

CR Test 5

Questions 1 - 20

[CRITICAL REASONING]

1. In Millington, a city of 50,000 people, Mercedes Pedrosa, a realtor, calculated that a family with Millington's median family income, \$28,000 a year, could afford to buy Millington's median-priced \$77,000 house. This calculation was based on an 11.2 percent mortgage interest rate and on the realtor's assumption that a family could only afford to pay up to 25 percent of its income for housing. Which of the following corrections of a figure appearing in the passage above, if it were the only correction that needed to be made, would yield a new calculation showing that even incomes below the median family income would enable families in Millington to afford Millington's median-priced house?

- (A) Millington's total population was 45,000 people.
- (B) Millington's median annual family income was \$27,000.
- (C) Millington's median-priced house cost \$80,000.
- (D) The rate at which people in Millington had to pay mortgage interest was only 10 percent.
- (E) Families in Millington could only afford to pay up to 22 percent of their annual income for housing.

2. A weapons-smuggling incident recently took place in country Y. We all know that Y is a closed society. So Y's government must have known about the weapons. Which of the following is an assumption that would make the conclusion above logically correct?

- (A) If a government knows about a particular weapons-smuggling incident, it must have intended to use the weapons for its own purposes.
- (B) If a government claims that it knew nothing about a particular weapons-smuggling incident, it must have known everything about it.
- (C) If a government does not permit weapons to enter a country, it is a closed society.
- (D) If a country is a closed society, its government has a large contingent of armed guards patrolling its borders.
- (E) If a country is a closed society, its government has knowledge about everything that occurs in the country.

3. To prevent some conflicts of interest, Congress could prohibit high-level government officials from accepting positions as lobbyists for three years after such officials leave government service. One such official concluded, however, that such a prohibition would be unfortunate because it would prevent high-level government officials from earning a livelihood for three years. The official's conclusion logically depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Laws should not restrict the behavior of former government officials.
- (B) Lobbyists are typically people who have previously been high-level government officials.

(C) Low-level government officials do not often become lobbyists when they leave government service.

(D) High-level government officials who leave government service are capable of earning a livelihood only as lobbyists.

(E) High-level government officials who leave government service are currently permitted to act as lobbyists for only three years.

4. 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.

5. A famous singer recently won a lawsuit against an advertising firm for using another singer in a commercial to evoke the famous singer's well-known rendition of a certain song. As a result of the lawsuit, advertising firms will stop using imitators in commercials. Therefore, advertising costs will rise, since famous singers' services cost more than those of their imitators. The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

(A) Most people are unable to distinguish a famous singer's rendition of a song from a good imitator's rendition of the same song.

(B) Commercials using famous singers are usually more effective than commercials using imitators of famous singers.

(C) The original versions of some well-known songs are unavailable for use in commercials.

(D) Advertising firms will continue to use imitators to mimic the physical mannerisms of famous singers.

(E) The advertising industry will use well-known renditions of songs in commercials.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Previous studies have indicated that eating chocolate increases the likelihood of getting heart disease. However, a new, more reliable study has indicated that eating chocolate does not increase the likelihood of getting heart disease. When the results of the new study become known, consumption of chocolate will undoubtedly increase. Which of the following is an assumption on which the conclusion above is based?

(A) Most people who eat a great deal of chocolate will not get heart disease.

(B) Although they believe that eating chocolate increases the likelihood of getting heart disease, some people still eat as much chocolate as they want.

(C) People who have heard that eating chocolate increases the likelihood of getting heart disease do not believe it.

(D) There are people who currently eat as much chocolate as they want because they have not heard that eating chocolate increases the likelihood of getting heart disease.

(E) There are people who currently limit their consumption of chocolate only because they believe that eating chocolate increases the likelihood of getting heart disease.

10. Bonuses at DSR Industries cannot be awarded unless profits exceed a ten percent return on stockholders' investments in the company. Higher profits mean higher bonuses. Therefore, bonuses in a year of general economic recession will be considerably lower than bonuses in a year of peak profits at DSR. The conclusion above depends on the assumption that

(A) The firm will have relatively low profits in recession years.

(B) The amount represented by a ten percent return on stockholders' investments in the company will increase from year to year.

(C) Profits rarely exceed a ten percent return on stockholders' investments in the company.

(D) Profits in excess of a ten percent return on stockholders' investments in the company are all distributed in the form of bonuses.

(E) Bonuses at DSR never drop to zero.

11. Exports of United States wood pulp will rise considerably during this year. The reason for the rise is that the falling value of the dollar will make it cheaper for paper manufacturers in Japan and Western Europe to buy American wood pulp than to get it from any other source. Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?
- (A) Factory output of paper products in Japan and Western Europe will increase sharply during this year.
(B) The quality of the wood pulp produced in the United States would be adequate for the purposes of Japanese and Western European paper manufacturers.
(C) Paper manufacturers in Japan and Western Europe would prefer to use wood pulp produced in the United States if cost were not a factor.
(D) Demand for paper products made in Japan and Western Europe will not increase sharply during this year.
(E) Production of wood pulp by United States companies will not increase sharply during this year.
12. In 1990 all of the people who applied for a job at Evco also applied for a job at Radeco, and Evco and Radeco each offered jobs to half of these applicants. Therefore, every one of these applicants must have been offered a job in 1990. The argument above is based on which of the following assumptions about these job applicants?
- (A) All of the applicants were very well qualified for a job at either Evco or Radeco.
(B) All of the applicants accepted a job at either Evco or Radeco.
(C) None of the applicants was offered a job by both Evco and Radeco.
(D) None of the applicants had applied for jobs at places other than Evco and Radeco.
(E) None of the applicants had previously worked for either Evco or Radeco.
13. Within 20 years it will probably be possible to identify the genetic susceptibility an individual may have toward any particular disease. Eventually, effective strategies will be discovered to counteract each such susceptibility. Once these effective strategies are found, therefore, the people who follow them will never get sick. The argument above is based on which of the following assumptions?
- (A) For every disease there is only one strategy that can prevent its occurrence.
(B) In the future, genetics will be the only medical specialty of any importance.
(C) All human sicknesses are in part the result of individuals' genetic susceptibilities.
(D) All humans are genetically susceptible to some diseases.
(E) People will follow medical advice when they are convinced that it is effective.

