

CRITICAL REASONING SET 1

1. One problem with labor unions today is that their top staffs consist of college-trained lawyers, economists, and labor relations experts who cannot understand the concerns of real workers. One goal of union reform movements should be to build staffs out of workers who have come up from the ranks of the industry involved.

The argument above depends primarily on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Higher education lessens people's identification with their class background.
- (B) Union staffs should include more people with first-hand industrial supervisory experience.
- (C) People who have worked in a given industry can understand the concerns of workers in that industry.
- (D) Most labor unions today do not fairly represent workers' interests.
- (E) A goal of union reform movements should be to make unions more democratic.

2. Opening a plant in war-torn Country X is not inadvisable, despite what critics of the plan may say. Ten years ago we opened our plant in Country Y in the middle of a revolution; that plant has been generating substantial profits ever since.

Which of the following is the author of the argument above most reasonably intending the reader to conclude?

- (A) Wars are profitable for the author's particular business.
- (B) Country X is a more politically stable nation than is Country Y.
- (C) Critics of the proposed plant in Country X are likely to be biased.
- (D) The proposed plant in Country X will generate profits despite the war.
- (E) The proposed plant in Country X will be more successful than the plant in Country Y.

3. Since the deregulation of the air travel industry in the late 1970's, air fares have been relatively low and the number of passenger miles flown has been increasing. In recent months, however, air fares have risen but the number of passenger miles flown is still going up.

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

- (A) The cost of air travel does not affect the number of passenger miles flown.

(B) People are now flying to destinations that they formerly reached by train or by other modes of transportation.

(C) Factors other than low air fares must be contributing to the rise in the number of passenger miles flown.

(D) Takeovers in the deregulated air travel industry have been responsible for the rise in air fares.

(E) Air fares can climb even higher without causing a drop in the number of passenger miles flown.

4. One Zydol capsule contains twice the pain reliever found in regular aspirin. A consumer will have to take two aspirin in order to get the relief provided by one Zydol. And since a bottle of Zydol costs the same as a bottle of regular aspirin, consumers can be expected to switch to Zydol.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument that consumers will be discontinuing the use of regular aspirin and switching to Zydol?

(A) A regular bottle of aspirin contains more than twice as many capsules as does a bottle of Zydol.

(B) The pain reliever in Zydol is essentially the same pain reliever found in regular aspirin.

(C) Some headache sufferers experience a brief period of dizziness shortly after taking Zydol but not after taking regular aspirin.

(D) Neither regular aspirin nor Zydol is as effective in the relief of serious pain as are drugs available only by prescription.

(E) A Zydol capsule is twice as large as the average aspirin.

5. At a certain college, graduate teaching assistants conduct discussion sections but have no input into grading. It has been suggested that graduate assistants be given some grading responsibility, but many undergraduates oppose that proposal. They argue that if grades are assigned by graduate assistants, regular full- time faculty will devote less time and attention to undergraduate work.

The information in the passage above answers which one of the following questions?

(A) Are grades assigned by graduate teaching assistants inherently as fair as those given by regular faculty?

(B) Are some undergraduates in favor of maintaining the full-time faculty's interest in their schoolwork?

(C) May regular full-time faculty conduct discussion sections at the college?

(D) Does graduate student contact with undergraduates' work make the grades assigned by regular faculty less valid?

(E) Are regular faculty members in favor of giving graduate assistants some teaching responsibility?

6. Air travel is becoming increasingly more dangerous. In the last year there have been seven major collisions resulting in over 700 deaths, more deaths than in any previous year.

Which statement, if true, would most weaken the argument above?

(A) Since the volume of air traffic has been increasing all the time, an increase in the number of deaths due to collisions does not necessarily mean greater danger.

(B) The increase in collisions can be explained by statistical coincidence, hijackings, and unusual weather.

(C) Mortality per passenger mile is lower for air travel than for any kind of surface transportation.

(D) The increase in deaths due to collision in air travel has proceeded at a rate identical to that for deaths in all other major forms of transportation.

(E) Last year the average number of passengers per flown plane was significantly lower than that of previous years.

7. According to a recent study, attending a single-sex high school aids an adolescent's physical growth. Cited as evidence is the finding that during the first two years of high school, the average boy in an all-boys school grew five inches, and the average girl in an all-girls school grew four inches.

The answer to which of the following questions is needed in order to evaluate the reasoning presented in the study?

(A) Why was it that the first two years of high school were chosen as the focus of the study?

(B) Did some of the boys in the study grow less than five inches while they were in high school?

(C) How much do the average male student and the average female student in a co- educational school grow during their first two years of high school?

(D) Did the girls in the study have as nutritious a diet as the boys during the time the study was being conducted?

(E) What was the average height of the boys and the average height of the girls upon entering high school?

