benefits from road and highway maintenance
- (B) Whether, on average, drivers of high-mileage vehicles of drivers of gas-inefficient vehicles spend more per month on gas
- (C) Whether oil companies earn a substantial proportion of their profits from automobile gasoline sales
- (D) Whether the benefits of road and highway maintenance accrue disproportionately to drivers of gas-inefficient vehicles
- (E) Whether tax credits to oil companies and road maintenance are the only way the government affects the price of gas

18)

Geologist: The element tantalum, which originates as a mineral ore known as coltan, is used as a capacitor in computers and cell phones. Most tantalum is exported by Canada, China, South America, and Australia. However, a small percentage of the world supply comes from poorly governed or conflict-torn regions of Africa and is mined using objectionable practices such as child labor. **A group of scientists has begun working on a method that I believe will be able to detect chemical signatures that can distinguish tantalum samples according to their location of origin.** Their technique needs to be further developed into a standardized and widely reproducible method of testing. If such testing becomes standard use among manufacturers and suppliers, **it would allow companies and consumers a way to sanction human rights abuses through the marketplace.**

In the geologist's argument, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first presents a circumstance for which the geologist offers an explanation; the second is part of that explanation.
- (B) The first acknowledges a consideration that weighs against the conclusion of the argument; the second is that conclusion.
- (C) The first acknowledges a consideration that weighs against the conclusion of the argument; the second provides evidence in support of that conclusion.
- (D) The first provides evidence in support of the conclusion of the argument; the second acknowledges a consideration that weighs against that conclusion.
- (E) The first is a judgment advanced in support of the conclusion of the argument; the second is that conclusion.

19)

For years, anthropologists have viewed as the inevitable result of contact between cultures, the domination and replacement of one culture by another. This scenario was thought to have occurred when Egypt conquered its southern neighbor, Nubia, in 150 B.C. However, a recent study of a burial site of high-ranking Egyptians in Nubia reveals that some were buried according to Egyptian tradition, and other were buried according to Nubian custom. This finding indicates that members of both cultures may share in the ruling of a conquered region.

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

- (A) The burial site also housed the remains of several visitors from nations other than Egypt and Nubia, and most of those visitors were buried according to Egyptian tradition.
- (B) Nubians who were buried in Egypt during the same period were buried according to Egyptian tradition.
- (C) The burial site was not used as the resting place of Egyptians until 25 years after Egypt conquered Nubia.
- (D) More than three-quarters of the people interred at the burial site are thought to have been Nubians.
- (E) After Egypt conquered Nubia, few Egyptians other than colonial personnel relocated to Nubia.

20)

City Council: Cities may issue municipal bonds to fund public projects. Because the interest paid to the bond holder is tax-exempt, municipal bonds are an attractive investment. So, to pay for the five state-of-the-art school buildings needed to accommodate our growing student population, Northopolis should issue a ten-year, \$200 million bond, thereby paying for the buildings with revenues from an expanding tax base.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the likelihood that the bond issue recommended above will have the result that is claimed?

- (A) Most Northopolis citizens would be reluctant to support a tax increase to pay for new school buildings.
- (B) Because municipal bond interest is tax-exempt, bond issues can severely affect a city's tax revenues for the life of the bond, despite the short-term benefits.
- (C) Many popular investments are created by pooling state and municipal bonds to create tax-exempt index funds.
- (D) Estimates of the cost of five new school buildings vary from well below \$200 million to well above \$200 million.
- (E) A significant percentage of municipal bonds issued by cities such as Northopolis are purchased by investors from other cities who aim to diversify their bond portfolios.

21)

Demographic experts predict that the global human population will reach its peak sometime in the middle of this century, after which it will begin to decline. Population growth is driven primarily by high birth rates in developing countries. It is known that when women have access to education and economic opportunities, they choose to have fewer children. Therefore, these experts propose expanding educational and economic opportunities to women in developing countries to bring about an earlier and smaller population peak.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest grounds to doubt that the experts' proposal, if adopted, will achieve its aim?