14. Installing scrubbers in smokestacks and switching to cleaner-burning fuel are the two methods available to Northern Power for reducing harmful emissions from its plants. Scrubbers will reduce harmful emissions more than cleaner-burning fuels will. Therefore, by installing scrubbers, Northern Power will be doing the most that can be done to reduce harmful emissions from its plants. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?
- (A) Switching to cleaner-burning fuel will not be more expensive than installing scrubbers.
 - (B) Northern Power can choose from among various kinds of scrubbers, some of which are more effective than others.
 - (C) Northern Power is not necessarily committed to reducing harmful emissions from its plants.
 - (D) Harmful emissions from Northern Power's plants cannot be reduced more by using both methods together than by the installation of scrubbers alone.
 - (E) Aside from harmful emissions from the smokestacks of its plants, the activities of Northern Power do not cause significant air pollution.
15. If the county continues to collect residential trash at current levels, landfills will soon be overflowing and parkland will need to be used in order to create more space. Charging each household a fee for each pound of trash it puts out for collection will induce residents to reduce the amount of trash they create; this charge will therefore protect the remaining county parkland. Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?
- (A) Residents will reduce the amount of trash they put out for collection by reducing the number of products they buy.
 - (B) The collection fee will not significantly affect the purchasing power of most residents, even if their households do not reduce the amount of trash they put out.
 - (C) The collection fee will not induce residents to dump their trash in the parklands illegally.
 - (D) The beauty of county parkland is an important issue for most of the county's residents.
 - (E) Landfills outside the county's borders could be used as dumping sites for the county's trash.
16. Although computers can enhance people's ability to communicate, computer games are a cause of underdeveloped communication skills in children. After-school hours spent playing computer games are hours not spent talking with people. Therefore, children who spend all their spare time playing these games have less experience in interpersonal communication than other children have. The argument depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Passive activities such as watching television and listening to music do not hinder the development of communication skills in children.
- (B) Most children have other opportunities, in addition to after-school hours, in which they can choose whether to play computer games or to interact with other people.
- (C) Children who do not spend all of their after-school hours playing computer games spend least some of that time talking with other people.
- (D) Formal instruction contributes little or nothing to children's acquisition of communication skills.
- (E) The mental skills developed through playing computer games do not contribute significantly to children's intellectual development.

17. Commentator: The theory of trade retaliation states that countries closed out of any of another country's markets should close some of their own markets to the other country in order to pressure the other country to reopen its markets. If every country acted according to this theory, no country would trade with any other. The commentator's argument relies on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) No country actually acts according to the theory of trade retaliation.
- (B) No country should block any of its markets to foreign trade.
- (C) Trade disputes should be settled by international tribunal.
- (D) For any two countries, at least one has some market closed to the other.
- (E) Countries close their markets to foreigners to protect domestic producers.

18. Civil trials often involve great complexities that are beyond the capacities of jurors to understand. As a result, jurors' decisions in such trials are frequently incorrect. Justice would therefore be better served if the more complex trials were decided by judges rather than juries. The argument above depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) A majority of civil trials involve complexities that jurors are not capable of understanding.
- (B) The judges who would decide complex civil trials would be better able to understand the complexities of those trials than jurors are.
- (C) The judges who would preside over civil trials would disallow the most complex sorts of evidence from being introduced into those trials.
- (D) Jurors' decisions are frequently incorrect even in those civil trials that do not involve great complexities.
- (E) The sole reason in favor of having juries decide civil trials is the supposition that their decisions will almost always be correct.

19. Technically a given category of insurance policy is underpriced if, over time, claims against it plus expenses associated with it exceed total income from premiums. But premium income can be invested and will then yield returns of its own. Therefore, an underpriced policy does not represent a net loss in every case. The argument above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) No insurance policies are deliberately underpriced in order to attract customers to the insurance company offering such policies.
- (B) A policy that represents a net loss to the insurance company is not an underpriced policy in every case.
- (C) There are policies for which the level of claims per year can be predicted with great accuracy before premiums are set.
- (D) The income earned by investing premium income is the most important determinant of an insurance company's profits.

(E) The claims against at least some underpriced policies do not require paying out all of the premium income from those policies as soon as it is earned.

20. Samples from a ceramic vase found at a tomb in Sicily prove that the vase was manufactured in Greece. Since the occupant of the tomb died during the reign of a Sicilian ruler who lived 2,700 years ago, the location of the vase indicates that there was trade between Sicily and Greece 2,700 years ago. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) Sicilian potters who lived during the reign of the ruler did not produce work of the same level of quality as did Greek potters.
- (B) Sicilian clay that was used in the manufacture of pottery during the ruler's reign bore little resemblance to Greek clay used to manufacture pottery at that time.
- (C) At the time that the occupant of the tomb was alive, there were ships capable of transporting large quantities of manufactured goods between Sicily and Greece.
- (D) The vase that was found at the Sicilian tomb was not placed there many generations later by descendants of the occupant of the tomb.

(E) The occupant of the tomb was not a member of the royal family to which the Sicilian ruler belonged.