

1.3061

Concerned about various forms of workplace harassment, a city attorney's office instituted a publicity campaign last year encouraging victims of such harassment to come forward and file reports of the harassment. During the year following the inception of the publicity campaign, the frequency of harassment reports filed with the city attorney's office tripled. The publicity campaign has therefore been successful in its goal to raise awareness and reduce the frequency of harassment in the workplace.

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

- ☐ The increase in harassment complaints has consisted almost exclusively of additional complaints of racial harassment; complaints of other varieties of harassment have not increased significantly.
- ☐ Although the number of complaints has tripled, the number of complaints that have resulted in financial penalties for the harassers has not increased significantly.
- ☐ Many individuals who have brought complaints within the past year were previously unaware that the behavior to which they had been subjected was regarded legally as harassment.
- ☐ The city attorney's office is not permitted to release details of any complaints to the companies involved, to the courts, or to the general public.
- ☐ The city attorney's office originally instituted the campaign in response to falling numbers of workplace harassment complaints.

2.30603.3033Joe: Many large, intricate, and precise geometric patterns called "crop circles" consisting of flattened plants in a field of corn or other grains have mysteriously appeared from time to time on farms in both the United States and the United Kingdom. The appearance of these crop circles is usually preceded by strange lights in the sky and no human has ever been caught in the act of creating one of these patterns. These crop circles must be the product of aliens from outer space.

Steve: Maybe they are a means of communication for some weird secret society. Or perhaps they are all part of an elaborate hoax by college fraternities. In any case, I seriously doubt that these crop circles are the product of extra-terrestrial beings.

Steve responds to Joe's conclusion by _____

- ☐ suggesting alternatives that disprove Joe's conclusion
- ☐ assuming that Joe's conclusion cannot be correct
- ☐ negating the validity of a premise upon which Joe relies in drawing his conclusion
- ☐ offering alternative explanations consistent with the evidence that Joe cites
- ☐ attacking Joe's conclusion as inconsistent with the available evidence

4.2986 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. To minimize the risk of mold poisoning in the home, 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.

5.2981 Stoneville Council Member: The number of police officers per one thousand residents is substantially higher in Stoneville than in any other town or city in the same region, and Stoneville does not have higher CRIME rates than average. Considering that Stoneville's government has been running a substantial deficit for the past few years, Stoneville should reduce the size of its police force to help balance the budget. Stoneville currently employs more police officers than it needs, and so such an action would have little collateral impact on public safety.

Knowing the answer to which of the following would be most useful in evaluating the the council member's plan?

- ☐ Are Stoneville's police officers paid more than their counterparts in the region's other cities and towns?
- ☐ Over the past few years, has Stoneville's police department attempted to increase its efficiency or reduce its internal operating costs?
- ☐ Does Stoneville's unusually large police presence act as a deterrent to CRIME?
- ☐ Is Stoneville's population significantly higher than that of the other towns and cities in the region?
- ☐ Has the CRIME rate increased over the last ten years in the cities and towns surrounding Stoneville?

6.2980 For each of the past two years, major department stores have reported a nearly 50% increase in their sales of men's clothing manufactured by Zachary, Inc., a result that is all the more surprising because the sales of most other brands of men's clothing have been depressed

over the same period. Nevertheless, even Zachary, Inc. does not appear to have emerged unscathed from the overall trend: despite the aforementioned increase, Zachary, Inc. has reported a slight decline in overall sales in each of the past two years.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the surprising result above?

- ☐ The sales of clothing at Zachary, Inc.'s boutique stores, which, unlike department stores, are owned and operated by the company itself, have held steady over the last two years.
- ☐ Two years ago, Zachary, Inc. began an ambitious new advertising campaign; in each of the last two years, the company's advertising department has overspent its planned budget by almost half.
- ☐ Zachary, Inc. is renowned for the quality of its fabrics, and sells large quantities of fabric to other manufacturers of men's clothing.
- ☐ Zachary, Inc. formerly manufactured leather accessories and women's clothing in addition to men's clothing, but, for the past three years, the company has produced only men's clothing.
- ☐ In the last two years, the percentage of Zachary, Inc.'s clothing sold by department stores at discounted prices has been unusually high, a result that analysts have blamed on the sluggish economy.

7.2979 Which of the following most logically COMPLETES the passage?

Legislator: Recently, the state's small-business association proposed a plan to allow small (as defined by law) retail establishments to deduct the cost of unsold inventory from their tax liability. The association's spokesperson emphasized that, since smaller businesses have less money with which to purchase inventory, the proposed measure would help those smaller retailers remain competitive with their larger counterparts. Nevertheless, in practical terms, fair enforcement of the plan would be infeasible, because _____.

