

Assumptions Latest Questions – asked on the GMAT in 2012.

1. Until now, only injectable vaccines against influenza have been available. Parents are reluctant to subject children to the pain of injections, but adults, who are at risk of serious complications from influenza, are commonly vaccinated. A new influenza vaccine, administered painlessly in a nasal spray, is effective for children. However, since children seldom develop serious complications from influenza, no significant public health benefit would result from widespread vaccination of children using the nasal spray. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
 - A. Any person who has received the injectable vaccine can safely receive the nasal-spray vaccine as well.
 - B. The new vaccine uses the same mechanism to ward off influenza as injectable vaccines do.
 - C. The injectable vaccine is affordable for all adults.
 - D. Adults do not contract influenza primarily from children who have influenza.
 - E. The nasal spray vaccine is not effective when administered to adults.

2. Last year all refuse collected by Shelbyville city services was incinerated. This incineration generated a large quantity of residue ash. In order to reduce the amount of residue ash Shelbyville generates this year to half of last year's total, the city has revamped its collection program. This year city services will separate for recycling enough refuse to reduce the number of truckloads of refuse to be incinerated to half of last year's number. **Which of the following is required for the revamped collection program to achieve its aim?**
 - A. This year, no materials that city services could separate for recycling will be incinerated.
 - B. Separating recyclable materials from materials to be incinerated will cost Shelbyville less than half what it cost last year to dispose of the residue ash.
 - C. Refuse collected by city services will contain a larger proportion of recyclable materials this year than it did last year.
 - D. The refuse incinerated this year will generate no more residue ash per truckload incinerated than did the refuse incinerated last year.
 - E. The total quantity of refuse collected by Shelbyville city services this year will be no greater than that collected last year.

3. **Newspaper editorial:** In an attempt to reduce the crime rate, the governor is getting tough on criminals and making prison conditions harsher. Part of this effort has been to deny inmates the access they formerly had to college-level courses. However, this action is clearly counter to the governor's ultimate goal, since after being released from prison, inmates who had taken such courses committed far fewer crimes overall than other inmates. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. Not being able to take college-level courses while in prison is unlikely to deter anyone from a crime that he or she might otherwise have committed.
 - B. Former inmates are no more likely to commit crimes than are members of the general population.
 - C. The group of inmates who chose to take college-level courses were not already less likely than other inmates to commit crimes after being released.
 - D. Taking high school level courses in prison has less effect on an inmate's subsequent behavior than taking college-level courses does.
 - E. The governor's ultimate goal actually is to gain popularity by convincing people that something effective is being done about crime.
4. Two centuries ago, Tufe Peninsula became separated from the mainland, isolating on the newly formed Tufe Island a population of Turfil sunflowers. This population's descendants grow to be, on average, 40 centimeters shorter than Turfil sunflowers found on the mainland. Tufe Island is significantly drier than Tufe Peninsula was. So the current average height of Tufe's Turfil sunflowers is undoubtedly at least partially attributable to changes in Tufe's environmental conditions. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. There are no types of vegetation on Tufe Island that are known to benefit from dry conditions.
 - B. There were about as many Turfil sunflowers on Tufe Peninsula two centuries ago as there are on Tufe Island today.
 - C. The mainland's environment has not changed in ways that have resulted in Turfil sunflowers on the mainland growing to be 40 centimeters taller than they did two centuries ago.
 - D. The soil on Tufe Island, unlike that on the mainland, lacks important nutrients that help Turfil sunflowers survive and grow tall in a dry environment.
 - E. The 40-centimeter height difference between the Turfil sunflowers on Tufe Island and those on the mainland is the only difference between the two populations.

5. The average hourly wage of television assemblers in Vernland has long been significantly lower than that in neighboring Borodia. Since Borodia dropped all tariffs on Vernlandian televisions three years ago, the number of televisions sold annually in Borodia has not changed. However, recent statistics show a drop in the number of television assemblers in Borodia. Therefore, updated trade statistics will probably indicate that the number of televisions Borodia imports annually from Vernland has increased. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The number of television assemblers in Vernland has increased by at least as much as the number of television assemblers in Borodia has decreased.
 - B. Televisions assembled in Vernland have features that televisions assembled in Borodia do not have.
 - C. The average number of hours it takes a Borodian television assembler to assemble a television has not decreased significantly during the past three years.
 - D. The number of televisions assembled annually in Vernland has increased significantly during the past three years.
 - E. The difference between the hourly wage of television assemblers in Vernland and the hourly wage of television assemblers in Borodia is likely to decrease in the next few years.
6. In Teruvia, the quantity of rice produced per year is currently just large enough to satisfy domestic demand. Teruvia's total rice acreage will not be expanded in the foreseeable future, nor will rice yields per acre increase appreciably. Teruvia's population, however, will be increasing significantly for years to come. Clearly, therefore, Teruvia will soon have to begin importing rice. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. No pronounced trend of decreasing per capita demand for rice is imminent in Teruvia.
 - B. Not all of the acreage in Teruvia currently planted with rice is well suited to the cultivation of rice.
 - C. None of the strains of rice grown in Teruvia are exceptionally high-yielding.
 - D. There are no populated regions in Teruvia in which the population will not increase.
 - E. There are no major crops other than rice for which domestic production and domestic demand are currently in balance in Teruvia.
7. In the past the country of Siduria has relied heavily on imported oil. Siduria recently implemented a program to convert heating systems from oil to natural gas. Siduria already produces more natural gas each year than it burns, and oil production in Sidurian oil fields is increasing at a steady pace. If these trends in fuel production and usage continue, therefore, Sidurian reliance on foreign sources for fuel should decline soon. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. In Siduria the rate of fuel consumption is rising no more quickly than the rate of fuel production.
 - B. Domestic production of natural gas is rising faster than is domestic production of oil in Siduria.
 - C. No fuel other than natural gas is expected to be used as a replacement for oil in Siduria.
 - D. Buildings cannot be heated by solar energy rather than by oil or natural gas.
 - E. All new homes that are being built will have natural-gas-burning heating systems.

8. Three large companies and seven small companies currently manufacture a product with potential military applications. If the government regulates the industry, it will institute a single set of manufacturing specifications to which all ten companies will have to adhere. In this case, therefore, since none of the seven small companies can afford to convert their production lines to a new set of manufacturing specifications, only the three large companies will be able to remain in business. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the author's argument relies?**
- A. None of the three large companies will go out of business if the government does not regulate the manufacture of the product.
 - B. It would cost more to convert the production lines of the small companies to a new set of manufacturing specifications than it would to convert the production lines of the large companies.
 - C. Industry lobbyists will be unable to dissuade the government from regulating the industry.
 - D. Assembly of the product produced according to government manufacturing specifications would be more complex than current assembly procedures.
 - E. None of the seven small companies currently manufactures the product to a set of specifications that would match those the government would institute if the industry were to be regulated.
9. A significant number of complex repair jobs carried out by Ace Repairs have to be reworked under the company's warranty. The reworked jobs are invariably satisfactory. When initial repairs are inadequate, therefore, it is not because the mechanics lack competence; rather, there is clearly a level of focused concentration that complex repairs require that is elicited more reliably by rework jobs than by first-time jobs. **The argument above assumes which of the following?**
- A. There is no systematic difference in membership between the group of mechanics who do first-time jobs and the group of those who do rework jobs.
 - B. There is no company that successfully competes with Ace Repairs for complex repair jobs.
 - C. Ace Repairs' warranty is good on first-time jobs but does not cover rework jobs.
 - D. Ace Repairs does not in any way penalize mechanics who have worked on complex repair jobs that later had to be reworked.
 - E. There is no category of repair jobs in which Ace Repairs invariably carries out first-time jobs satisfactorily.

