

1.2841Country X contains many rivers that flow down from its high mountains. These rivers have been dammed to harness the hydroelectric power that can be derived from this resource. Enough power is generated to create a reserve that is more than enough to meet the country's year-round energy needs. Yet, citizens of Country X often experience power shortages or even outages.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the situation described above?

- ☐ The flow of the rivers is heavier in the spring than at other times of year.
- ☐ Citizens of Country X rely heavily on electronic appliances in their homes.
- ☐ Country X has not invested in alternate sources of energy.
- ☐ Most of the electricity generated in Country X is sold to other countries.
- ☐ Some of the most powerful rivers in Country X have yet to be dammed.

2.2920In the city of Cantville, a high school earns the “Young Women in Science” award for a given year if at least ten of its **FEMALE** students participate in that year's state science exposition. Last year, 80 percent of all high schools in Cantville's District 1 earned this award, while only 63 percent of all high schools in the city's District 2 earned the same award. Furthermore, these percentages have remained at or near those respective levels throughout the entire twelve years since the award was instituted. It is clear, then, that the high schools in District 1 do a better job of encouraging girls to pursue science than do the high schools in District 2.

Which of the following is assumed in the argument above?

- ☐ Students in District 1 have more free time to pursue science projects than do students in District 2.
- ☐ The overall population of District 1 is not substantially larger than that of District 2.
- ☐ The average high school in in District 2 does not have more students than does the average high school in District 1.
- ☐ District 1 does not have significantly fewer all-male high schools than does District 2.
- ☐ School is the primary source of encouragement for students' pursuit of science.

3.2896John: In several months of going to the Apex **HEALTH CLUB** almost every day in the early-morning hours, I have seen almost no one using the weight-training equipment designed to help increase muscle mass. Almost everyone uses only aerobic exercise machines, which are designed to help people burn fat. The Blown company is best known for dietary supplement products aimed at people trying to **GAIN MUSCLE MASS**, so Blown's plan to advertise just outside of the entrance to Apex **HEALTH CLUB** is ill-conceived.

Each of the following, if true, weakens John's argument EXCEPT

- Most of Apex HEALTH CLUB'S members work in nearby buildings whose exercise rooms contain aerobic exercise machines of higher quality than those at the club.
- Most members of Apex Health Club are aware that weight training is generally ineffective for individuals who have not consumed a pre-training meal 3 to 4 hours beforehand, while FAT-BURNING exercise is most effective after eight or more hours of fasting.
- Many members of Apex Health Club who do not train with weights share a household with people who are trying to increase muscle mass.
- Customers of a nearby store that specializes in weight-training equipment must walk past the entrance of Apex Health Club to enter the store.
- Blown has recently begun to produce fat-burning products aimed at aerobic exercisers.

4.2895 In a certain UNIVERSITY COURSE, some of the students took their own handwritten notes on the lectures, while others studied from a printed set of notes written by the course instructor; no student used both kinds of notes. The students who took their own notes performed substantially better on the course exams than did those who used the notes written by the instructor. Clearly, the students' own notes must have been more complete or easier to understand than the instructor's, or else the students who took their own notes were simply those who were more motivated to do well in the course.

Which of the following statements, if true, most weakens the argument in the passage above?

- In other classes at the same university, students who both wrote their own notes and used the pre-printed instructor notes were among the highest-performing students on class exams.
- The exams were not written by the course instructor.
- Studies have shown that the physical act of note-taking aids in the recall of what is noted, even for those who never review the notes.
- The instructor's notes were written in language that was so florid and wordy as to make the points difficult for students to comprehend.
- Students in the course were not allowed to refer to any notes, whether their own or the instructor's, while taking the course exams.

5.2894 A recent study of people who had successfully lost weight and implemented regular EXERCISE routines in their twenties found that, by the age of forty, most had gained back the weight, stopped exercising regularly, or both. Surprisingly, among the study's subjects

who had hired personal trainers to help them lose weight and exercise in their twenties, an even higher percentage had regained the weight or stopped exercising than among subjects who had not hired such trainers. The researchers concluded not only that remaining on an effective weight management and EXERCISE PROGRAM is difficult, but also that personal trainers are largely ineffective in helping people to remain on an effective weight management and EXERCISE PROGRAM.