8. Although most people know that exercise is good for the body, few realize the extent to which it is valuable to the mind. The blood circulates more rapidly after physical exertion, thus allowing all of the body's organs to operate more efficiently. This increased activity enables the brain to receive more oxygen, thereby creating a higher capacity for concentration.

The main point in the argument above is that

(A) the greater the amount of oxygen the brain receives, the better the brain functions.

(B) exercise is a mental, as well as physical, activity.

(C) exercise helps the brain more than it does the rest of the body.

(D) people can greatly improve their powers of concentration by exercising more often.

(E) exercise serves more than one purpose.

9. Ernesto: Sales of VCRs—videocassette recorders—will decline in the next few years because the saturation level among U.S. households has virtually been reached.

Milton: Every year a greater number of popular feature films is released on cassette—at least 6 per month. Clearly VCR sales will remain constant, if not rise.

Which of the following is the best logical evaluation of Milton's response to Ernesto's argument?

(A) He cites evidence that, if true, disproves the evidence cited by Ernesto in drawing his conclusion.

(B) He points out a gap in the logic followed by Ernesto in drawing his conclusion.

(C) He cites an issue ignored by Ernesto and which outweighs the issues raised by Ernesto.

(D) He does not speak to Ernesto's point because he fails to raise the issue of whether VCR sales may be linked to sales of other leisure-related products.

(E) He fails to respond to Ernesto's argument because he assumes that nothing will significantly retard the sale of VCR's, which was the issue that Ernesto raised.

10. Archaeologists have discovered various paintings on the walls and ceiling of a Chinese cave whose entrance was blocked by a volcanic eruption in the 25th century B.C. and only recently cleared by an earthquake. Since the paintings depict warriors using Type C bronze weapons, these archaeologists have concluded that Type C bronze weapons were already widely used in this area by 2500 B.C., far earlier than was previously believed.

Which of the following pieces of additional evidence would most seriously weaken the archaeologists' conclusion?

- (A) Another entrance to the cave remained clear until a second volcanic eruption 1,000 years after the first.
- (B) Archaeologists have evidence that Type C bronze weapons were in wide use in areas of present-day India as early as 2500 B.C.
- (C) Alternative methods of dating place the time of the volcanic eruption somewhat earlier, at around 3000 B.C.
- (D) Most experts believe that Type C bronze weapons were not in use anywhere in present-day China until 2000 B.C.
- (E) The paintings were very faded when the archaeologists found them, making identification of the depicted weapons difficult.

11. Considering the current economy, the introduction of a new brand of cereal is unlikely to expand total sales of cereal, but rather will just cause some existing buyers of cereal to switch brands. So it makes no sense for the Coolidge Corporation to introduce another brand of cereal, since they will only hurt sales of the brands of cereal they already produce.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument above?

- (A) Total sales of cereal will increase as the total population increases.
- (B) Many new brands of cereal sell extremely well for the first year of their existence.
- (C) Coolidge Corporation currently produces fewer brands of cereal than do its competitors.
- (D) Some cereal buyers regularly switch from brand to brand, even when no new brands have been introduced.
- (E) Research indicates that the new brand will attract more buyers of competitors' cereals than buyers of other Coolidge brands.

12. A public health official reported that 60 percent of the children at summer school have never had the measles or chicken pox, and that of this 60 percent not one child has ever been observed to eat the cheese served in the school lunches. From this he concluded that children who abstain from cheese products will protect themselves from most childhood disease.

Each of the following, if true, would strengthen the official's argument EXCEPT:

- (A) Medically speaking, whatever serves to inhibit measles and chicken pox will generally inhibit the entire spectrum of childhood diseases.
- (B) The observations the official carried out were extremely accurate, and all those observed to abstain from cheese at school did, in fact, abstain.

(C) The children's eating habits are the same at school as anywhere else, and those who abstain from cheese products at school do so in general.

(D) Recent research has pointed to a deficiency in cheese products as one of the major causes of measles and chicken pox infections.

(E) Most cheeses and cheese products harbor bacteria that are known to be causative agents for many childhood diseases, such as measles and chicken pox.

13. A confidential survey revealed that 75 percent of the employees of Company P are dissatisfied with their jobs. However, an investigation into working conditions at the company showed nothing uncommonly bad. Therefore, Company P's consulting firm concluded that the employees' dissatisfaction must result from an unusually high incidence of psychological problems on their part.

Each of the following, if true, casts doubt on the consulting firm's conclusion EXCEPT:

(A) In the investigation of working conditions, no account was taken of the fact that for the past year many Company P employees worked on a joint venture with Company O, at Company O's facilities.

(B) Workers in many companies are dissatisfied although there are no apparent problems with their working conditions.