10. With a record number of new companies starting up in Derderia, and with previously established companies adding many new jobs, a record number of new jobs were created last year in the Derderian economy. This year, previously established companies will not be adding as many new jobs overall as such companies added last year. Therefore, unless a record number of companies start up this year, Derderia will not break its record for new jobs created. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument relies?**
- A. In a given year, new companies starting up create more new jobs on average than do previously established companies.
 - B. The number of people seeking employment is no larger this year than it was last year.
 - C. This year, the new companies starting up will not provide substantially more jobs per company than did new companies last year.
 - D. Previously established companies in Derderia will be less profitable this year than such companies were last year.
 - E. The number of jobs created in the Derderian economy last year was substantially larger than the number of jobs lost.
11. When storing Renaissance oil paintings, museums conform to standards that call for careful control of the surrounding temperature and humidity, with variations confined within narrow margins. Maintaining this environment is very costly, and recent research shows that even old oil paint is unaffected by wide fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Therefore, museums could relax their standards and save money without endangering their Renaissance oil paintings. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. Renaissance paintings were created in conditions involving far greater fluctuations in temperature and humidity than those permitted by current standards.
 - B. Under the current standards that museums use when storing Renaissance oil paintings, those paintings do not deteriorate at all.
 - C. Museum collections typically do not contain items that are more likely to be vulnerable to fluctuations in temperature and humidity than Renaissance oil paintings.
 - D. None of the materials in Renaissance oil paintings other than the paint are vulnerable enough to relatively wide fluctuations in temperature and humidity to cause damage to the paintings.
 - E. Most Renaissance oil paintings are stored in museums located in regions near the regions where the paintings were created.
12. For similar cars and drivers, automobile insurance for collision damage has always cost more in Greatport than in Fairmont. Police studies, however, show that cars owned by Greatport residents are, on average, slightly less likely to be involved in a collision than cars in Fairmont. Clearly, therefore, insurance companies are making a greater profit on collision-damage insurance in Greatport than in Fairmont.
- Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. Repairing typical collision damage does not cost more in Greatport than in Fairmont.
 - B. There are no more motorists in Greatport than in Fairmont.
 - C. Greatport residents who have been in a collision are more likely to report it to their insurance company than Fairmont residents are.
 - D. Fairmont and Greatport are the cities with the highest collision-damage insurance rates.
 - E. The insurance companies were already aware of the difference in the likelihood of collisions before the publication of the police reports.

- 13.** Agricultural societies cannot exist without staple crops. Several food plants, such as kola and okra, are known to have been domesticated in western Africa, but they are all supplemental, not staple, foods. All the recorded staple crops grown in western Africa were introduced from elsewhere, beginning, at some unknown date, with rice and yams. Therefore, discovering when rice and yams were introduced into western Africa would establish the earliest date at which agricultural societies could have arisen there. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. People in western Africa did not develop staple crops that they stopped cultivating once rice and yams were introduced.
 - B. There are no plants native to western Africa that, if domesticated, could serve as staple food crops.
 - C. Rice and yams were grown as staple crops by the earliest agricultural societies outside of western Africa.
 - D. Kola and okra are better suited to growing conditions in western Africa than domesticated rice and yams are.
 - E. Kola and okra were domesticated in western Africa before rice and yams were introduced there.
- 14.** In the year following an eight-cent increase in the federal tax on a pack of cigarettes, sales of cigarettes fell ten percent. In contrast, in the year prior to the tax increase, sales had fallen one percent. The volume of cigarette sales is therefore strongly related to the after-tax price of a pack of cigarettes. **The argument above requires which of following assumptions?**
- A. During the year following the tax increase, the pretax price of a pack of cigarettes did not increase by as much as it had during the year prior to the tax increase.
 - B. The one percent fall in cigarette sales in the year prior to tax increase was due to a smaller tax increase.
 - C. The pretax price of a pack of cigarettes gradually decreased throughout the year before and the year after the tax increase.
 - D. For the year following the tax increase, the pretax price of a pack of cigarettes was not eight or more cents lower than it had been the previous year.
 - E. As the after-tax price of a pack of cigarettes rises, the pretax price also rises.

15. In Kravonia, the average salary for jobs requiring a college degree has always been higher than the average salary for jobs that do not require a degree. Current enrollments in Kravonia's colleges indicate that over the next four years the percentage of the Kravonian workforce with college degrees will increase dramatically. Therefore, the average salary for all workers in Kravonia is likely to increase over the next four years. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. Kravonians with more than one college degree earn more, on average, than do Kravonians with only one college degree.
 - B. The percentage of Kravonians who attend college in order to earn higher salaries is higher now than it was several years ago.
 - C. The higher average salary for jobs requiring a college degree is not due largely to a scarcity among the Kravonian workforce of people with a college degree.
 - D. The average salary in Kravonia for jobs that do not require a college degree will not increase over the next four years.
 - E. Few members of the Kravonian workforce earned their degrees in other countries.
16. For most people, the left half of the brain controls linguistic capabilities, but some people have their language centers in the right half. When a language center of the brain is damaged, for example by a stroke, linguistic capabilities are impaired in some way. Therefore, people who have suffered a serious stroke on the left side of the brain without suffering any such impairment must have their language centers in the right half. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the reasoning in the argument above depends?**
- A. No part of a person's brain that is damaged by a stroke ever recovers.
 - B. Impairment of linguistic capabilities does not occur in people who have not suffered any damage to any language center of the brain.
 - C. Strokes tend to impair linguistic capabilities more severely than does any other cause of damage to language centers in the brain.
 - D. If there are language centers on the left side of the brain, any serious stroke affecting that side of the brain damages at least one of them.
 - E. It is impossible to determine which side of the brain contains a person's language centers if the person has not suffered damage to either side of the brain.
17. The Earth's rivers constantly carry dissolved salts into its oceans. Clearly, therefore, by taking the resulting increase in salt levels in the oceans over the past hundred years and then determining how many centuries of such increases it would have taken the oceans to reach current salt levels from a hypothetical initial salt-free state, the maximum age of the Earth's oceans can be accurately estimated. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The quantities of dissolved salts deposited by rivers in the Earth's oceans have not been unusually large during the past hundred years.
 - B. At any given time, all the Earth's rivers have about the same salt levels.
 - C. There are salts that leach into the Earth's oceans directly from the ocean floor.
 - D. There is no method superior to that based on salt levels for estimating the maximum age of the Earth's oceans.
 - E. None of the salts carried into the Earth's oceans by rivers are used up by biological activity in the oceans.

18. In a certain wildlife park, park rangers are able to track the movements of many rhinoceroses because those animals wear radio collars. When, as often happens, a collar slips off, it is put back on. Putting a collar on a rhinoceros involves immobilizing the animal by shooting it with a tranquilizer dart. Female rhinoceroses that have been frequently recollared have significantly lower fertility rates than uncollared females. Probably, therefore, some substance in the tranquilizer inhibits fertility. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The dose of tranquilizer delivered by a tranquilizer dart is large enough to give the rangers putting collars on rhinoceroses a generous margin of safety.
 - B. The fertility rate of uncollared female rhinoceroses in the park has been increasing in the past few decades.
 - C. Any stress that female rhinoceroses may suffer as a result of being immobilized and handled has little or no negative effect on their fertility.
 - D. The male rhinoceroses in the wildlife park do not lose their collars as often as the park's female rhinoceroses do.
 - E. The tranquilizer used in immobilizing rhinoceroses is the same as the tranquilizer used in working with other large mammals.
19. Frobisher, a sixteenth-century English explorer, had soil samples from Canada's Kodlunarn Island examined for gold content. Because high gold content was reported, Elizabeth I funded two mining expeditions. Neither expedition found any gold there. Modern analysis of the island's soil indicates a very low gold content. Thus the methods used to determine the gold content of Frobisher's samples must have been inaccurate. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The gold content of the soil on Kodlunarn Island is much lower today than it was in the sixteenth century.
 - B. The two mining expeditions funded by Elizabeth I did not mine the same part of Kodlunarn Island.
 - C. The methods used to assess gold content of the soil samples provided by Frobisher were different from those generally used in the sixteenth century.
 - D. Frobisher did not have soil samples from any other Canadian island examined for gold content.
 - E. Gold was not added to the soil samples collected by Frobisher before the samples were examined.