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

- ☐ Subjects in the study who had hired personal trainers had, on average, more free time to exercise than did those who had not hired such trainers.
- ☐ Some people hire personal trainers for sport-specific training or to rehabilitate injuries, rather than to lose weight or implement a regular exercise program.
- ☐ The average person's metabolism SLOWS significantly between the ages of thirty and forty, making it more difficult for people aged forty or older to avoid weight gain.
- ☐ Many of the personal trainers hired by the people in the study were also dietitians who helped their clients design meal plans.
- ☐ Most people who hire personal trainers do so, at least in part, because they lack sufficient motivation to remain on a diet or exercise regimen by themselves.

6.2893Adoption agency representative: It is true that eight of our last ten babies have been placed with parents who were personally acquainted with at least one of our staff members before initiating the adoption process. However, there is no truth to the accusation against us of favoritism; our decisions have been guided solely by the best interests of the children. INDEED, all ten babies' new parents far surpassed the adoption criteria set both by the law and by our own policy.

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

- ☐ The agency's prior placements of babies with parents who were previously acquainted with its staff have not, in general, been more successful than those with parents unacquainted with the staff.
- ☐ Of those prospective parents who substantially surpassed the criteria for adoption, most were personally acquainted with agency staff before beginning the application process.
- ☐ For a time period equal in duration to that during which the data were collected, the average number of babies placed by the agency is close to ten.
- ☐ Most prospective parents who APPLY to adopt babies do not meet the agency's criteria for adoption.
- ☐ The agency will only place babies with parents who not only meet the legal and institutional criteria for adoption, but who in fact surpass those criteria.

7.2889Xycorp plans to develop an innovative new video game involving extremely realistic three-dimensional simulations of hand-to-hand combat. The cost of developing and refining the relevant technology, however, is prohibitive for Xycorp, so the company must look to outside sources for funding. The military will only fund the development of technologies that pertain directly to military training or operations, so it is clear that Xycorp will have to look for funding from non-military sources.

Which of the following is assumed in drawing the conclusion above?

- ☐ The market for video games such as Xycorp's proposed product will not expand markedly in the near future.
- ☐ Xycorp's development project will be so costly that only large organizations, such as the military, will be able to provide sufficient funding for it.
- ☐ In originally conceiving the idea for the new video game, the developers at Xycorp were not inspired by actual, historical military operations.
- ☐ The military will not use the new gaming technology to train recruits in hand-to-hand combat.
- ☐ The military does not stay abreast of non-military technological developments such as video games.

8.2888

Footwear designer John de los Santos last year released several limited editions of his best-known model of sneaker in exotic **COLORS** and prints. Although the new releases were priced substantially higher than their counterparts in more traditional colors, they sold out within a week of their release, and have since been selling on the resale market for up to four times the original price. The cost of producing the sneakers in exotic prints is no greater than that of producing them in more traditional colors, so de los Santos could earn a higher profit per unit by producing a greater percentage of his sneakers in such prints.

Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?

- ☐ The designers who compete most directly with de los Santos will not produce similar lines of limited-edition sneakers in the near future.
- ☐ Consumers' willingness to pay higher prices for the exotic sneakers was not influenced by the relative scarcity of those sneakers.
- ☐ De los Santos's customer base is not shifting in the direction of younger consumers who prefer bolder styles.
- ☐ De los Santos's sneakers are not priced substantially higher than those of the designers who compete most directly with him.

- The workmanship of de los Santos's sneakers is of such high quality that it is impossible for lower-budget shoemakers to produce counterfeit versions of them.

9.2887

Each bank in the town of La Rinconada has only a single set of locking doors at its entrance. In the town of Inverness, on the other hand, the entrances to nearly all banks are equipped with two consecutive sets of locking doors, operated by a mechanism that allows only one set of doors to be open at a time. It is clear, then, that banks in Inverness experience more robbery attempts than do those in La Rinconada, and have thus adopted the extra doors as a security measure.

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

- Last year the number of bank robberies in La Rinconada was almost one-half greater than the corresponding figure for the previous year.
- Inverness is known for its harsh winters, while the climate of La Rinconada is quite mild year-round.
- The mechanism of the double doors used by banks in Inverness allows bank security personnel to lock the doors remotely.
- Bank robbery attempts are typically unsuccessful, and, even when the robbers do manage to escape with stolen money, the sum is usually quite small.
- Inverness has almost twice as many police officers per capita as does La Rinconada.

10.2886

Many banks have a drive-through automated teller machine, built into the wall flanking the DRIVER'S side of a narrow aisle. Even though blind people obviously do not drive, these machines nonetheless invariably feature Braille – the system of raised dots used by the blind for reading and writing – in addition to the standard letters and numerals on their control panels.