- (A) The demographic experts proposing expanding opportunities for women in developing countries made the same recommendations over twenty years ago.
- (B) The experts' prediction is based on realistic assessments of the educational and economic opportunities that can be made available to women in developing countries before that time.
- (C) Many women in industrialized countries will continue to have four or more children despite access to a variety of educational and economic opportunities.
- (D) The demographic experts fail to explain why an earlier and smaller population peak is preferable to a later and larger peak.
- (E) Expanding opportunities to women in developing countries is generally considered a positive outcome regardless of its impact on population levels.

22)

Economist: The law of demand predicts that as the price of a good goes down, demand for that good will increase, and vice-versa. In a recent experiment, economists gave coupons for rice to families in a province of China, where it is a staple food. The coupons effectively lowered the cost of rice, and should have led the families to buy more of it. Instead, households given the coupons purchased less rice than a control group who did not receive coupons.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the amount of rice purchased by families who received coupons?

- (A) Chinese families spend an unusually high proportion of their income on rice.
- (B) The prices of staple goods, including foodstuffs such as rice, do not fluctuate as much as those of non-necessary goods, such as consumer electronics.
- (C) In the months before and after the experiment, the average per-family consumption of rice in the Chinese province steadily decreased.
- (D) Many of the families given coupons discovered that they could sell the coupons on the black market.
- (E) The availability of the coupons meant that families had more money to spend on other things, including more expensive substitutes for rice.

23)

Driving under the influence is a more severe problem among college students at rural and suburban universities than at urban universities. Social scientists wanted to determine how much of the problem is due to the distance students must drive to obtain alcohol. They looked at police records for incidents involving students at a number of universities, and compared those with the mean distances between student housing and bars and liquor stores. The longer the distances, the more likely students were to be arrested or involved in accidents.

Which of the following, if true, would it be most important to take into account in evaluating the result?

- (A) Many college students do not purchase alcohol at bars or liquor stores.
- (B) Students at rural, suburban, and urban universities are arrested for driving under the influence more frequently than are non-student members of their communities.
- (C) The average enrollment at urban universities is greater than that at rural and suburban universities.
- (D) Local sheriff's departments near rural and suburban universities devote more resources to identifying and arresting those driving under the influence than do urban police forces.
- (E) The number of bars and liquor stores per square mile is nearly five times as high in urban areas as it is in rural and suburban areas.

24)

Some large European cities, such as Paris and Barcelona, have implemented bicycle sharing programs that allow people, for a small fee, to obtain a bike at any of hundreds of locations and drop it off near their destination. Currently, most large U.S. cities face congestion with cars and taxis, have few bicycle lanes, and discourage the locking of bicycles to poles and fences. Therefore, until the culture of cities becomes less hostile to bicyclists, a wide scale program will not be a viable form of alternative transportation.

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

- (A) Whether an sharp increase in the number of bicyclists in U.S. cities would change attitudes toward bicyclists
- (B) Whether U.S. who drive cars know how to operate bicycles
- (C) Whether major U.S. cities have plans to expand the availability of bicycle lanes in downtown areas
- (D) Whether the number of people interested in traveling by bicycle is greater in U.S. than in Europe
- (E) Whether small U.S. cities are more friendly to bicyclists than large U.S. cities

25)

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Researchers have developed a blood test to screen for early signs of prostate cancer. The test detects protein, prostate-specific antigen (PSA), that is produced by the prostate in greater amounts when cancer is present. Testing for PSA can detect prostate cancer in the earliest stages in men who show no symptoms, but the diagnosis must be confirmed by additional tests due to a high rate of false positives. Recently, however, the National Health Organization recommended against PSA screening of men over 75. This group would probably not benefit, since _____.

- (A) many men over 75 have already been diagnosed with prostate cancer
- (B) the additional tests required to confirm the diagnosis are especially taxing on men over 75
- (C) even if early signs are present, men over 75 who display no symptoms of prostate cancer are unlikely ever to do so
- (D) the fact that PSA is present in the body does not itself strongly suggest that prostate cancer is present
- (E) testing for PSA, along with necessary follow-up tests, is very expensive, and many men over 75 do not have private health insurance

26)

From an article in the Wall Street Chronicle: Sales statistics of major electronics manufacturers with sales in the United States show that 80% of consumer electronics (such as televisions, DVD players, and computers) sold in the U.S. last year were manufactured in China.