20. In response to mounting public concern, an airplane manufacturer implemented a program with the well-publicized goal of reducing by half the total yearly amount of hazardous waste generated by its passenger-jet division. When the program began in 1994, the division's hazardous waste output was 90 pounds per production worker; last year it was 40 pounds per production worker. Clearly, therefore, charges that the manufacturer's program has not met its goal are false. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The amount of nonhazardous waste generated each year by the passenger-jet division has not increased significantly since 1994.
 - B. At least as many passenger jets were produced by the division last year as had been produced in 1994.
 - C. Since 1994, other divisions in the company have achieved reductions in hazardous waste output that are at least equal to that achieved in the passenger-jet division.
 - D. The average number of weekly hours per production worker in the passenger-jet division was not significantly greater last year than it was in 1994.
 - E. The number of production workers assigned to the passenger-jet division was not significantly less in 1994 than it was last year.
21. The milk of many mammals contains cannabinoids, substances that are known to stimulate certain receptors in the brain. To investigate the function of cannabinoids, researchers injected newborn mice with a chemical that is known to block cannabinoids from reaching their receptors in the brain. The injected mice showed far less interest in feeding than normal newborn mice do. Therefore, cannabinoids probably function to stimulate the appetite. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. Newborn mice do not normally ingest any substance other than their mothers' milk.
 - B. Cannabinoids are the only substances in mammals' milk that stimulate the appetite.
 - C. The mothers of newborn mice do not normally make any effort to encourage their babies to feed.
 - D. The milk of mammals would be less nutritious if it did not contain cannabinoids.
 - E. The chemical that blocks cannabinoids from stimulating their brain receptors does not independently inhibit the appetite.

- 22.** In 1992 outlaw fishing boats began illegally harvesting lobsters from the territorial waters of the country of Belukia. Soon after, the annual tonnage of lobster legally harvested in Belukian waters began declining; in 1996, despite there being no reduction in the level of legal lobster fishing activity, the local catch was 9,000 tons below pre-1992 levels. It is therefore highly likely that the outlaw fishing boats harvested about 9,000 tons of lobster illegally that year. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The illegal lobster harvesting was not so extensive that the population of catchable lobsters in Belukia's territorial waters had sharply declined by 1996.
 - B. The average annual lobster catch, in tons, of an outlaw fishing boat has increased steadily since 1992.
 - C. Outlaw fishing boats do not, as a group, harvest more lobsters than do licensed lobster-fishing boats.
 - D. The annual legal lobster harvest in Belukia in 1996 was not significantly less than 9,000 tons.
 - E. A significant proportion of Belukia's operators of licensed lobster-fishing boats went out of business between 1992 and 1996.
- 23.** Tourists have long complained that hotel accommodations in Midville are too expensive. Starting last year, the city council, hoping to attract more tourists, lowered the hotel tax rate to 5 percent of room charges. By the end of last year, Midville had taken in no less money from hotel taxes than it did the year before, so an examination of the hotel records will show that more tourists stayed in city hotels last year than the year before. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The tourists who stayed in Midville hotels last year were aware that the hotel tax rate had been lowered.
 - B. The average price of hotel accommodations in Midville was not significantly higher than in hotels in other cities either last year or the year before.
 - C. The average length of a tourist's stay in Midville hotels was not longer last year than it had been the year before.
 - D. There were significantly more efforts to publicize Midville as a tourist destination last year than there had been the year before.
 - E. On average, tourists in Midville did not spend significantly more on meals last year than they did on hotels accommodations.

24. Because it was long thought that few people would watch lengthy televised political messages, most televised political advertisements, like commercial advertisements, took the form of short messages. Last year, however, one candidate produced a half-hour-long advertisement. During the half hour the advertisement was aired, a substantial portion of the viewing public tuned into the advertisement. Clearly, then, many more people are interested in watching lengthy televised political messages than was previously thought. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The candidate's ratings improved significantly as a result of the half-hour-long political advertisement.
 - B. Political advertisements have become increasingly influential in determining voters' decisions at the polls.
 - C. Many people would appreciate the opportunity to become better acquainted with political candidates' views on current political issues.
 - D. Most people who are interested in political issues watch television regularly.
 - E. Most of the viewers who tuned in to the candidate's half-hour-long advertisement last year did not change channels after the first few minutes.
25. Because ethylene dibromide, a chemical used to fumigate grain, was blamed for the high rate of nerve damage suffered by people who work in grain-processing plants, many such plants switched to other chemical fumigants two years ago. Since then, however, the percentage of workers at these plants who were newly diagnosed with nerve damage has not dropped significantly. Therefore, either ethylene dibromide was wrongly blamed or else the new chemicals also cause nerve damage. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. If the new chemicals cause nerve damage, the nerve damage caused would be different from any nerve damage that ethylene dibromide may cause.
 - B. There are no chemical fumigants that are completely safe for workers in grain-processing plants.
 - C. If ethylene dibromide causes nerve damage, it does not take two years or longer for that damage to become detectable.
 - D. Workers at grain-processing plants typically continue to work there even after being diagnosed with nerve damage.
 - E. Workers at grain-processing plants that still use ethylene dibromide continue to have a high rate of nerve damage.

26. Many people suffer an allergic reaction to certain sulfites, including those that are commonly added to wine as preservatives. However, since there are several wine makers who add sulfites to none of the wines they produce, people who would like to drink wine but are allergic to sulfites can drink wines produced by these wine makers without risking an allergic reaction to sulfites. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. These wine makers have been able to duplicate the preservative effect produced by adding sulfites by means that do not involve adding any potentially allergenic substances to their wine.
 - B. Not all forms of sulfite are equally likely to produce the allergic reactions.
 - C. Wine is the only beverage to which sulfites are commonly added.
 - D. Apart from sulfites, there are no substances commonly present in wine that give rise to an allergic reaction.
 - E. Sulfites are not naturally present in the wines produced by these wine makers in amounts large enough to produce an allergic reaction in someone who drinks these wines.
27. Most household appliances use electricity only when in use. Many microwave ovens, however, have built-in clocks and so use some electricity even when they are not in use. The clocks each consume about 45 kilowatt-hours per year. Therefore, households whose microwave oven has no built-in clock use 45 kilowatt-hours per year less, on average, than do comparable households whose microwave oven is otherwise similar but has a built-in clock. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. Households that do not have a microwave oven use less energy per year, on average, than do households that have a microwave oven.
 - B. Microwave ovens with a built-in clock do not generally cost more to buy than microwave ovens without a built-in clock.
 - C. All households that have a microwave oven also have either a gas oven or a conventional electric oven.
 - D. Households whose microwave oven does not have a built-in clock are no more likely to have a separate electric clock plugged in than households whose microwave oven has one.
 - E. There are more households that have a microwave oven with a built-in clock than there are households that have a microwave oven without a built-in clock.
28. **Lawmaker:** Raising taxes is not the only means of reducing government debt. The government's stockpile of helium is worth 25 percent more, at current market prices, than the debt accumulated in acquiring and storing it. Therefore, by selling the helium, the government can not only pay off that debt but reduce its overall debt as well. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The government has no current need for helium.
 - B. Twenty-five percent of the debt the government has accumulated in stockpiling helium is not an insignificant portion of the government's total debt.
 - C. It is not in the lawmaker's interest to advocate raising taxes as a means of reducing government debt.
 - D. Attempts to sell the government's helium will not depress the market price of helium by more than 25 percent.
 - E. The government will not incur any costs in closing its facilities for stockpiling helium.

29. Early in the twentieth century, Lake Konfa became very polluted. Recently fish populations have recovered as release of industrial pollutants has declined and the lake's waters have become cleaner. Fears are now being voiced that the planned construction of an oil pipeline across the lake's bottom might revive pollution and cause the fish population to decline again. However, a technology for preventing leaks is being installed. Therefore, provided this technology is effective, those fears are groundless. **The argument depends on assuming which of the following?**
- A. Apart from development related to the pipeline, there will be no new industrial development around the lake that will create renewed pollution in its waters.
 - B. Other than the possibility of a leak, there is no realistic pollution threat posed to the lake by the pipeline's construction.
 - C. There is no reason to believe that the leak-preventing technology would be ineffective when installed in the pipeline in Lake Konfa.
 - D. Damage to the lake's fish populations would be the only harm that a leak of oil from the pipeline would cause.
 - E. The species of fish that are present in Lake Konfa now are the same as those that were in the lake before it was affected by pollution.
30. In the past, every ten-percentage-point increase in cigarette prices in the country of Coponia has decreased per capita sales of cigarettes by four percent. Coponia is about to raise taxes on cigarettes by 9 cents per pack. The average price of cigarettes in Coponia is and has been for more than a year 90 cents per pack. So the tax hike stands an excellent chance of reducing per capita sales of cigarettes by four percent. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. Tobacco companies are unlikely to reduce their profit per pack of cigarettes to avoid an increase in the cost per pack to consumers in Coponia.
 - B. Previous increases in cigarette prices in Coponia have generally been due to increases in taxes on cigarettes.
 - C. Any decrease in per capita sales of cigarettes in Coponia will result mainly from an increase in the number of people who quit smoking entirely.
 - D. At present, the price of a pack of cigarettes in Coponia includes taxes that amount to less than ten percent of the total selling price.
 - E. The number of people in Coponia who smoke cigarettes has remained relatively constant for the past several years.

