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2013 Questions

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1. **Joseph:** Health insurance premiums are growing at an alarming rate. This is, in part, because many hospitals bill for unnecessary diagnostics and tests that inflate the subsequent amount that insurers pay out to them. These expenses are then passed on to consumers in the form of increased insurance premiums. Therefore, reducing the number of unnecessary tests performed by health care providers will be effective in controlling growing health insurance premiums.

Which of the following is an assumption required by the argument?

- A. Doctors are generally able to determine, with great reliability, which diagnostic procedures and tests would yield the most effective results
- B. Tests and diagnostic procedures do not make up an insignificant portion of the bills that are sent to insurers
- C. Insurance companies in other industries, such as auto and home, have been able to reduce costs by reducing the number of unnecessary repairs and replacements on claims for automobiles and homes
- D. Patients are not just as likely as doctors to choose the most expensive diagnostics and tests.
- E. Health insurance premiums

2. **Hallmark Executive:** In order to stay lean and efficient given the decreasing margins on our greeting card business, we should reduce our number of employees by 10 to 20% in each of our regional facilities. This way, each facility will be forced to work more efficiently and each remaining employee will have a greater incentive to work additional hours to keep her job. With a reduction in staffing we can not only restore our profits to what they were in previous years, we can take them higher.

Which of the following would most weaken the Hallmark executive's strategy?

- (A) Because of natural fatigue, the additional hours worked by each employee could not be as productive as their base hours.
- (B) Greeting card sales tend to peak between November and February, and then remain comparatively low for the rest of the year other than a Mother's Day spike in May.
- (C) The predicted boom in ecards has not made nearly the feared dent in sales of paper cards, at least not for Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.
- (D) According to a report created by management consultants, even a marginal reduction in headcount would cripple most Hallmark facilities' ability to function.
- (E) Hallmark could also increase profits by making up a new romantic holiday; August seems open.

3. **Therapist:** The ability to trust other people is essential to happiness, for without trust there can be no meaningful emotional connection to another human being, and without meaningful emotional connections to others we feel isolated.

Which one of the following, if assumed, allows the conclusion of the therapist's argument to be properly inferred?

- (A) No one who is feeling isolated can feel happy.
- (B) Anyone who has a meaningful emotional connection to another human being can be happy.
- (C) To avoid feeling isolated, it is essential to trust other people.
- (D) At least some people who do not feel isolated are happy.
- (E) Anyone who is able to trust other people has a meaningful emotional connection to at least one other human being.

4. 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.

5. To get into a top MBA program **one must have five years of work experience and a 90th percentile GMAT score.** Alexis has a 95th percentile GMAT score and five years of experience in the work force, **so Alexis must be accepted into a top MBA program.**

(A) The first is a piece of evidence; the second is a conclusion that must be true based on the evidence presented.

(B) The first is a piece of evidence; the second is a conclusion that is not necessarily true based on the evidence presented.

(C) The first is a conclusion that follows from the evidence; the second is a piece of evidence.

(D) The first is a conclusion that is not necessarily true based on the evidence; the second is a piece of evidence.

(E) The first is the conclusion of the author; the second is a cause and effect relationship that supports the conclusion

6. In North America there has been an explosion of public interest in, and enjoyment of, opera over the last three decades. The evidence of this explosion is that of the 70 or so professional opera companies currently active in North America, 45 were founded over the course of the last 30 years.

The reasoning above assumes which one of the following?

(A) All of the 70 professional opera companies are commercially viable options.

(B) There were fewer than 45 professional opera companies that had been active 30 years ago and that ceased operations during the last 30 years.

(C) There has not been a corresponding increase in the number of professional companies devoted to other performing arts.

(D) The size of the average audience at performances by professional opera companies has increased over the past three decades.

(E) The 45 most recently founded opera companies were all established as a result of enthusiasm on the part of a potential audience

7. **Citizen:** Each year since 1970, a new record has been set for the number of murders committed in this city. This fact points to the decreasing ability of our law enforcement system to prevent violent crime.

City Official: You overlook the fact that the city's population has risen steadily since 1970. In fact, the number of murder victims per 100 people has actually fallen slightly in the city since 1970.

Which one of the following, if true, would most strongly counter the city official's response?