From an article in Consumer Results Magazine: The results from last year's survey on consumer electronics choices show that while products made in China are still very popular, more and more Americans are buying products made in Japan, Germany, and the United States. These three countries combined account for 38% of products sold in the U.S. last year.

For both of the findings to be accurate, which of the following must be true?

- (A) More Americans who do not purchase consumer electronics prefer goods produced in China to those produced elsewhere.
- (B) Major electronics manufacturers do not limit their production plants to one country, often dividing different stages of manufacturing among plants around the world.
- (C) Most consumer electronics purchased last year that were not manufactured in China were manufactured and sold in the United States.
- (D) The average price of a Chinese-manufactured consumer electronics device is lower than that of a device manufactured elsewhere.
- (E) Major electronics manufacturers sell a higher percentage of Chinese-produced consumer devices than do smaller manufacturers.

27)

Company President: Last year, Broad Street Restaurant Suppliers switched from pen-and-paper order forms to an online process. Unexpectedly, this resulted in a decrease in orders placed by restaurants. Thus, it is likely that many restaurateurs lack the computer skills required by the online process and were more comfortable with the old forms.

Vice-President of Marketing: Not so. Statistics show a widespread decline in sales across the restaurant supply industry for last year.

Which of the following, if true, most undermines the Vice President of Marketing's response?

- (A) The decline in sales across the restaurant supply industry affected the segment of the market that represents the largest part of Broad Street's business.
- (B) The online process offered by Broad Street allows restaurateurs to better customize their purchases and specify more precise delivery schedules.
- (C) Broad Street is known throughout the restaurant supply industry as a leader in customer service.
- (D) Declines in sales across the restaurant supply industry usually stem from smaller average orders placed by each restaurant, but one-quarter of Broad Street's previous customers placed no order at all last year.
- (E) Many restaurant supply companies have switched from pen-and-paper order forms to an online process.

28)

Sajitha: Sales of Lodgewood's specialty microbrew beers increased steadily from 2000 to 2002. The rise in sales was probably due in large part to the new label and ads developed by their advertising firm, which played up the microbrewery's local history.

Kyle: There must be another explanation: The data you cite show the rise in sales started in early 2000. Yet the company's new advertising campaign did not go into effect until September of that year.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the force of the objection that Kyle presents to Sajitha's explanation?

- (A) Beer buyers surveyed in 2001 cited the advertising campaign as the primary reason they became aware of Lodgewood's offerings.
- (B) A nationwide beer distributor stopped placing two other specialty microbrew brands in stores in 2000.
- (C) Lodgewood's new label was the main focus of its advertising campaign.
- (D) Buyers of specialty microbrew beers are more likely than the average beer consumer to experiment with different brands and varieties of beers.
- (E) Lodgewood's new label appeared on their beer bottles in late 1999.

29)

Marketing strategists at a major video retailer are discussing ways to increase revenues by boosting mid-week DVD rentals, which generally fall far below weekend rentals. One plan to accomplish this is to extend the return date for DVDs rented between Monday and Wednesday so that customers may keep them until Friday. Since more customers will return to the store on Fridays, they will be also be more likely to rent again for the weekend.

Which of the following, if true, would indicate the most serious weakness in the plan above?

- (A) The number of clerks currently employed by the video retailer is not sufficient to handle a significant increase in business on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- (B) Customers who are lured by extended return dates for mid-week DVD rentals are much less likely than the average customer to rent a DVD on Friday.
- (C) Even if the video retailer increases its mid-week rentals, some customers will continue to rent only on Fridays.
- (D) The video retailer currently offers two-day rentals, so the plan would not provide an additional inducement to rent DVDs on Wednesday.
- (E) The video retailer would rent more DVDs by extending return dates on Friday and Saturday rentals than on Monday through Wednesday rentals.