- 31. Personnel officer:** The exorbitant cost of our health-insurance benefits reflects the high dollar amount of medical expenses incurred by our employees. Employees who are out of shape, as a group, have higher doctor bills and longer hospital stays than do their colleagues who are fit. Therefore, since we must reduce our health-insurance costs, we should offer a rigorous fitness program of jogging and weight lifting to all employees, and require employees who are out of shape to participate. **The conclusion reached by the personnel officer depends on which of the following assumptions?**
- A. A person who is fit would receive a routine physical checkup by a doctor less regularly than would a person who is out of shape.
 - B. The medical expenses incurred by employees who are required to participate in the fitness program would be less than those incurred by employees who are not required to participate.
 - C. The strenuous activities required of out-of-shape employees by the program would not by themselves generate medical expenses greater than any reduction achieved by the program.
 - D. The fitness program would serve more employees who are out of shape than it would employees who are fit.
 - E. The employees who participate in the fitness program would be away from work because of illness less than would the employees who do not participate.
- 32.** The ancient Nubians inhabited an area in which typhus occurred, yet surprisingly few of their skeletons show the usual evidence of this disease. The skeletons do show deposits of tetracycline, an antibiotic produced by a bacterium common in Nubian soil. This bacterium can flourish on the dried grain used for making two staples of the Nubian diet, beer and bread. Thus, tetracycline in their food probably explains the low incidence of typhus among ancient Nubians. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument relies?**
- A. The tetracycline deposits did not form after the bodies were buried.
 - B. The diseases other than typhus to which the ancient Nubians were exposed would not be affected by tetracycline.
 - C. Typhus is generally fatal.
 - D. Nubian grain became contaminated with tetracycline-producing bacteria prior to being harvested.
 - E. Bread and beer were the only foods eaten by the ancient Nubians which could have contained tetracycline.

Variation of the above question asked:

The ancient Nubians inhabited an area in which typhus occurs, yet surprisingly few of their skeletons show the usual evidence of this disease. The skeletons do show deposits of tetracycline, an antibiotic produced by a bacterium common in Nubian soil. This bacterium can flourish on the dried grain used for making two staples of the Nubian diet, beer and bread. Thus, tetracycline in their food probably explains the low incidence of typhus among ancient Nubians. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument relies?**

- A. Infectious diseases other than typhus to which the ancient Nubians were exposed are unaffected by tetracycline.
- B. Tetracycline is not rendered ineffective as an antibiotic by exposure to the processes involved in making bread and beer.
- C. Typhus cannot be transmitted by ingesting bread or beer contaminated with the infectious agents of this disease.
- D. Bread and beer were the only items in the diet of the ancient Nubians which could have contained tetracycline.
- E. Typhus is generally fatal.

33. In Brindon County, virtually all of the fasteners—such as nuts, bolts, and screws—used by workshops and manufacturing firms have for several years been supplied by the Brindon Bolt Barn, a specialist wholesaler. In recent months many of Brindon County's workshops and manufacturing firms have closed down, and no new ones have opened. Therefore, the Brindon Bolt Barn will undoubtedly show a sharp decline in sales volume and revenue for this year as compared to last year. **The argument depends on assuming which of the following?**

- A. Last year the Brindon Bolt Barn's sales volume and revenue were significantly higher than they had been the previous year.
- B. The workshops and manufacturing firms that have remained open have a smaller volume of work to do this year than they did last year.
- C. Soon the Brindon Bolt Barn will no longer be the only significant supplier of fasteners to Brindon County's workshops.
- D. The Brindon Bolt Barn's operating expenses have not increased this year.
- E. The Brindon Bolt Barn is not a company that gets the great majority of its business from customers outside Brindon County.

- 34. Educational Theorist:** Recent editorials have called for limits on the amount of homework assigned to children. They point out that free-time activities play an important role in childhood development and that large amounts of homework reduce children's free time, hindering their development. But the average homework time for a ten year old, for example, is little more than 30 minutes per night. Clearly, therefore, there is no need to impose the limits these editorials are calling for. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the educational theorist's argument relies?**
- A. The free-time activities that ten year olds engage in most are all approximately equally effective at fostering development
 - B. Regularly doing homework assignments improves children's academic performance.
 - C. Individual teachers are not the best judges of how much homework to assign the children they teach
 - D. In most schools, if not all, the homework assignments given are of a length that does not diverge widely from the average.
 - E. Free-time activities rarely teach children skills or information that they can use in their academic work.
- 35.** Political advocacy groups have begun to use information services to disseminate information that is then accessed by the public via personal computer. Since many groups are thus able to bypass traditional news sources, whose reporting is selective, and to present their political views directly to the public, information services present a more balanced picture of the complexities of political issues than any traditional news source presents. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above depends?**
- A. Information services are accessible to enough people to ensure that political advocacy groups can use these services to reach as large a percentage of the public as they could through traditional news sources.
 - B. People could get a thorough understanding of a particular political issue by sorting through information provided by several traditional news sources, each with differing editorial biases.
 - C. Information on political issues disseminated through information services does not come almost entirely from advocacy groups that share a single bias.
 - D. Traditional news sources seldom report the views of political advocacy groups accurately.
 - E. Most people who get information on political issues from newspapers and other traditional news sources can readily identify the editorial biases of those sources.

36. Radio stations with radio data system (RDS) technology broadcast special program information that only radios with an RDS feature can receive. Between 1994 and 1996, the number of RDS radio stations in Verdland increased from 250 to 600. However, since the number of RDS-equipped radios in Verdland was about the same in 1996 as in 1994, the number of Verdlanders receiving the special program information probably did not increase significantly. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. Few if any of the RDS radio stations that began broadcasting in Verdland after 1994 broadcast to people with RDS-equipped radios living in areas not previously reached by RDS stations.
 - B. In 1996 most Verdlanders who lived within the listening area of an RDS station already had a radio equipped to receive RDS.
 - C. Equipping a radio station with RDS technology does not decrease the station's listening area.
 - D. In 1996 Verdlanders who did not own radios equipped to receive RDS could not receive any programming from the RDS radio stations that began broadcasting in Verdland after 1994.
 - E. The RDS radio stations in Verdland in 1996 did not all offer the same type of programming.
37. Excavations of the Roman city of Sepphoris have uncovered numerous detailed mosaics depicting several readily identifiable animal species: a hare, a partridge, and various Mediterranean fish. Oddly, most of the species represented did not live in the Sepphoris region when these mosaics were created. Since identical motifs appear in mosaics found in other Roman cities, however, the mosaics of Sepphoris were very likely created by traveling artisans from some other part of the Roman Empire. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The Sepphoris mosaics are not composed exclusively of types of stones found naturally in the Sepphoris area
 - B. There is no single region to which all the species depicted in the Sepphoris mosaics are native
 - C. No motifs appear in the Sepphoris mosaics that do not also appear in the mosaics of some other Roman city
 - D. All of the animal figures in the Sepphoris mosaics are readily identifiable as representation of known species
 - E. There was not a common repertory of mosaic designs with which artisans who lived in various parts of the Roman empire were familiar

38. The higher the level of certain vitamins and minerals in the bloodstream, the better a person's lungs function, as measured by the amount of air the person can expel in one second. The lung function of smokers is significantly worse, on average, than that of nonsmokers. Clearly, therefore, one way for smokers to improve their lung function is for them to increase their intake of foods that are rich in these helpful vitamins and minerals. **Which of the following is an assumption on which this argument depends?**
- A. Smokers are less likely than nonsmokers to have diets that are rich in vitamins and minerals
 - B. The lung function of smokers whose diet are rich in those vitamins and minerals is generally better than that of nonsmokers with comparable diets
 - C. People whose diets are deficient in those vitamins and minerals do not typically have other health problems in addition to diminished lung function
 - D. Stopping smoking will not typically improve lung function more than any diet changes can
 - E. Smoking does not introduce into the body chemicals that prevent the helpful vitamins and minerals from entering the bloodstream
39. In a study conducted in Pennsylvania, servers in various restaurants wrote "Thank you" on randomly selected bills before presenting the bills to their customers. Tips on these bills were an average of three percentage points higher than tips on bills without the message. Therefore, if servers in Pennsylvania regularly wrote "Thank you" on restaurant bills, their average income from tips would be significantly higher than it otherwise would have been. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument relies?**
- A. The "Thank you" messages would have the same impact on regular patrons of a restaurant as they would on occasional patrons of the same restaurant.
 - B. Regularly seeing "Thank you" written on their bills would not lead restaurant patrons to revert to their earlier tipping habits.
 - C. The written "Thank you" reminds restaurant patrons that tips constitute a significant part of the income of many food servers.
 - D. The rate at which people tip food servers in Pennsylvania does not vary with how expensive a restaurant is.
 - E. Virtually all patrons of the Pennsylvania restaurants in the study who were given a bill with "Thank you" written on it left a larger tip than they otherwise would have.