(C) The consulting firm's conception of what constitutes uncommonly bad working conditions is not identical to that of Company P's employees.

(D) The reasons given by Company P's employees for their dissatisfaction varied greatly from employee to employee.

(E) A battery of tests performed on Company P's employees one month ago revealed no significant psychological stresses or problems.

14. Director: Our engineers are considering two different sites—one on the Abaco River and one on the Bornos River—for a hydroelectric plant. Although we have the technical expertise to build roughly the same plant in either place, producing roughly the same amount of electricity per hour, building the plant on the Abaco site will cost over twice as much money. With our budget currently in deficit, we should build the dam at the Bornos site.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the difference in building costs for the two proposed dam sites?

(A) Many farms along the lower Bornos River valley would benefit from the controlled flow of water a dam would make possible.

(B) The Abaco site is in an inaccessible area, requiring the building of new roads and the importation of laborers.

(C) The Bornos site is near a large city whose residents could use the resulting lake for inexpensive recreation.

(D) The Abaco site is in an area that contains many endangered species that would be threatened by the new dam.

(E) The Abaco River has a relatively low volume of flow, making it impossible to expand an Abaco plant to meet future electricity needs.

15. In 1988, 50 people with emotional disturbances underwent hypnosis to be cured of their mood swings. A followup survey in 1993 revealed that five had fairly stable emotional conditions at the time of the survey. These five subjects can therefore serve as models of the types of people for whom hypnosis is likely to be successful.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the suitability of those five subjects as models in the sense described?

(A) The five subjects have very different personalities and backgrounds.

(B) Since 1988, the five subjects have experienced dramatic mood swings interspersed with periods of relative stability.

(C) Those people who were still suffering from unstable emotional conditions at the time of the 1993 survey had shown no improvement since 1988.

(D) Many psychologists are less concerned about a patient's mood swings than about the patient's willingness to express his or her problems and fears.

(E) The emotional condition of most of the 45 subjects who were still unstable at the time of the 1993 survey had actually worsened since 1988.

16. The cause of the peculiar columnar growth pattern displayed by junipers growing near burning underground veins of lignite coal has never been convincingly explained. Until recently, the accepted theory posited that the abundance of carbon monoxide in the local atmosphere caused the columnar growth. However, a new theory holds that the cause is the persistent heat present near these underground fires which, while not intense enough to inflame the trees, can nonetheless change their normal growth pattern.

The existence of which of the following would provide the strongest support for the new theory?

(A) A columnar juniper growing in an atmosphere of intense heat and an absence of carbon monoxide

(B) A normal juniper growing in an atmosphere of intense heat and an absence of carbon monoxide

(C) A columnar juniper growing in an atmosphere of normal heat and a high concentration of carbon monoxide

(D) A normal juniper growing in an atmosphere of intense heat and a high concentration of carbon monoxide

(E) A columnar juniper growing in an atmosphere of intense heat and a high concentration of carbon monoxide

ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. E
9. E
10. A
11. E
12. D
13. D
14. B
15. B
16. A

SET 2

1. Although air pollution was previously thought to exist almost exclusively in our nation's cities, the recent increase in the number of persons suffering from illnesses attributed to excessive air pollution leaves us no choice but to conclude that other, nonurban areas are now affected.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion of the argument above?

- (A) The nation's cities have seen a marked decrease in levels of air pollution.
- (B) The nation has experienced a sharp decrease in the number of people moving out of its cities.
- (C) Illnesses due to air pollution are among the least common causes of death to urban dwellers.

(D) Many illnesses previously thought unrelated to air pollution are now considered to be caused by it.

(E) As a result of the problems in urban areas, nonurban areas have passed strict pollution control measures.

2. Statistics show that although consumption of low-calorie, alternative sweeteners has gone up in each of the past five years, so has the percentage of the population that is obese. According to sugar manufacturers, this shows that the low-calorie, alternative sweeteners are not effective weight loss aids.

Which of the following assertions, if true, would most weaken the sugar manufacturers' conclusion?

(A) Many people who use low-calorie, alternative sweeteners eat some foods that are not low-calorie.

(B) Some low-calorie, alternative sweeteners can increase the appetite, making a person eat more than he or she normally would.

(C) Many people use low-calorie, alternative sweeteners to accompany a well-balanced, low-calorie diet.

(D) Obesity has declined among people who have consistently used low-calorie, alternative sweeteners.

(E) The rise in the consumption of low-calorie, alternative sweeteners is primarily due to an increase in the number of users rather than an increase in the amount each user consumes.

3. It has long been a commonplace in medical literature that the ingestion of drug L, in combination with the application of lotion M, causes the appearance of adverse reaction O. Recently, however, doubts have been cast on the role of lotion M in the appearance of adverse reaction O.

Which one of the following research findings could most reasonably have created the doubts referred to above?