Which of the following, if true, does the most to explain the situation described?

- In most automobiles, the rear windows on the DRIVER'S side only roll down about halfway.
- Moderately visually impaired people who are still allowed to drive typically do not use Braille to read or write.
- Blind people can often read Braille just as quickly and accurately as sighted people can read regular writing.
- The embossing technique used to form the raised dots does not typically add much to the overall cost of the automated teller machine.

- In order to maximize profits per unit, manufacturers produce only a single model of automated teller machine.

11.2884

In a certain country, INSURANCE COMPANIES pay only a fixed percentage – set by law and uniform across all INSURANCE COMPANIES – of the fees actually billed by healthcare providers. Patients without INSURANCE coverage, however, are legally responsible for the full amount of those fees. If the fixed percentage set for INSURANCE COMPANIES is changed, healthcare providers will adjust their fees so that the INSURANCE COMPANIES pay the same dollar amount that they would have paid before the change.

The information given most strongly supports which of the following general claims about the country described?

- If the percentage prescribed by law for INSURANCE companies is decreased, private patients without insurance coverage will pay more for healthcare services.
- The dollar amount paid by insurance companies to healthcare providers will not change unless the legally specified percentage is changed.
- If the number of patients without insurance coverage grows beyond the number of patients covered by insurance, healthcare providers will adjust their billing practices according to the needs of those patients.
- If an economic recession causes the healthcare industry to suffer, the legally prescribed percentage paid by insurance companies will be increased.
- Acquiring insurance coverage, if possible, would be a sound economic decision for any patient.

12.2876

In a recent psychological survey, participants aged 40 to 60 were asked to name the song that had made the greatest emotional impact on their lives. Remarkably, in 86 percent of cases, the participant named a song that was popular when he or she was between thirteen and seventeen years old. Clearly, music has an inherently greater emotional effect on teenagers than on people of other ages.

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

- All of the other questions asked during the survey centered around the participants' teenage years.
- People are more likely to have deeper emotional responses to life events, and to associate contemporaneous songs with those events, during the teenage years than at other times of

life.

- ☐ People tend to retain and recall emotionally infused memories with greater depth, detail, and accuracy than other memories.
- ☐ People tend to listen to a much greater number of songs during the teenage years than at other times of life.
- ☐ Most of the songs cited by the survey respondents retained their popularity for twenty or more years.

13.2874

The subway system in New City has recently been running a severe budget deficit. Analysts have concluded that, to avoid a crisis, subway revenues must increase by 50% from the current level, beginning with the coming quarter. Subway riders are currently charged a flat fare per ride; the chairperson of New City's transit authority has concluded that a 50% increase in this fare, effective at the beginning of the coming quarter, will be sufficient to avert any crisis.

Each of the following, if true, calls into question the chairperson's conclusion EXCEPT

- ☐ Subway fares are paid with single-ride tokens that are purchased in advance and do not expire.
- ☐ On the most heavily traveled routes in New City's downtown, express bus fares range from 25 to 40 percent greater than current subway fares.
- ☐ Under New City's tax code, subway fare increases of more than 25 percent trigger reductions in the amount of tax money allocated to the subway system.
- ☐ New City's economy is adding many more jobs in suburban areas, which are inaccessible by subway, than in the urban areas that the subway system serves.
- ☐ Mobile phones, upon which a significant percentage of New City's workers have come to depend for essential communication while commuting, will be banned on the subway from the coming quarter onward.

14.2836

Smith, a basketball player, successfully made 80% of the shots that he attempted this year – an exceptionally high percentage for a player in Smith's league. However, this statistic does not mean that Smith is an exceptional shooter, because the best shooters take many shots from risky locations 20 or more feet away from the basket. Instead, Smith's high shooting percentage simply shows that he takes most of his shots from locations very close to the basket.

Which of the following statements, if true, provides additional support for the argument?

- ☐ Smith's shooting percentage for shots taken from more than 20 feet away from the basket

is no higher than other players' shooting percentages from that distance.

- Smith took most of his shots during games that were closely contested and in which his team could not afford the time and effort to set up easier shots.
- Very few of the baskets scored by Smith's team from locations close to the basket were shot by Smith himself.
- The position that Smith plays allows him relatively few shooting opportunities from locations close to the basket.
- Smith's shooting percentage, the highest in the league, was almost 10% higher than that of the player with the next highest percentage.