40. Generally scientists enter their field with the goal of doing important new research and accept as their colleagues those with similar motivation. Therefore, when any scientist wins renown as an expounder of science to general audiences, most other scientists conclude that this popularizer should no longer be regarded as a true colleague. **The explanation offered above for the low esteem in which scientific popularizers are held by research scientists assumes that**
- A. serious scientific research is not a solitary activity, but relies on active cooperation among a group of colleagues
 - B. research scientists tend not to regard as colleagues those scientists whose renown they envy
 - C. a scientist can become a famous popularizer without having completed any important research
 - D. research scientists believe that those who are well known as popularizers of science are not motivated to do important new research
 - E. no important new research can be accessible to or accurately assessed by those who are not themselves scientists
41. The technological conservatism of bicycle manufacturers is a reflection of the kinds of demand they are trying to meet. The only cyclists seriously interested in innovation and willing to pay for it are bicycle racers. Therefore, innovation in bicycle technology is limited by what authorities will accept as standard for purposes of competition in bicycle races. **Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?**
- A. The market for cheap, traditional bicycles cannot expand unless the market for high-performance competition bicycles expands.
 - B. High-performance bicycles are likely to be improved more as a result of technological innovations developed in small workshops than as a result of technological innovations developed in major manufacturing concerns.
 - C. Bicycle racers do not generate a strong demand for innovations that fall outside what is officially recognized as standard for purposes of competition.
 - D. The technological conservatism of bicycle manufacturers results primarily from their desire to manufacture a product that can be sold without being altered to suit different national markets.
 - E. The authorities who set standards for high-performance bicycle racing do not keep informed about innovative bicycle design.

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

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

Sharon's argument relies on the assumption that

- A. normal levels of unemployment are rarely exceeded
- B. unemployment is not normally concentrated in geographically isolated segments of the population
- C. the number of people who each know someone who is unemployed is always higher than 90% of the population
- D. Roland is not consciously distorting the statistics he presents
- E. knowledge that a personal acquaintance is unemployed generates more fear of losing one's job than does knowledge of unemployment statistics

43. Because no employee wants to be associated with bad news in the eyes of a superior, information about serious problems at lower levels is progressively softened and distorted as it goes up each step in the management hierarchy. The chief executive is, therefore, less well informed about problems at lower levels than are his or her subordinates at those levels. **The conclusion drawn above is based on the assumption that**

- A. problems should be solved at the level in the management hierarchy at which they occur
- B. employees should be rewarded for accurately reporting problems to their superiors
- C. problem-solving ability is more important at higher levels than it is at lower levels of the management hierarchy
- D. chief executives obtain information about problems at lower levels from no source other than their subordinates
- E. some employees are more concerned about truth than about the way they are perceived by their superiors

44. The interview is an essential part of a successful hiring program because, with it, job applicants who have personalities that are unsuited to the requirements of the job will be eliminated from consideration. **The argument above logically depends on which of the following assumptions?**

- A. A hiring program will be successful if it includes interviews.
- B. The interview is a more important part of a successful hiring program than is the development of a job description.
- C. Interviewers can accurately identify applicants whose personalities are unsuited to the requirements of the job.
- D. The only purpose of an interview is to evaluate whether job applicants' personalities are suited to the requirements of the job.
- E. The fit of job applicants' personalities to the requirements of the job was once the most important factor in making hiring decisions.

45. Bank depositors in the United States are all financially protected against bank failure because the government insures all individuals' bank deposits. An economist argues that this insurance is partly responsible for the high rate of bank failures, since it removes from depositors any financial incentive to find out whether the bank that holds their money is secure against failure. If depositors were more selective, then banks would need to be secure in order to compete for depositors' money. **The economist's argument makes which of the following assumptions?**
- A. Bank failures are caused when big borrowers default on loan repayments.
 - B. A significant proportion of depositors maintain accounts at several different banks.
 - C. The more a depositor has to deposit, the more careful he or she tends to be in selecting a bank.
 - D. The difference in the interest rates paid to depositors by different banks is not a significant factor in bank failures.
 - E. Potential depositors are able to determine which banks are secure against failure.
46. To prevent harbor porpoises from getting tangled in its nets and suffocating, a fishing company installed acoustic alarms on all its boats that fish in waters off Massachusetts. The sound emitted temporarily disorients the porpoises and frightens them away. Since the installation of the alarms, the average number of porpoises caught in the company's nets has dropped from eight to one per month. The alarms, therefore, are saving the lives of harbor porpoises in those waters. **Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?**
- A. The use of acoustic alarms increases the number of commercial fish caught by the fishing company's boats.
 - B. When disoriented, harbor porpoises are not significantly more likely to be killed by other boats.
 - C. Environmentalists advocate the use of acoustic alarms as a means of protecting the harbor porpoise population.
 - D. The alarms were installed at the time of year when harbor porpoises are most plentiful in the Massachusetts waters.
 - E. The cost of installing acoustic alarms on fishing boats is less than the cost of repairing nets damaged by harbor porpoises.

47. A recent report determined that although only three percent of drivers on Maryland highways equipped their vehicles with radar detectors, thirty-three percent of all vehicles ticketed for exceeding the speed limit were equipped with them. Clearly, drivers who equip their vehicles with radar detectors are more likely to exceed the speed limit regularly than are drivers who do not. **The conclusion drawn above depends on which of the following assumptions?**
- A. Drivers who equip their vehicles with radar detectors are less likely to be ticketed for exceeding the speed limit than are drivers who do not.
 - B. Drivers who are ticketed for exceeding the speed limit are more likely to exceed the speed limit regularly than are drivers who are not ticketed.
 - C. The number of vehicles that were ticketed for exceeding the speed limit was greater than the number of vehicles that were equipped with radar detectors.
 - D. Many of the vehicles that were ticketed for exceeding the speed limit were ticketed more than once in the time period covered by the report.
 - E. Drivers on Maryland highways exceeded the speed limit more often than did drivers on other state highways not covered in the report.
48. Researchers have found that when very overweight people, who tend to have relatively low metabolic rates, lose weight primarily through dieting, their metabolisms generally remain unchanged. They will thus burn significantly fewer calories at the new weight than do people whose weight is normally at that level. Such newly thin persons will, therefore, ultimately regain weight until their body size again matches their metabolic rate. **The conclusion of the argument above depends on which of the following assumptions?**
- A. Relatively few very overweight people who have dieted down to a new weight tend to continue to consume substantially fewer calories than do people whose normal weight is at that level.
 - B. The metabolisms of people who are usually not overweight are much more able to vary than the metabolisms of people who have been very overweight.
 - C. The amount of calories that a person usually burns in a day is determined more by the amount that is consumed that day than by the current weight of the individual.
 - D. Researchers have not yet determined whether the metabolic rates of formerly very overweight individuals can be accelerated by means of chemical agents.
 - E. Because of the constancy of their metabolic rates, people who are at their usual weight normally have as much difficulty gaining weight as they do losing it.