30)

EnergyMill Company Advertisement:

An Environmental Impact Coalition report shows that wind power produces the fewest pollutants among all green energy alternatives. This shows that EnergyMill wind turbines are the best choice for powering new developments in rural areas.

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

- (A) An earlier Environmental Impact Coalition report showed that solar power produces fewer pollutants than does wind power.
- (B) In the last five years, the government has invested more in wind power than in any other form of green energy.
- (C) The dispersion of homes in rural areas makes wind power several times more expensive than conventional energy sources.
- (D) The difference between the number of pollutants generated by wind power and conventional power sources is quite pronounced.
- (E) The Environmental Impact Coalition issues reports only once a year.

31)

As part of a plan to overhaul a car company's lagging sales due to its image as environmentally irresponsible, consultants recently proposed the release of a new car line. The new line of small, high-mileage and hybrid vehicles would appeal to a set of consumers who would never have previously considered buying from the company. In that way, the company could easily retain the market for its traditional vehicles while tapping into a new market niche and expanding its revenue base.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the consultants' proposal?

- (A) The majority of cars currently manufactured by the company are large and are not known for their fuel efficiency.
- (B) A reliable survey of the company's previous customers showed that most of them would more strongly consider buying from the company again if it offered hybrid vehicles.
- (C) Car sales for all companies have lagged in the last two years, but are expected to increase in the next six months.
- (D) A new focus on small, high-mileage, and hybrid vehicles would require research and development investment greater than the company's CEO has made in his tenure to date.
- (E) As most car companies develop small, high-mileage, and hybrid vehicles, the profit margins in this competitive arena are expected to shrink.

32)

Within Central City, the high-end retailer RiverRock makes most of its sales at its flagship store in Central Plaza, a major commuter center in the business district. Nevertheless, marketing strategists at RiverRock propose increasing revenues by closing the lease on this high-rent location and focusing on its smaller satellite stores throughout the region.

Which of the following, if true, casts most doubt on the viability of the plan by RiverRock's marketing strategists to focus on smaller satellite stores?

- (A) Most of the merchandise available at RiverRock's flagship store is also available at each of its satellite stores.
- (B) The frequency with which consumers who live near Central Plaza shop at RiverRock is roughly equal to that of consumers who live in the suburbs, where most of the satellite stores are located.
- (C) When RiverRock opened its flagship store fifteen years ago, it closed two smaller stores in the Central City area.
- (D) Retailers such as RiverRock find that smaller suburban stores experience more consistent sales from year to year than do flagship stores, which depend on huge sales in November and December.
- (E) The sales of the flagship RiverRock store allow the company to devote large sums to television advertising in Central City, which has a significant positive impact on satellite store sales.

33)

Rice is a staple crop in the country of Bhupet, and enough is produced each year to both meet the country's demand and be a major export. This season, however, rice yields fell 20% due to infestation by rice blast fungus. Because rice commands a somewhat higher price on the export market than the domestic market, economists warn that the Bhupet people will not be able to buy the rice they need. In order to help the local economy, therefore, the Prime Minister of Bhupet has proposed distributing state-subsidized rice coupons to each citizen.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly calls into question the likelihood that implementation of the Prime Minister's proposal will have the desired consequence?

- (A) Even if the rice coupons do not allow citizens of Bhupet to consume as much rice as they do in a typical year, the existence of the coupons will help maintain general confidence in the economy.
- (B) Rice distributors in Bhupet are willing to sell rice to the government at a price below the domestic market price.
- (C) Rice is a fundamental component in the diet of most citizens of Bhupet, and it is their main source of vitamin B1.
- (D) The exportation of rice makes up 75% of Bhupet's foreign trade and is the direct or indirect source of employment for 10% of the adult population.
- (E) Not all citizens of Bhupet would require state-subsidized rice coupons to afford their usual rice intake.

34)

From 1970 to 1990, sea otters made up a steadily decreasing percentage of the marine life population in North America. The increasingly widespread effects of pollution and habitat destruction were responsible for this decrease. However, although pollution was a more frequent target of environmental legislation, it was found that pollution in North America increased by a greater percentage than did the rate of habitat destruction.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to account for the finding?