- ☐ several new state employees would have to be hired to audit the new deductions
- ☐ it is not possible to distinguish unsold inventory from the store proprietors' personal purchases
- ☐ stores would have to repay the deducted amount of tax if they sold the inventory in question at a later date
- ☐ the threshold of sales below which a business legally qualifies legally as "small" was set by the state legislature in response to a different proposal
- ☐ small businesses are less likely than their larger counterparts to have computerized or otherwise automated inventory systems

8.2977 Workshop instructor: Sewing leather is, in many respects, simpler than sewing fabric. For instance, pieces of fabric must be sewn together so that the "bias," the direction in which the fabric stretches most, matches throughout the final product; this consideration is irrelevant for leather. Furthermore, if fabric is not pressed before it is sewn, the final product is liable to

"pucker" or to lie unevenly; leather, on the other hand, does not need to be pressed. Nevertheless, it is inadvisable for novice sewers to begin sewing leather until they have mastered the basic skills of sewing using fabric.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the instructor's contention?

- ☐ To be used for sewing leather, most sewing machines must be fitted with a new attachment, which is inexpensive but usually must be purchased separately.
- ☐ Many garments that can be sewn with fabric cannot, for either practical or aesthetic reasons, be sewn with leather.
- ☐ Fabric is available in a much larger variety of weights, COLORS👉, and textures than is leather.
- ☐ When stitches are removed, as in the case of errors, they leave permanent, visible perforations in leather but not in fabric.
- ☐ While leather can be stitched in any direction, fabric must be stitched in particular directions to prevent undesirable stretching or WRINKLING👉 of the final product.

9.2955 Over the past few years, retailers in the town of Statesville have suffered from decreasing sales, largely because increasing numbers of consumers, after seeing items in stock at those retailers' stores, have opted instead to purchase those items on the Internet. As a result, Statesville's local government revenues have been impacted as well. To MAKE UP👉 the lost revenue, Statesville's mayor has proposed legislation that would require Internet retailers to charge and remit local sales taxes on all orders shipped to addresses in Statesville, at the same tax rate assessed on purchases in physical stores. If this legislation is enacted, the mayor reasons, Statesville will be able to bring its revenue back up to the level of a few years ago.

All of the following, if true, cast doubt on the mayor's conclusion EXCEPT

- ☐ Because they do not need to rent or maintain physical showrooms, Internet retailers generally charge substantially lower prices for most items than do physical stores.
- ☐ The vast majority of Statesville's residents have at least one trusted friend or family member who lives in one of the smaller towns surrounding Statesville and whom they would trust to RECEIVE👉 their packages.
- ☐ Statesville's retail stores have been consistently considered the best in the county, and consequently draw a lot of shoppers from other towns.
- ☐ Over the next few years, the Statesville area is likely to experience a severe recession, which could reduce consumer spending by as much as 40 percent.
- ☐ Administering the proposed tax will increase the cost of doing business for Internet retailers, who will then pass the increased cost on to consumers in the form of slight markups on the price of merchandise.

10.2954 Profits for one of Company X's flagship products have been declining slowly for several years. The CFO investigated and determined that inflation has raised the cost of producing the product but consumers who were surveyed reported that they felt the product's functionality didn't justify a higher price. As a result, the CFO recommended that the company stop producing this product because the CEO only wants products whose profit margins are increasing.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most useful in evaluating whether the CFO's decision to divest the company of its flagship product is WARRANTED?

- ☐ Does the company have new and profitable products available with which to replace the flagship product?
- ☐ Will the rest of Company X's management team agree with the CFO's recommendation?
- ☐ Can Company X sell the flagship product to new markets to increase its customer base?
- ☐ Are there additional features that could be added to the product without raising the unit price?
- ☐ What percentage of Company X's revenues is represented by sales of the flagship product in question?

11.2950 Garment industry representative: Women's pants are usually sized according to the circumference of the wearer's natural waist – the narrowest part of her torso, located roughly at the height of her navel. For instance, a pair of women's pants tagged size 29 is designed to fit the average woman with a 29-inch natural waist.