49. Traditionally, decision-making by managers that is reasoned step-by-step has been considered preferable to intuitive decision-making. However, a recent study found that top managers used intuition significantly more than did most middle- or lower-level managers. This confirms the alternative view that intuition is actually more effective than careful, methodical reasoning. **The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?**
- A. Methodical, step-by-step reasoning is inappropriate for making many real-life management decisions.
 - B. Top managers have the ability to use either intuitive reasoning or methodical, step-by-step reasoning in making decisions.
 - C. The decisions made by middle- and lower-level managers can be made as easily by using methodical reasoning as by using intuitive reasoning.
 - D. Top managers use intuitive reasoning in making the majority of their decisions.
 - E. Top managers are more effective at decision-making than middle- or lower-level managers.
50. Kitchen magazine plans to license the use of its name by a line of cookware. For a magazine, licensing the use of its name for products involves some danger, since if the products disappoint consumers, the magazine's reputation suffers, with consequent reductions in circulation and advertising. However, experts have evaluated the cookware and found it superior to all other cookware advertised in Kitchen. Therefore, Kitchen can collect its licensing fee without endangering its other revenues. **The argument above assumes which of the following?**
- A. No other line of cookware is superior to that which will carry the Kitchen name.
 - B. Kitchen will not license the use of its name for any products other than the line of cookware.
 - C. Makers of cookware will not find Kitchen a less attractive advertising vehicle because the magazine's name is associated with a competing product.
 - D. Consumers who are not regular readers of Kitchen magazine will be attracted to the cookware by the Kitchen name.
 - E. Kitchen is one of the most prestigious cooking-related magazines.

51. The general availability of high-quality electronic scanners and color printers for computers has made the counterfeiting of checks much easier. In order to deter such counterfeiting, several banks plan to issue to their corporate customers checks that contain dots too small to be accurately duplicated by any electronic scanner currently available; when such checks are scanned and printed, the dots seem to blend together in such a way that the word "VOID" appears on the check. **A questionable assumption of the plan is that**
- A. in the territory served by the banks the proportion of counterfeit checks that are made using electronic scanners has remained approximately constant over the past few years
 - B. most counterfeiters who use electronic scanners counterfeit checks only for relatively large amounts of money
 - C. the smallest dots on the proposed checks cannot be distinguished visually except under strong magnification
 - D. most corporations served by these banks will not have to pay more for the new checks than for traditional checks
 - E. the size of the smallest dots that generally available electronic scanners are able to reproduce accurately will not decrease significantly in the near future

Part 2

1. To decrease the number of crimes in city Y, the city's Police Commissioner proposed taking some police officers from low-crime districts of the city and moving them to high-crime districts of the city. His proposal is based on city Y crime data that show that the number of crimes in any district of the city decreases when additional police officers are moved into that district. *The Police Commissioner's proposal depends on which of the following assumptions?*
 - City X experienced a drastic reduction in crime after implementing a proposal similar to that proposed by the Police Commissioner of city Y.
 - The severity of crimes committed in any district of the city decreases when additional police officers are moved into that district.
 - The number of crimes committed in all high-crime districts of city Y is more than triple the number of crimes committed in all low-crime districts of city Y.
 - There are more low-crime districts than high-crime districts in city Y.
 - Districts of the city from which police officers are removed do not experience significant crime increases shortly after the removal of those officers.
2. Although there has been great scientific debate for decades over global warming, most scientists now agree that human activity is causing the Earth's temperature to rise. Though predictions vary, many global warming experts believe that average global temperatures will rise between three and eight degrees Fahrenheit during the next century. Such an increase would cause an alarming rise in sea levels, displacing millions of people by destroying major population centers along the world's coastlines. *Which of the following is an assumption in support of the argument's conclusion?*
 - New technological developments in the next century will not divert rising seas from the world's coastal cities.
 - Individuals will not become more aware of the steps they can take to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
 - Rising sea levels similarly affect all coastal population centers.
 - Some global warming experts predict a greater than eight degree Fahrenheit increase in global temperatures during the next century.
 - Human activity is the sole cause of increasing global temperatures.
3. "The new HitItFar driver is the only golf club that uses space-age Titanium-Kryptonium alloy to strengthen its head. This driver is SO good, the last 12 winners of the major tour championships have all recently switched to it! Isn't it time for you to add power to your swing and distance to your drives? Trade in your old driver today -- and HitItFar tomorrow!" *All of the following claims are either implied or made explicitly in the above advertisement EXCEPT:*
 - Switching to the HitItFar driver will improve your play.
 - The HitItFar driver helped the last 12 major championship winners achieve their victory.
 - Major championship winners are experts and know what constitutes a great golf club.
 - Your existing driver is inferior to the HitItFar driver.
 - Only HitItFar golf clubs have Titanium-Kryptonium alloy in the head of their drivers.

4. Researchers studying the spread of the Black Plague in sixteenth-century England claim that certain people survived the epidemic because they carried a genetic mutation, known as Delta-32, that is known to prevent the bacteria that causes the Plague from overtaking the immune system. To support this hypothesis, the researchers tested the direct descendants of the residents of an English town where an unusually large proportion of people survived the Plague. More than half of these descendants tested positive for the mutation Delta-32, a figure nearly three times higher than that found in other locations. *The researchers' hypothesis is based on which of the following assumptions?*
- Delta-32 does not prevent a carrier from contracting any disease other than the Plague.
 - The Plague is not similar to other diseases caused by bacteria.
 - Delta-32 did not exist in its current form until the sixteenth century.
 - No one who tested positive for Delta-32 has ever contracted a disease caused by bacteria.
 - The Plague does not cause genetic mutations such as Delta-32.
5. The popular notion that a tree's age can be determined by counting the number of internal rings in its trunk is generally true. However, to help regulate the internal temperature of the tree, the outermost layers of wood of the Brazilian ash often peel away when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, leaving the tree with fewer rings than it would otherwise have. So only if the temperature in the Brazilian ash's environment never exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit will its rings be a reliable measure of the tree's age. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above depends?*
- The growth of new rings in a tree is not a function of levels of precipitation.
 - Only the Brazilian ash loses rings because of excessive heat.
 - Only one day of temperatures above 95 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to cause the Brazilian ash to lose a ring.
 - The internal rings of all trees are of uniform thickness.
 - The number of rings that will be lost when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit is not predictable.
6. The Department of Homeland Security has proposed new federal requirements for driver's licenses that would allow them to be used as part of a national identification system. Using licenses for purposes not directly related to operating a motor vehicle is un-American because it would require U.S. citizens to carry the equivalent of "papers." Such a requirement would allow the government to restrict their movements and activities in the manner of totalitarian regimes. In time, this could make other limits on freedom acceptable. *The author assumes which of the following?*
- The next presidential election will be dishonest, as has happened in eastern European countries.
 - The government will soon start curtailing the activities of those it considers "dissidents."
 - Blanket restrictions on law-abiding individuals are contrary to the traditions of American culture and law.
 - The majority of Americans are not willing to give up their right to travel and move about without identification.
 - Americans should resist all government regulation of their lives.

7. Since the new publisher took control, a news magazine's covers have featured only models and movie stars. Previously, the covers had displayed only politicians, soldiers, and business leaders. A leading gossip columnist claimed that the changes made the magazine relevant again. However, many newspaper editorials disagreed and suggested that the new publisher is more interested in boosting sales than in reporting important news events. *Which of the following is an assumption necessary for the argument made by the gossip columnist's opponents?*
- The charitable activities of models and movie stars often focus public attention on pressing problems.
 - Final authority for choosing the cover subject of the magazine lies with the publisher.
 - A magazine can boost sales while highlighting the coverage of important world leaders.
 - Some of the movie stars featured are now running for political office.
 - Magazine issues with models or movie stars on the covers are purchased at a rate more than three times greater than is the case with issues featuring politicians on the covers.
8. In response to the increasing cost of producing energy through traditional means, such as combustion, many utility companies have begun investing in renewable energy sources, chiefly wind and solar power, hoping someday to rely on them completely and thus lower energy costs. The utility companies claim that although these sources require significant initial capital investment, they will provide stable energy supplies at low cost. As a result, these sources will be less risky for the utilities than nonrenewable sources, such as gas, oil, and coal, whose prices can fluctuate dramatically according to availability. *The claim of the utility companies presupposes which of the following?*
- The public will embrace the development of wind and solar power.
 - No new deposits of gas, oil, and coal will be discovered in the near future.
 - Weather patterns are consistent and predictable.
 - The necessary technology for conversion to wind and solar power is not more expensive than the technology needed to create energy through combustion.
 - Obtaining energy from nonrenewable sources, such as gas, oil and coal, cannot be made less risky.
9. Surveys consistently show that the best-selling ice cream flavor is vanilla, although those who prefer chocolate rarely order vanilla. Vanilla-flavored candy, then, probably sells better than chocolate-flavored candy. *Which of the following is an assumption upon which the author of the argument relies?*
- Because someone prefers vanilla ice cream does not mean he prefers vanilla-flavored candy.
 - Children who prefer vanilla ice cream also tend to like chocolate candy.
 - Those who prefer neither vanilla nor chocolate ice cream also prefer other flavors of candy.
 - Someone who prefers vanilla ice cream may still order chocolate on occasion.
 - Preferences for certain ice cream flavors are similar to preferences for candy flavors.
10. The media claim that the economy is entering a phase of growth and prosperity. They point to lower unemployment rates and increased productivity. This analysis is false, though. The number of people filing for bankruptcy has increased every month for the last six months, and bankruptcy lawyers report that they are busier than they have been in years. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?*
- Unemployment rates are not useful indicators of growth and prosperity.
 - Economic growth cannot be measured in terms of productivity.
 - Legislation has not been recently passed to make legal bankruptcy easier to obtain.
 - There has not been an increase in the number of bankruptcy lawyers.
 - The media often misrepresent the current state of economic affairs.