- (A) Environmental legislation limiting industrial pollution was much more financial onerous on North American firms than legislation protecting marine habitats.
- (B) The decreasing percentage of sea otters among the marine population had a positive effect on the species that sea otters typically prey on.
- (C) Most of the habitats likely to be destroyed by human activity had already been compromised for marine life by 1970.
- (D) Habitat destruction was a more frequent target of environmental legislation than pollution in the decade preceding 1960.
- (E) Marine life as a whole was more significantly affected by pollution than by habitat destruction.

35)

Geraflex, a new exercise program designed to strengthen muscle in the elderly, is offered year-round, and a typical class contains between five and ten members, most of whom already suffer from age-related muscle loss. Classes are generally larger from April through October; from November through March, class sizes tend to be smaller. The variation in class size can probably be explained by a decrease in mobility among the elderly during the winter months.

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

- (A) From April to October, more Geraflex classes are offered than from November to March.
- (B) Geraflex class sizes vary dramatically in size from year to year.
- (C) Many elderly people travel to warmer climates during the winter months.
- (D) An effective muscle strengthening program requires much more extensive stretching in the colder winter months.
- (E) During the winter months in many areas, roads and sidewalks are more dangerous, so the elderly are less likely to leave their homes.

36)

Dolphin sightings are common at Nine Mile beach. Usually dolphins avoid human beings, but sometimes they approach marine workers who offer them food. This has boosted the Nine Mile's appeal to tourists, who once congregated at a neighboring beach. In order to further increase the beach's popularity, therefore, marine workers have proposed implementing a permanent dolphin-feeding program.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly calls into question the likelihood that implementation of the marine workers' proposal will have the desired consequence?

- (A) A permanent dolphin-feeding program would likely raise the number of dolphins visible to tourists on any given day.
- (B) Business owners who depend on tourism are willing to pay most of the cost of implementing the program.
- (C) Nine Mile beach does not offer the same quality of swimming or surfing as do neighboring beaches, but tourists travel from around the world to scuba dive there.
- (D) Tourists are attracted to Nine Mile by the opportunity to see dolphins living in the wild, unlike at a nearby theme park, where the dolphins are fed by park employees.
- (E) Not all tourists who come to Nine Mile beach are interested in seeing dolphins.

37)

Seafood restaurants in Snare Island generally serve only fish caught in the waters around Snare Island since inhabitants are accustomed to the distinctive taste of Snare fish. Nevertheless, fishermen from Chinua, a nearby island, plan to sell Snare Island residents fish caught in Chinuan waters by selling at a lower price than that of Snare fish and marketing it as a low-fat alternative.

Which of the following, if true, casts most doubt on the viability of the plan by Chinua's fishermen to sell their apples in Snare Island?

- (A) Many of the species of fish caught by Snare Island fishermen and Chinuan fishermen are closely related.
- (B) Consumers in Snare Island eat fish in restaurants about as often as do consumers in Chinua.
- (C) At times in the past, Snare Island fishermen have sold much of their catch to buyers in Chinua.
- (D) The warmer climate in Chinua allows Chinuan fishermen to harvest fish more months of the year than can Snare Island fishermen.
- (E) Most Snare Island residents are not concerned about their diet and believe that locally-caught fish are low-fat.

38)

As part of a major overhaul of Froland's apple industry, outside produce experts have proposed reducing the size of orchards that grow less popular kinds of apples and then setting up farmstands on the remaining acreage. In that way, orchards owners could sell many more kinds of products while continuing to grow a wide variety of apples.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the experts' proposal?

- (A) Froland's apple orchards are best-known for the less popular kinds of apples that orchards in other regions rarely grow.
- (B) Most of the visitors to Froland's apple orchards are tourists who would also purchase other regional items such as books and crafts.
- (C) Few of Froland's apple orchards are located along major highways where farmstands would attract a large number of passersby.
- (D) Farmstands are generally low-cost structures that take little time to design and build.
- (E) Purchases of Froland-grown apples declined only slightly from 1975 to 1990 while purchases of less popular kinds of Froland-grown apples remained roughly constant.