(A) The appearance of adverse reaction O following the ingestion of drug L and the application of lotion M

(B) The absence of adverse reaction O following the ingestion of drug L and the application of lotion M

(C) The ingestion of drug L and the appearance of adverse reaction O in the absence of lotion M

(D) The absence of adverse reaction O following the ingestion of drug L without the application of lotion M

(E) The disappearance of adverse reaction O following the ingestion of drug L and the application of lotion M

4. The candy manufacturer's claim that employee "theft" costs the company thousands of dollars a year in potential sales is greatly overstated. Most of the candy eaten on the job and not paid for is eaten one piece at a time, by workers who would not be willing to buy an entire box of it anyway.

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

- (A) The workers eat only defective candies that could not be sold.
- (B) Candy eaten by employees represents lost potential sales to nonemployees.
- (C) A few workers account for most of the candy that is eaten but not paid for.
- (D) Most of the candies eaten by employees are consumed during the holiday season, when production outputs are at their highest.
- (E) The amount of candy eaten by employees is only a small fraction of the candy sold by the company.

5. U.S. officials complain that the country's trade deficit with Japan is due to the fact that Japan's markets are not open enough to imports and investment. Japanese officials reply that the United States should concentrate on improving its school systems and investing more money in scientific research and worker training.

It can be inferred from the statements above that the Japanese officials most probably hold which of the following opinions?

- (A) The United States should open its own markets to more imports and investment.
- (B) The trade deficit between the United States and Japan is more the result of poor American industrial performance than Japan's import restrictions.
- (C) The trade deficit between the United States and Japan is a result of Japan's closed markets.
- (D) U.S. school systems foster a mistrust of Japan that prevents U.S. businesspeople from negotiating intelligently with Japan.
- (E) Better education and worker training can help shrink the trade imbalance, but should not be counted on to close the gap entirely.

6. Children who attend private high schools may initially feel that they can succeed without doing the work required, but as they grow older they realize the necessity of serious study. Each year the overwhelming majority of students disciplined for plagiarism and cheating on their exams is found in the freshman class.

The argument above would be most weakened if which of the following were true?

- (A) As they move up in grade, students learn how to cheat without being caught.
- (B) First-time offenders for plagiarism and cheating on exams are not disciplined.
- (C) The proctors for freshman exams are the least vigilant.

(D) Acts of vandalism are most often committed by members of the sophomore class.

(E) Public school students are no less likely than private school students to believe that they can succeed in life without working hard.

7. The conflict between an artist's work and the context in which it is placed is a traditional problem in aesthetics. Recent exhibits have given it a new urgency. Too often a painter's canvases have been hung in an improper context because the gallery managers have not understood what the painter envisioned as the work's proper environment.

As an attempt to solve the problem described above, it would be most reasonable to

(A) bring artists and gallery managers into closer contact, so as to increase the artist's input into the way the exhibit is held

(B) provide brochures at the exhibit that describe the artist and how he or she intended the exhibit to look

(C) redesign galleries so that their decor contains nothing that would distract the audience from the works themselves

(D) provide a uniform environment for all the works in an exhibition so that they appear within the same context

(E) instruct gallery managers in the fine points of aesthetic theory so that they will be able to tell what, if anything, a painting means

8. To improve the physical fitness of its students, School District 4 instituted a policy whereby students would be given extra credit in physical education for extracurricular athletic activities. School officials call the program a success, since participation in after school sports has doubled since the program was instituted.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the claim of the school officials?

(A) Most students who joined after school sports did so only to get extra credit.

(B) Most children who are in poor physical condition cannot be persuaded to join after school sports by such an incentive program.

(C) Few students who joined after school sports during the extra credit program will continue to play the sport after the school year ends.

(D) Most of the new athletes are students who had never before participated in after school sports.

(E) Fitness test show no significant improvement in the physical condition of students after they join after school sports.

9. It takes 4 weeks for a team of 5 professional window washers working regular full-time hours to properly clean every window of the Empire State Building. The building's owner demands that all the windows always be clean. Yet even if the 5 washers work consistently throughout their regular work

week, they will not be able to finish cleaning all the windows before some windows will again need cleaning.

It can be correctly inferred on the basis of the statements above that which of the following must be true?

- (A) If an Empire State Building window is to be kept clean, it must be cleaned by a professional window cleaner.
- (B) The owner's demand for proper cleaning of all the windows will never be fulfilled.
- (C) If a team of 5 window washers cleans all the Empire State Building's windows in less than 4 weeks, some of the windows will not be properly cleaned.
- (D) In order to ensure that all of the Empire State Building's windows are clean, the owner must have his window washers work overtime.
- (E) Some Empire State Building windows must be cleaned more frequently than once every four weeks if they are to be kept clean.