11. A newly discovered painting on wooden panel by Michelangelo must have been completed after 1507 but before 1509. It cannot have been painted earlier than 1507 because one of its central figures carries a coin that was not minted until that year. It cannot have been painted after 1509 because it contains a pigment that Michelangelo is known to have abandoned when a cheaper alternative became available in that year. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?*
- No stocks of the abandoned pigment existed after 1509.
 - Michelangelo did not work on the painting over the course of several years.
 - The coin depicted in the painting was known to general public in 1507.
 - The wooden panel on which the painting was executed cannot be tested accurately for age.
 - Michelangelo's painting style did not change between 1507 and 1509.
12. In order to save money, some of Company X's manufacturing plants converted from oil fuel to natural gas last year, when the cost of oil was more than the cost of natural gas. Because of a sudden, unexpected shortage, however, natural gas now costs more than oil, the price of which has fallen steeply over the past year. The cost of conversion back to oil would more than negate any cost savings in fuel. So Company X's fuel costs this year will be significantly higher than they were last year. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above depends?*
- Company X does not have money set aside for the increased costs of fuel.
 - The increase in the cost of fuel cannot be offset by reductions in other operating expenses.
 - The price of natural gas will never again fall below that of oil.
 - The cost of fuel needed by those of Company X's plants that converted to natural gas is not less than the cost of fuel needed by those plants still using oil.
 - The price of oil will not experience a sudden and steep increase.
13. Advertisement: Avian Oculars are the newest in binocular technology for the professional bird watcher. For a price comparable to that of traditional binoculars, Avian Oculars are specially designed with the features demanded by birding enthusiasts: they are lightweight, compact and extremely durable. So, use Avian Oculars on your next bird watching excursion, and see some of the world's rarest species in all of their beautiful plumage. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the author of the advertisement relies?*
- Avian Oculars weigh less than traditional binoculars.
 - Avian Oculars should be used only by bird watchers.
 - The reader will travel through the habitats of rare species during his or her next bird watching trip.
 - Avian Oculars are similar in cost to traditional binoculars.
 - Birding enthusiasts often determine the specifications of new products.
14. Every year many people become ill because of airborne mold spores in their homes. After someone becomes ill, specialists are often hired to eradicate the mold. These specialists look in damp areas of the house, since mold is almost always found in places where there is substantial moisture. If one wishes to avoid mold poisoning, then, one should make sure to keep all internal plumbing in good condition to prevent leakage that could serve as a breeding ground for mold. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?*
- Mold itself does not create moisture.
 - Most homeowners know enough about plumbing to determine whether theirs is in good condition.
 - Mold cannot grow in dry areas.
 - No varieties of mold are harmless.
 - Mold spores cannot be filtered from the air.

15. The legislature of the Philippines voted recently to abolish the death penalty. In contrast, the death penalty remains legal in the United States. The difference in the legality of capital punishment demonstrates that the majority of American citizens believe in the death penalty, while the majority of Filipino citizens do not. *Which of the following is an assumption upon which the above argument depends?*
- There are more murders per year in the United States than in the Philippines.
 - The legal status of capital punishment in the United States and the Philippines aligns with how the majority of citizens in those respective countries view the death penalty.
 - There are not strong voices opposing the death penalty in the United States.
 - Most American citizens who believe in the death penalty think that it acts as a deterrent for potential criminals, while most Filipino citizens do not.
 - The legal standard used to determine whether a criminal should be sentenced to the death penalty in the United States is similar to the legal standard used in the Philippines before capital punishment was abolished there.
16. Smoking is a known cause of certain serious health problems, including emphysema and lung cancer. Now, an additional concern can be added to the list of maladies caused by smoking. A recent study surveyed both smokers and nonsmokers, and found that smokers are significantly more anxious and nervous than nonsmokers. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument rests?*
- Anxiety and nervousness can lead to serious health problems.
 - Anxiety and nervousness do not make individuals more likely to start smoking.
 - Equivalent numbers of smokers and nonsmokers were surveyed for the study.
 - Smokers are aware of the various health problems attributed to smoking, including lung cancer and emphysema.
 - Smokers who had smoked a cigarette immediately before responding to the survey were more anxious and nervous than smokers who had not smoked for several hours.
17. Over the past 5 years, Company X has posted double-digit growth in annual revenues, combined with a substantial improvement in operating margins. Since this growth is likely to persist in the future, the stock of Company X will soon experience dramatic appreciation. *The argument above is based on which of the following assumptions?*
- Company X has a large market share in its industry.
 - Prior to the last 5 years, Company X had experienced similarly dramatic growth in sales associated with stable or improving operating margins.
 - The growth of Company X is likely to persist in the future.
 - The current price of the stock of Company X does not fully reflect the promising growth prospects of the firm.
 - The stock of Company X will outperform other stocks in the same industry.

18. Antoine: The alarming fact is that among children aged 19 years and younger, the number taking antipsychotic medicines soared 73 percent in the last four years. That is greater than the increase in the number of adults taking antipsychotic medicines during the same period.
Lucy: But the use of antipsychotic drugs by adults is considered normal at the current rate of 11 adults per 1,000 taking the drugs. In contrast, the number of children on antipsychotic medication last year was 6.6 per 1,000 children. *Lucy's argument relies on the assumption that*
- _____.
 - normal levels of antipsychotic drug use are rarely exceeded.
 - the percentage of adults taking antipsychotic medication is always higher than the percentage of children on such medication.
 - the use of antipsychotic medication in children is no different from the use of such medications in adults.
 - Antoine is not consciously distorting the statistics he presents.
 - a rapid increase in the number of children taking antipsychotic drugs generates more fear of random violence by adolescents than does knowledge of the absolute number of children on such medications.
19. A recent article stated that only 5.5% of American colleges grant the majority of their degrees in the liberal arts. Citing this, a reader wrote to lament that this was further evidence of the decline of academic rigor in American post high school education. *Which of the following is an assumption on the part of the reader?*
- The percentage of American colleges granting liberal arts degrees would continue to drop.
 - All colleges should grant the majority of their degrees in the liberal arts.
 - Most post-secondary scientific, engineering, and vocational training does not involve as much academic rigor as liberal arts training.
 - Academic rigor is the most important aspect of post high school education.
 - Of the colleges that do not grant the majority of their degrees in the liberal arts, many granted fewer than a quarter of their degrees in the liberal arts.
20. Doctor: Research shows that adolescents who play video games on a regular basis are three times as likely to develop carpal tunnel syndrome as are adolescents who do not play video games. Federal legislation that prohibits the sale of video games to minors would help curb this painful wrist condition among adolescents. *The doctor's conclusion depends on which of the following assumptions?*
- The majority of federal legislators would vote for a bill that prohibits the sale of video games to minors.
 - Not all adolescents who play video games on a regular basis suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome.
 - Playing video games is the only way an adolescent can develop carpal tunnel syndrome.
 - Most parents would refuse to purchase video games for their adolescent children.
 - The regular playing of video games by adolescents does not produce such beneficial effects as better hand-eye coordination and improved reaction time.