39)

Advertisement in the Harptown Train Station:

The Harptown Transport Society reports that the Silver Bullet train has the fewest delays per rush-hour period of any high-speed train. This shows that the Silver Bullet train is one of the most efficient trains currently in use.

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

- (A) The Harptown Transport Society report listed many non-high-speed trains in other metropolitan areas that were more frequently delayed than the Silver Bullet train.
- (B) In recent years more travelers have regularly ridden the Silver Bullet train than any other high-speed train.
- (C) High-speed trains are more likely to be delayed during rush hour than any other type of train.
- (D) The difference between the number of delays on the Silver Bullet train and that for other high-speed trains is quite pronounced.
- (E) The Harptown Transport Society updates its findings regarding train delays only once a year.

40)

Engineers are attempting to make PX-1000 series cars more environmentally friendly by increasing their use of natural gases. One plan to accomplish this is to use organic waste to power cars. When organic waste decomposes, it releases fuel that is much more powerful than crude oil.

Which of the following, if true, would indicate the most serious weakness in the plan above?

- (A) Some parts of the world do not generate enough organic waste to power a significant number of automobiles.
- (B) All existing mechanisms to operate engines with fuel drawn from decomposed organic waste are too large to fit in automobiles.
- (C) Even if organic waste proves to be an effective alternative to crude oil, some car owners will be reluctant to buy cars that run on this new fuel.
- (D) Each year several million tons of organic waste decomposes but is not used to the full extent of its energy potential.
- (E) Organic waste is more valuable as fuel to companies required to cut carbon emissions than to automobile drivers.

41)

Mayor of Alberville: Factories in Alberville together emitted twenty percent less carbon dioxide in 2001 than in 2000. The decline in emissions was probably due almost exclusively to the March 2001 development of floating seaweed farms, the first step toward reducing carbon dioxide emissions that, in addition to being cost-efficient, was also widespread.

Scientists: That cannot be the cause. As you yourself clearly stated, carbon dioxide emissions were reduced by twenty percent. Yet seaweed farms can only absorb ten percent of Alberville factories' emissions.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the force of the objection that the scientists present to the mayor's explanation?

- (A) The cost of the seaweed farms was covered by a tax increase to industrial firms in Alberville.
- (B) The number of factories in Alberville was greater in 2001 than in 2000.
- (C) Seaweed farms had a greater effect on Alberville emissions levels than any other plan undertaken in Alberville.
- (D) Seaweed farms are more cost-efficient than any other method of reducing emissions.
- (E) When seaweed plants die, they can be used as a low-emissions fuel source.

42)

Ghostwriting is the practice of obtaining from an independent writer a manuscript that an author or organization publishes under their own name. Dinosaurs, Inc., an amateur archaeological society that has in recent years seen a decline in membership, plans to boost its popularity by hiring a ghostwriter for its newsletter to provide the kind fresh perspective and stylistic innovation that the group is no longer capable of providing itself.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the prediction that Dinosaurs' plan will achieve its goal?

- (A) Among the parts of the newsletter that Dinosaurs, Inc. does not plan to have ghostwritten are some that require knowledge of the society itself that no non-member would be familiar with.
- (B) The editor of the Dinosaurs, Inc. newsletter ghostwrites newsletter articles for other amateur archaeological society newsletters.
- (C) Few ghostwriters are both stylistically innovative and able to write accurately about specific archaeological issues.
- (D) Dinosaurs, Inc. plans to select the ghostwriters it will use on the basis of writing samples from newsletters of other amateur societies.
- (E) Many former members of Dinosaurs, Inc. cited the dullness of the newsletter as a reason for their choice to leave the society.

43)

Kingsland companies often outsource data-entry tasks to foreign firms. The results of this outsourcing have been shown to lower costs for Kingsland companies in several different ways, and high costs can potentially bankrupt Kingsland companies. The decision to outsource is rare, except during recessions, when the Kingsland economy is weak. Therefore, Kingsland companies probably outsource their work because doing so helps them avoid bankruptcy.