CONSULTANT: But then the sizing number is not an actual measurement of the pants themselves. If a pair of pants is tagged size 29, then no dimension of the pants themselves will necessarily measure 29 inches. The current sizing system is thus likely to be more confusing for consumers than, say, a system in which sizes are numbered according to the waistband circumference of the pants themselves. Garment industry representative: You are correct that the size number does not necessarily represent an actual dimension of the pants. However, your proposed sizing system would lead to substantially more confusion than the current one. Which of the following, if true, supports the garment industry representative's position and also undermines the consultant's argument?

- ☐ Most consumers are quick to learn the sizing systems of their preferred brands, regardless of how counterintuitive or unusual they may find those systems at first.
- ☐ Many shoppers will measure their favorite pairs of pants at home before a shopping trip, so that they can quickly evaluate the fit of unfamiliar brands of pants without having to try them on.

- Even when wearing identical brands and styles of pants, some women prefer a tighter fit, while other women with similar bodies prefer a looser fit; moreover, a given woman's preferences often vary unpredictably from style to style within the same brand.
- Many women find smaller size numbers psychologically appealing and, when choosing among identically sized garments, are more likely to buy those tagged with smaller size numbers.
- Different styles of women's pants are worn with their waistbands at widely varying heights, some as high as the wearer's natural waist and some as low as the wearer's hipbone.

12.2941 The climbing season of 2006 was the deadliest on record for those attempting to conquer Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain, as more people perished attempting to reach the summit in 2006 than in any other year. Almost all of these deaths occurred in the unforgiving "death-zone" above 26,000 feet. Oddly, though, the 2006 season enjoyed exceptionally ideal climbing weather compared to more typical years.

All of the following, if true, help explain the apparent contradiction in the above passage EXCEPT

- The warmer the weather, the more likely it is that crevasses (deep holes) will open up unexpectedly in the ice.
- In 2006, fewer climbing teams than usual were forced to turn back at some point during the ascent prior to reaching the "death-zone."
- The number of amateur climbers who reached the "death-zone" increased steadily during the early 2000s, peaking in 2006.
- In 2006, authorities suspended climbs due to inclement weather on fewer days than the average for more typical years.
- Although the 2006 season overall enjoyed ideal weather conditions, the one unexpected major storm was one of the worst on record

13.2924 A group of experimental subjects participated in an "intermittent fasting" study, under which they ate all of their food for the day within six hours of waking up. The subjects consumed the same number of calories as they normally did throughout an entire day and did not change their **EXERCISE** patterns. Nearly all of the subjects lost a significant amount of weight during the study. It can thus be concluded that eating all of one's food within a relatively short period of time causes the body to burn more calories.

Which of the following must be assumed for the argument above to be valid?

- The most important time for a meal, from the standpoint of WEIGHT MANAGEMENT, is early in the day.
- Intermittent fasting protocols are safe and free of major side effects, even when pursued for long periods of time.
- People are unable to consume as many calories within an interval of a few hours as they can over the course of an entire day
- People eating on an intermittent-fasting protocol will not feel substantially hungrier than those who space out their meals more regularly.
- The body does not generally BURN CALORIES faster when food is eaten earlier in a person's waking hours than when it is eaten later.

14.2922 Newtronix, a technology company that sells only one product, recently raised prices on its signature product, the ePod. Analysts had predicted that increased prices would translate into higher profits for Newtronix. However, Newtronix saw its profits decline after the price increase.

Each of the following, if true, is convincing as an explanation for the decline in Newtronix's profit EXCEPT

- Newtronix's market share has declined since the price increase.
- A recent patent dispute led to the ban of sales of ePods in several countries.
- Materials necessary to the production of a necessary component of the ePod recently went up in price.
- The average customer purchased fewer ePods as a result of the price increase, while the number of customers purchasing ePods remained the same.
- The government imposed higher taxes on Newtronix just prior to the price increase.

15.2921 Joanne: An increasing number of online retailers now allow customers to create "wish lists" of items they would like to RECEIVE as gifts. Such lists are certainly useful, but these retailers should also explore other ways to suggest gift purchases for these customers. In particular, without revealing the specifics of a customer's purchase history, a website could quickly analyze a retailer's entire inventory, select a list of items similar to those the customer has already purchased, and then e-mail that list to a group of contacts specified by the customer. Such a system would suggest gifts that, because of their similarity to the customer's prior purchases, would be extremely likely to appeal to the customer.

In the argument, Joanne assumes that the hypothetical customers

- are familiar with most or all of the items in stock on the websites where they shop
- would prefer novel gifts that are unlike the items they currently own

- ☐ do not use retail websites primarily to purchase gifts
- ☐ would be relatively unconcerned if their retail purchase histories were available to others
- ☐ prefer online shopping to shopping in physical retail stores