21. Company X receives most of its revenues from the sale of gasoline through a network of gas stations that it owns across the country. The company purchases ready-for-sale gasoline from several oil refineries at wholesale prices and sells it to the final consumer at its gas stations. Over the next quarter, the management of Company X expects that the market price of gasoline will rise by approximately 10 percent. Therefore, the management projects that the next quarter's revenues from the sale of gasoline will also increase by approximately 10 percent. *The management's projection is based on which of the following assumptions?*
- Consumption of gasoline at the company's gas stations will not drop in response to higher prices.
 - Company profits will not decline below their current level.
 - Higher gasoline prices will not reduce the company's revenues from other business lines.
 - The costs of gasoline purchased by the company for subsequent sale at its gas stations will remain relatively constant.
 - The supply of gasoline is likely to decline over the next quarter.
22. An oil field prospector and developer reported a large oil deposit in southwestern Texas. As a result, a large oil and gas company purchased the field with the intention of drilling oil wells in the area soon afterwards. However, the company found that what had been reported to be a large oil deposit was actually much smaller than had been indicated. Thus, the methods that the prospector had used to determine the size of the oil deposit must have been inaccurate. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?*
- The company's methods of measuring the size of the oil deposit were determined by a third party to be more accurate than those used by the prospector.
 - The prospector did not purposefully fabricate or misrepresent the size of the oil deposit.
 - Though smaller than originally thought, the oil deposit contained enough oil to make drilling commercially feasible.
 - The prospector did not explore other oil fields and use the same methods to determine the magnitude of the oil present, if any.
 - The company had successfully drilled for oil in other large oil fields in Texas throughout the early twentieth century.
23. Parent: The city education department is unable to distinguish between annoyances and important problems. For instance, prohibiting students from having cell phones is an overreaction. If a student uses one and thus interferes with instruction, confiscate it. All in all, we need educational leadership that can solve problems, not create them. *Which of the following is an assumption made by the parent?*
- Students having cell phones does not constitute an important problem for the city schools.
 - Students have no need for cell phones in school.
 - Faculty and staff should be allowed to possess cell phones.
 - Students need to have cell phones because some of them have no stay-at-home parent.
 - An interest in solving problems is the most important attribute of an educational leader.

24. The Ergonomic Society conducted a study that indicated that many people develop severe back problems during adulthood, and that virtually all such people who received chiropractic treatment showed great improvement. Therefore, in order to minimize the proportion of the population that suffers from back pain, the Ergonomic Society recommended that chiropractic treatment be directed toward those adults who suffer from severe back problems. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?*
- Any person who receives chiropractic treatment for back pain may also benefit from other forms of treatment.
 - Large insurance carriers cover chiropractic care for back problems to a lesser degree than they do other medical treatments.
 - Individuals who receive chiropractic or other treatment prior to developing severe back problems are not less likely to develop back pain than those who do not.
 - Chiropractic treatment is more effective in treating severe back problems when utilized over a long period of time, as opposed to sporadically.
 - Severe back pain and other problems often cause individuals to miss workdays.
25. Since the new publisher took control, a news magazine's covers have featured only models and movie stars. Previously, the covers had displayed only politicians, soldiers, and business leaders. A leading gossip columnist claimed that the changes made the magazine relevant again. However, many newspaper editorials disagreed and suggested that the new publisher is more interested in boosting sales than in reporting important news events. *Which of the following is an assumption necessary for the argument made by the gossip columnist's opponents?*
- The charitable activities of models and movie stars often focus public attention on pressing problems.
 - Final authority for choosing the cover subject of the magazine lies with the publisher.
 - A magazine can boost sales while highlighting the coverage of important world leaders.
 - Some of the movie stars featured are now running for political office.
 - Magazine issues with models or movie stars on the covers are purchased at a rate more than three times greater than is the case with issues featuring politicians on the covers.
26. For-profit colleges serve far fewer students than either public or private non-profit colleges. At the same time, relative to non-profit colleges, for-profit colleges draw a disproportionate share of federal and state financial aid, such as tuition grants and guaranteed loans, for their students. It must be, then, that for-profit colleges enroll a greater proportion of financially disadvantaged students than do non-profit colleges. *The conclusion above depends on which of the following assumptions?*
- Public non-profit colleges and private non-profit colleges enroll a similar proportion of financially disadvantaged students.
 - For-profit colleges do not engage in fraudulent practices in helping their students obtain unneeded federal and state financial aid.
 - The number of students receiving federal and state financial aid at for-profit colleges is greater than the number of students receiving federal and state financial aid at non-profit colleges.
 - For-profit colleges are of similar educational quality as non-profit colleges.
 - The majority of students at for-profit colleges do not default on repayment of their loans after they complete college.

27. Recent research has indicated that married people are not only happier than unmarried people, but also healthier. This study has been widely reported by the media, with most commentators concluding that being married is good for one's health and attitude. *The conclusion of the media commentators depends on which of the following assumptions?*
- The longer people are married, the happier and healthier they become.
 - Married couples who had a large, extravagant wedding are happier than those who had a small, simple ceremony.
 - Married people cannot get depressed.
 - Single people with depression or health problems are just as likely to get married as are other single people.
 - Some marriages are more harmonious than others.
28. Country X imposes heavy tariffs on imported manufactured goods. Company Y has determined that it could increase its profits in the long term by opening a factory in Country X to manufacture the goods that it currently produces in its home country for sale in Country X. *For Company Y's determination to be true, which of the following assumptions must also be true?*
- Company Y will be able to obtain all the necessary permits to open a factory in Country X.
 - Company Y currently produces no goods outside its home country.
 - A sustainable market for Company Y's goods currently exists in Country X.
 - Company Y's home country does not impose tariffs on imported goods.
 - Labor costs in Country X are lower than those in Company Y's home country.
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30. When a company refuses to allow other companies to produce patented technology, the consumer invariably loses. The company that holds the patent can charge exorbitant prices because there is no direct competition. When the patent expires, other companies are free to manufacture the technology and prices fall. Companies should therefore allow other manufacturers to license patented technology. *The argument above presupposes which of the following?*
- Companies cannot find legal ways to produce technology similar to patented technology.
 - Companies have an obligation to act in the best interest of the consumer.
 - Too many patents are granted to companies that are unwilling to share them.
 - The consumer can tell the difference between patented technology and inferior imitations.
 - Consumers care more about price than about quality.

31. Inorganic pesticides remain active on the surfaces of fruits and vegetables for several days after spraying, while organic pesticides dissipate within a few hours after application, leaving the surface of the sprayed produce free of pesticide residue. Therefore, when purchasing from a farm that uses inorganic pesticides, one must be careful to wash the produce thoroughly before eating it to prevent the ingestion of toxins. But one need not worry about ingesting pesticides when purchasing from farms that use only organic pesticides. *The argument above assumes that*
- Consumers are aware of the origins of the produce they purchase.
 - Produce from farms that use organic pesticides reaches the consumer within hours after it is picked or harvested.
 - No farm uses both organic and inorganic pesticides.
 - No pesticide is capable of penetrating the skin of a fruit or vegetable.
 - The use of either type of pesticide does not increase the cost of produce.
32. The downturn in the economy last year has prompted many companies to make widely publicized layoffs, resulting in thousands of lost jobs. Economists predicted that these layoffs would cause people generally to cut back on their discretionary spending, even if their jobs were secure, in anticipation of coming hard times. However, this prediction has not come to pass, since there has been no increase in the amount of money set aside by the general public in savings accounts. *Which one of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?*
- The economy has not improved in recent months.
 - There has been no increase in the amount of money invested in stocks, certificates of deposit, or other savings vehicles.
 - Salaries have decreased as a result of the economic downturn.
 - No business sectors have seen growth in recent months.
 - Those who were laid off have been able to find other employment.
33. Because most hospitals suffer a chronic undersupply of physicians, patients must sometimes wait hours in the emergency room to see a doctor. Nurses should therefore perform initial examinations in hospital emergency rooms to determine which patients merit immediate treatment and which can wait until the emergency physicians have more time to see them. *Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above is based?*
- Hospitals should expand their medical staffs.
 - Physicians cannot be trained to perform initial examinations themselves.
 - Emergency rooms will run more smoothly if initial examinations are performed.
 - Hospitals are always fully staffed with nurses.
 - Nurses are competent to judge the severity of patients' conditions.
34. Scientists have discovered a new species of butterfly that lives only in a small region of Central America and is active only at night. During the day, it rests in treetops, where its green color matches the foliage perfectly. Therefore, the scientists must have discovered the butterfly at night. **The argument depends on which of the following assumptions?**
- The newly discovered butterfly is not related to any other species of butterfly.
 - There is no way for the scientists to detect the butterfly during the day.
 - No other butterfly species lives in this region of Central America.
 - The foliage in the butterfly's habitat is completely green.
 - The butterfly cannot survive in areas outside of Central America.