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

- (A) Whether outsourcing is the most effective cost-lowering method available to Kingsland firms.
- (B) Whether the firms to which Kingsland companies outsource data-entry tasks are at risk of bankruptcy during recessions
- (C) Whether companies in cities other than Kingsland outsource data-entry tasks to foreign firms
- (D) Whether the only time foreign firms are available for data-entry tasks is when the Kingsland economy is weak
- (E) Whether domestic firms are able to handle the data-entry tasks outsourced to foreign firms

44)

Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

When malaria rates in a tropical country are high, drug companies reduce the cost of many kinds of anti-parasite medications. The reason is that drug companies want to take in as much money as possible in medication sales so that they can invest the money into research for more profitable drugs. Anti-parasite drug cost reductions are likely to achieve this objective since _____.

- (A) when prices decrease, more companies enter the market with competing anti-parasite drugs
- (B) drug companies that spend a smaller percentage of revenues on research are unable to take advantage of anti-parasite drug cost reductions for this reason
- (C) many more people will purchase anti-parasite medications if the price is lower than if the price remained the same
- (D) an increase in the number of anti-parasite drugs sold raises the likelihood that some species of parasite will mutate so that the drug is not effective against it
- (E) resulting research is unlikely to result in a malaria vaccine

45)

Healthcare analyst: Consumers should avoid purchasing low-cost insurance plans from a certain health insurance company that has been touted as a resource for those who need to reduce the cost of their monthly premiums. Although the low-cost insurance plan, which costs up to fifty percent less than other insurance plans, has short-term financial benefits, it does have a serious drawback: it does not cover brand-name drugs, thereby costing consumers as much as several hundred dollars per month.

In evaluating the columnist's position, it would be most useful for a consumer to determine which of the following?

- (A) Whether the reduction in the cost of monthly premiums is likely to be greater than the monthly cost of brand-name drugs
- (B) Whether the low-cost insurance plan covers medical procedures that require supplemental use of brand-name drugs
- (C) Whether low-cost insurance plans offer consumers the same choice of physicians that higher-cost plans offer
- (D) Whether the low-cost insurance plan covers the cost of generic alternatives to brand-name drugs
- (E) Whether surveys indicate that consumers value drug coverage more than other aspects of a health insurance plan

46)

Healthcare analyst: Consumers should avoid purchasing low-cost insurance plans from a certain health insurance company that has been touted as a resource for those who need to reduce the cost of their monthly premiums. Although the low-cost insurance plan, which costs up to fifty percent less than other insurance plans, has short-term financial benefits, it does have a serious drawback: it does not cover brand-name drugs, thereby costing consumers as much as several hundred dollars per month.

In evaluating the columnist's position, it would be most useful for a consumer to determine which of the following?

- (A) Whether the reduction in the cost of monthly premiums is likely to be greater than the monthly cost of brand-name drugs
- (B) Whether the low-cost insurance plan covers medical procedures that require supplemental use of brand-name drugs
- (C) Whether low-cost insurance plans offer consumers the same choice of physicians that higher-cost plans offer
- (D) Whether the low-cost insurance plan covers the cost of generic alternatives to brand-name drugs
- (E) Whether surveys indicate that consumers value drug coverage more than other aspects of a health insurance plan

Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

When malaria rates in a tropical country are high, drug companies reduce the cost of many kinds of anti-parasite medications. The reason is that drug companies want to take in as much money as possible in medication sales so that they can invest the money into research for more profitable drugs. Anti-parasite drug cost reductions are likely to achieve this objective since _____.

- (A) when prices decrease, more companies enter the market with competing anti-parasite drugs
- (B) drug companies that spend a smaller percentage of revenues on research are unable to take advantage of anti-parasite drug cost reductions for this reason
- (C) many more people will purchase anti-parasite medications if the price is lower than if the price remained the same
- (D) an increase in the number of anti-parasite drugs sold raises the likelihood that some species of parasite will mutate so that the drug is not effective against it
- (E) resulting research is unlikely to result in a malaria vaccine