10. Cultural anthropologists who have been observing and interviewing customers in retail stores have announced a definitive theory of consumer purchasing behavior.

Which of the following, if true, would be least likely to represent a benefit of the theory to retailers?

- (A) Retailers will be able to eliminate costly product displays that fail to increase sales.
- (B) Retailers will gain insight into how consumers determine whether or not to buy a particular product.
- (C) The new theory will make consumers aware of how product displays influence their purchasing decisions.
- (D) The new theory will determine what types of retail display gimmicks produce a negative reaction in consumers.
- (E) The new theory will explain why consumers often purchase at different stores goods that could be bought at just one store.

11. Archaeologists have recently found, in various grave sites in the Mexican state of Veracruz, small ceramic animals with attached wheels. At first, this find might seem to discredit the belief that the wheel and its uses were unknown in pre-Colombian culture. On reflection, however, it would seem that the discovery actually bears out this belief. To be familiar with these toys and yet not to apply the principle of the wheel to daily tasks such as carting, transportation, and pottery making must indicate a lack of understanding of the wheel and its potential benefits.

Which of the following best expresses the argument made in the passage above?

- (A) If the pre-Colombian people of Veracruz had understood the principle of the wheel, they would not have attached wheels to ceramic animals.

(B) If the pre-Colombian people of Veracruz had understood the principle of the wheel, they would have adapted it to everyday use.

(C) If the pre-Colombian people of Veracruz had uses for the wheel in their everyday lives, they would have adapted the idea of the wheel from the wheeled ceramic figures.

(D) The pre-Colombian people of Veracruz must have known of the wheel and its uses because they attached wheels to ceramic animals.

(E) Since the pre-Colombian people of Veracruz did not know of the wheel or its uses, the ceramic animals found in the grave sites must be the remains of later cultures.

12. Doubling the cost of public transportation to compensate for money lost by declining ridership would be disastrous. The greater expense would only further discourage commuters who are already dissatisfied with the poor condition of buses and trains. If the fares are increased, many commuters will choose to drive their cars instead, causing pollution and traffic congestion. As a result, the city will lose money and become even more noisy and smog-filled than it is now.

Which of the following is an assumption made in advancing the argument above?

(A) Commuters who decide to drive instead of using public transportation will not share rides with one another.

(B) Commuters will not park their cars in garages and thereby spend more money than they would by using buses or trains.

(C) The condition of public transportation will not improve as a result of the fare increase.

(D) Commuters who use their own cars currently outnumber those who use buses and trains.

(E) A significant number of people who now use public transportation have cars or can easily obtain them.

13. The cost of transatlantic airfare has nearly doubled over the past five years, yet airlines are doing a booming business. Clearly, people today have more money to spend on vacations than they did five years ago.

All of the following, if true, would weaken the argument above EXCEPT:

(A) Most people buying transatlantic tickets today use them for business trips, so airfare is refunded by their companies.

(B) There are fewer airlines in existence today than five years ago.

(C) People are taking shorter vacations and staying in cheaper hotels than they used to.

(D) Crossing the Atlantic by ship requires more time than most people can afford.

(E) Domestic airline flights have seen a steady increase in passengers.

14. Truck driver: The gasoline tax is too high and it must be lowered. It has been raised every year for the last five years, while other sales taxes have not. If the government persists in unfairly penalizing truck drivers, our increased operating costs will either hurt consumers or put us out of business.

State official: But your gasoline tax dollars maintain and improve the very roads you depend on. Without those additional revenues, road conditions would deteriorate, costing you and consumers much more in maintenance and repairs.

If the statements made above are true, the best characterization of the logical relationship between the two arguments is that the state official's response

- (A) points out that the truck driver's proposal will actually worsen the problem it is intended to solve
- (B) is circular, assuming the truth of its conclusion in order to justify its conclusion
- (C) points out that the truck driver is selfish because more people are aided by the gasoline tax than are penalized
- (D) is merely an attempt to excuse the government's policies without providing any justification for those policies
- (E) points to an inherent contradiction between the cause the truck driver cites and the effects the truck driver thinks will follow from the cause

15. Archaeologists recently unearthed a prehistoric statuette, portraying the figure of a woman, that had been carved from a mastodon bone. A team of researchers carefully studied the statuette, which they named the Venus of Orleans. Since it was similar in shape and design to another bone carving, the so-called Venus of Grenoble, they concluded that in all likelihood it was carved at the same time, about 70,000 years ago. Skeptics point out, however, that carbon-14 testing indicates that the recently discovered statuette is only about 50,000 years old.

Which of the following, if true, would tend most to weaken the force of the skeptics' objection?

- (A) Carbon-14 dating places the age of the Venus of Grenoble at 70,000 years.
- (B) No other, similar, statuettes have been found at the site where the Venus of Orleans was unearthed.
- (C) The carbon-14 dating process is unreliable for objects dating from before 60,000 BC.
- (D) The carbon-14 dating process has provided unreliable dates for many objects older than 100,000 years.
- (E) Some speculation persists that the Venus of Orleans was carved out of the femur or thigh bone of a prehistoric ox.

16. The study of foreign languages is finally becoming a serious endeavor in U.S. education. The number of American college students enrolled in non-English language courses has increased by 20 percent over the last five years. Spanish, with over 500,000 students, is the most popular; its

enrollment has increased by 30 percent. Meanwhile, enrollment in Japanese and Russian has nearly doubled, and now comprises eight percent of total foreign language study. Clearly there is now an increased interest in foreign language study. When these students join the work force, they will enhance not only U.S. businesses' ability to compete internationally but also our country's reputation abroad.

The answer to which of the following questions would be LEAST relevant to evaluating the above claims?

(A) Do students enrolled in foreign language classes continue their studies long enough to attain competence in those languages?

(B) By what percentage has overall enrollment in U.S. colleges and universities increased over the past five years?

(C) Does a significant number of students of foreign languages go into professions in which the ability to speak other languages is useful?

(D) Has the study of "dead" languages like Latin and Ancient Greek increased at a similar rate to that of modern languages?

(E) How does the percentage increase in foreign language enrollment over the past five years compare to previous increases in enrollment?

ANSWER KEY 1. D

2. D

3. C

4. B

5. B

6. A

7. A

8. E

9. E

10. C

11. B

12. E

13. E

14. A

15. C

16. D

SET 3

1. In 1980, 13 percent of the Arbican population moved from urban areas to suburban areas. This percentage steadily declined, until, in 1990, it reached 3 percent.

If the statements above are true, all of the following statements concerning Arbicans between 1980 and 1990 could also be true EXCEPT:

(A) The number of Arbicans moving from suburban areas to urban areas also decreased.

- (B) The Arbican population increased, and so did the number of Arbicans moving from urban to suburban areas.
- (C) The Arbican population decreased, and so did the number of Arbicans moving from urban to suburban areas.
- (D) The Arbican population decreased, and the number of Arbicans moving from urban to suburban areas remained the same.
- (E) The Arbican population increased, and the number of Arbicans moving from urban to suburban areas remained the same.

2. The Kapoor Meatworks has a virtual monopoly on expensive, gourmet delicacies. In order to expand their market, they intend to offer a budget line of less costly delicacies. Such a product is virtually unknown, and they realize that its success depends upon a heavy advertising campaign. They have decided to finance the advertising with the profits from their gourmet line.

Which of the following, assuming each is a realistic possibility, would pose the most serious obstacle to the Kapoor Meatworks' project?

- (A) The introduction of a budget line of delicacies completely undercuts the sales of the gourmet line.
- (B) At the start, the company spends more on advertising than it makes from sales of the budget line delicacies.
- (C) When the budget line delicacies grow in popularity, competitors enter the budget delicacies market and Kapoor does not have a monopoly in that market.
- (D) Many of the consumers who purchase the budget line are tempted to try the delicacies offered in the gourmet line.
- (E) Many of the stores that now carry Kapoor's gourmet line of delicacies are exclusive, and refuse to carry their budget line.

3. Recent statistics make it seem unlikely that the total consumption of electricity determines its cost to individual consumers. Recent increases in total consumption, especially during the hot summer months, have sometimes been accompanied by a decrease in the cost per unit and at other times by an increase.

Which of the following positions is best supported by the information presented above?

- (A) It must be the case that the cost of electricity to consumers is what determines the total consumption.

(B) Even though a correlation exists between the total consumption of electricity and its cost to consumers, no causal relation exists.

(C) Further investigation into the way these statistics were gathered is certainly called for.

(D) The cost of electricity depends upon something other than the total consumption of electricity.

(E) The cost-per-unit of electricity to consumers is dependent on the total electricity consumption.

4. In a nature reserve in India, people are sometimes attacked by tigers. It is believed that the tigers will only attack people from behind. So for the past few years many workers in the reserve have started wearing masks depicting a human face on the back of their heads. While many area residents remain skeptical, no worker wearing one of these masks has yet been attacked by a tiger.

Which of the statements below, if true, would best support the argument of those who advocate the use of the mask?

(A) Many workers in the nature reserve who do not wear the masks have been attacked recently by tigers.

(B) Workers in other nature reserves who wear similar masks have not been attacked recently by tigers.

(C) No tigers have been spotted on the nature reserve in recent years.

(D) Many of the workers who wear the masks also sing while they work in order to frighten away any tigers in the area.

(E) The tigers have often been observed attacking small deer from in front rather than from behind.

5. Since Arlene Hodges was installed as president of the Caralis corporation, profits have increased by an average of 11 percent per year. During the tenure of her predecessor, the corporation's profits averaged a yearly increase of only 7 percent. Obviously Ms. Hodges' aggressive marketing efforts have caused the acceleration in the growth of Caralis' profits.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the conclusion drawn above?

(A) The corporation's new manufacturing plant, constructed in the past year, has resulted in a 15 percent increase in production capacity.

(B) For each year of Ms. Hodges' presidency, the corporation's financial records show an increase in profits over the previous year.

(C) During the tenure of Ms. Hodges' predecessor, the corporation began an advertising campaign aimed at capturing consumers between the ages of 24 and 35.

(D) Since Ms. Hodges became president, the corporation has switched the primary focus of its advertising from print ads to radio and television commercials.

(E) Just before he was replaced, Ms. Hodges' predecessor directed the acquisition of a rival corporation, which has nearly doubled the corporation's yearly revenues.

6. Although recently introduced with a wave of publicity, combined audio/video receivers are proving tough to sell. As a result, the manufacturers keep advertising, and offering handsome discounts. What the manufacturers have yet to see is that the public's reluctance isn't due to the price of the product; the public is still debating the even more fundamental question of -----.

Which of the following best completes the passage above?

- (A) whether the product is worth its price
- (B) whether there is a use for such a product
- (C) whether the models will soon become obsolete
- (D) whether the uses for such a product outweigh its high cost
- (E) whether more stylish models will appear in the future

7. Although statistics and definitions are inexact, educated guesses put the number of refugees worldwide at well over 10 million. The overwhelming majority prefer to return to their native land than to emigrate to a foreign one. The millions of refugees from Afghanistan are sufficient proof: Despite the toll the war and subsequent fighting have taken on their country, very few have applied for permission to emigrate.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument above?

- (A) Most refugees are as reluctant to emigrate as are the refugees from Afghanistan.
- (B) The refugees from Afghanistan fled what they considered political oppression rather than economic disaster.
- (C) Most of the children born to refugees prefer to remain in their adoptive country rather than return to the land their parents left.
- (D) Although refugees flee their homes for a variety of different reasons, the overwhelming majority are looking for improved living conditions.
- (E) The number of refugees worldwide has risen dramatically over the last ten years.

Questions 8 and 9 are based on the following.

In spite of what its critics say, the new, expensive artificial kidney implant is a boon to modern medicine. These critics should remember that the first heart transplants stimulated an enormous amount of beneficial medical research, even though the transplant technique was later rejected in favor of less invasive surgical procedures.

8. The author defends the artificial kidney implant against the critics by

- (A) attacking her opponents' method of circular reasoning
- (B) implying an analogy between the benefits of the artificial kidney implant and the benefits of the early heart transplants
- (C) pointing out a contradiction implicit in their criticism of the implant's high cost
- (D) criticizing the professional objectivity of her opponents rather than their claim
- (E) implying an analogy between the critics' opposition to the artificial kidney implant and their opposition to the early heart transplants

9. Opponents of the artificial kidney implant could best defend their position against the author's argument by pointing out that

- (A) once perfected, the new artificial kidney implant will cost very little
- (B) many of those who oppose the new artificial kidney implant have very good reputations in the scientific community
- (C) the high cost of the new artificial kidney implant does not necessarily mean that its creators are incompetent or profligate
- (D) the medical research that the artificial kidney implant will stimulate is similar to the research stimulated by the heart transplants
- (E) the fact that one medical innovation stimulated beneficial research does not mean that all such innovations will do so

10. The population increase over a given year is always calculated as a percentage of the previous year's population, with a population decrease being recorded as a negative increase. In 1990 Essex County and Union County both experienced a population increase of more than 3 percent. In 1991 Essex County and Union County both experienced a population increase of 1.5 percent. In 1992 Union County experienced a negative increase in population of 1.7 percent. Essex County had 209,100 residents in 1990 and 209,000 residents in 1992.

If the information above is accurate, which of the following must be true?

- (A) Both counties experienced positive population increases in the years 1990 and 1991, yet both experienced negative population increases in 1992.
- (B) In 1992 more people moved from Union County to Essex County than moved from Essex County to Union County.
- (C) In 1990 there were more people living in Union County than in Essex County, but in 1992 there were more people living in Essex County than in Union County.
- (D) Both counties experienced negative population increases in the years 1990 and 1991, yet both experienced positive population increases in 1992.

(E) Both counties experienced positive population increases in the years 1990 and 1991, yet while Essex County experienced a positive increase in 1992, Union County had a negative increase.

11. Chef: An ordinance ought to be passed banning midtown street vendors from selling food within a certain proximity to restaurants. With their high rents and costs, restaurants cannot be expected to compete with the vendors. Even in cases where these vendors sell food completely different from the restaurant's bill of fare, the price differential is enough to attract to the vendors customers who would otherwise have eaten in the restaurants.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?

(A) The food served in midtown restaurants is better than that sold by street vendors.

(B) Most street vendors who sell food would suffer losses from being forced to move to other locations.

(C) Most customers who eat in midtown do so on expense accounts, and do not pay for their own meals.

(D) There are not enough police officers to enforce regulations requiring street vendors to move a certain distance from restaurants.

(E) The average profit on food sold by a street vendor is roughly the same percentage as that on food served in restaurants.

12. It has been against the law for federal agencies and federal contractors to discriminate against a qualified job applicant because of a disability. Now that Congress has approved legislation to expand these existing provisions to cover private industry as well, the number of disabled people who are involuntarily unemployed will drop substantially.

The author of the above argument must be assuming which of the following?

(A) Many congressmen were reluctant to pass the new legislation to prevent discrimination against the disabled.

(B) Some private employers in the past deliberately chose not to hire qualified but disabled job applicants.

(C) The federal government currently employs more disabled people than does private industry.

(D) The approved legislation would stop discrimination against the disabled in the public and private sectors.

(E) Many disabled people voluntarily choose to remain unemployed.

13. The manufacturer of DTF claims its product reduces facial wrinkles and wishes to sell it as a pharmaceutical. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), however, has ordered lengthy and costly experiments to determine whether DTF truly reduces facial wrinkles. The manufacturer, a small

cosmetics firm, lacks the resources to carry out the required research and will probably comply with less rigorous FDA regulations by labeling DTF a cosmetic.

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

- (A) Cosmetics are among the products not regulated by the FDA.
- (B) Only established pharmaceutical firms have the capital required to enter new products in the market.
- (C) The makers of DTF thought they would sell greater quantities of their product if it were a pharmaceutical rather than a cosmetic.
- (D) The FDA regulates claims made about pharmaceuticals more strictly than claims made about cosmetics.
- (E) DTF has very little effect, if any, on facial wrinkles and would not have received FDA approval.

14. Homeowner: Recent drops in the value of our homes are due to the undesirability of living near the recently opened 24-hour bus depot.

Transportation official: The police, not the bus depot, are at fault. Survey data shows that most prospective homeowners avoid the community because of its high crime rate.

Which of the following, if true, would be the most effective rebuttal that the homeowner could make to the argument put forward by the transportation official?

- (A) The community's crime rate has risen nearly as quickly as the value of homes has fallen, over the same period of time.
- (B) Those homeowners whose homes are situated in the immediate area of the bus depot must endure constant noise.
- (C) The constant activity and commerce generated by the bus depot has made the community a favored hangout for thieves and other criminals.
- (D) The community's police force has not seen a pay raise or increase in manpower for the last five years.
- (E) The surveys of prospective homeowners did not include questions concerning the desirability of living in a community with a 24-hour bus depot.

15. Plant Y thrives in environments of great sunlight and very little moisture. Desert X is an environment with constant, powerful sunlight, and almost no moisture. Although Plant Y thrives in the areas surrounding Desert X, it does not exist naturally in the desert, nor does it survive long when introduced there.

Which of the following, if true, would be most useful in explaining the apparent discrepancy above?

- (A) Desert X's climate is far too harsh for the animals that normally feed on Plant Y.

- (B) For one week in the fall, Desert X gets consistent rainfall.
- (C) The environment around Desert X is ideally suited to the needs of Plant Y.
- (D) Due to the lack of sufficient moisture, Desert X can support very little plant life.
- (E) Plant Y cannot survive in temperatures as high as those normally found in Desert X.

16. The World Automobile Association (WAA) publishes a list of the “Best and Worst Drivers of the World,” ranking the drivers of every nation according to the number of traffic deaths per mile driven in that country.

Each of the following, if true, would by itself provide a logical objection to using the WAA’s ranking as a representation of the quality of drivers in each nation EXCEPT:

- (A) The roads in some countries are in bad repair and are therefore more dangerous than roads in other countries.
- (B) The average driver in industrialized countries can afford to maintain his or her car in better condition than can the average driver in less developed countries.
- (C) Some countries contain hundreds of thousands of miles of road while other countries contain relatively few miles of road.
- (D) Minor accidents that would cause little injury in many countries are often fatal when they occur in extremely mountainous countries.
- (E) Because of differences in national economies, the average car in some countries contains many more passengers than does the average car in other countries.

ANSWER KEY

- 1. D
- 2. A
- 3. D
- 4. A
- 5. E
- 6. B
- 7. A
- 8. B
- 9. E
- 10. A
- 11. C

12. B

13. D

14. C

15. E

16. C