A. The incidence of fraud has greatly increased in the city since 1970.

B. The rate of murders in the city since 1970 decreased according to the age group of the victim, decreasing more for younger victims.

C. Murders and other violent crimes are more likely to be reported now than they were in 1970.

D. The number of law enforcement officials in the city has increased at a rate judged by city law enforcement experts to be sufficient to serve the city's increased population.

E. If the health care received by assault victims last year had been of the same quality as it was in 1970, the murder rate in the city last year would have turned out to be several times what it actually was.

8. Exports of United States cotton will rise considerably during this year. The reason for the rise is that the falling value of the dollar will make it cheaper for cloth manufacturers in Japan and Western Europe to buy American cotton 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 cloth products in Japan and Western Europe will increase sharply during this year.

(B) The quality of the cotton produced in the United States would be adequate for the purposes of Japanese and Western European cloth manufacturers.

(C) Cloth manufacturers in Japan and Western Europe would prefer to use cotton produced in the United States if cost were not a factor.

(D) Demand for cloth products made in Japan and Western Europe will not increase sharply during this year.

(E) Production of cotton by United States companies will not increase sharply during this year.

9. The United Nations General Assembly term runs from September to January. The greatest part of this time is taken up with useless chatter. Delegates debate endlessly, never arriving at decisions. The delegate from each and every 300squaremile archipelago in the South Pacific must make a lengthy presentation on every topic that reaches the floor, yet almost no attention is paid to solving practical problems that are actually capable of being solved.

The author's argument is based on which one of the following assumptions?

- (A) The purpose of the General Assembly is to deal with specific practical problems.
- (B) Too many small states with insignificant problems are members of the General Assembly.
- (C) If the General Assembly spent less time debating, it would devote most of its attention to providing relief for famine areas.
- (D) The term of the General Assembly is too short for any important work to be accomplished.
- (E) Members of the General Assembly who are from large countries tend to concentrate more on global issues, rather than on minor topics.

10. "...two wage earners means that their household income is about 75% higher than it would have been in the 1980s, but this is largely the result of the wife working outside the home, which also necessitates expenditures, like day care and a second car,..." "Middle class financial anxiety isn't the product of too many lattes and designer shoes; it is the result of increased costs for the cornerstones of modern life.":

Which of the following is most similar to the shift in the financial situation of the average middleclass family from the 1980s to today, as outlined in the passage?

- (A) A company has a 60% decrease in profits over a year, due to higher staffing costs.
- (B) A company has a 60% decrease in profits over a year, but compensates for the losses by moving to a Less expensive office space.
- (C) A company has a 40% increase in net income from sales over one year, but in the same period has a 90% increase in rent on its office space, leaving it with a lower profit than in the previous year.
- (D) A company has a 60% increase in profits over one year, and chooses to reinvest that additional money by purchasing the office space it had previously rented.
- (E) A company's profits remain roughly the same from one year to the next.

11. According to psychoanalytic theory, people have unconscious beliefs that are kept from becoming conscious by a psychological mechanism termed "repression." Researchers investigating the nature of this mechanism observed occasions on which a patient undergoing therapy became aware of and expressed a previously unconscious belief. They found that such occasions were marked by an unusual decrease in the patient's level of anxiety.

If the information above is true, and if the researchers' investigation was properly conducted, then which of the following must also be true?

- (A) Changes in the patient's anxiety level during therapy can generally be used as an accurate measure of the extent to which the patient is becoming conscious of previously repressed beliefs.
- (B) Even when one of a patient's unconscious beliefs remains unconscious, researchers are sometimes able to discover this belief.
- (C) If psychoanalytic theory is correct, then most conscious beliefs originate as unconscious beliefs.
- (D) Researchers were able to distinguish expressed beliefs that had previously been unconscious from those that had long been conscious but that the patient had not previously expressed.
- (E) Although the beliefs on which the mechanism of repression works are all unconscious, the operation of the mechanism itself is something of which patients are consciously aware.

12. A greater number of sports magazine subscriptions are sold in Town A than are sold in Town B. Therefore, the citizens of Town A are better informed about international sporting competitions than are the citizens of Town B. Each of the following, if true, weakens the conclusion above EXCEPT:

- (A) Town A has a larger population than Town B.
- (B) Many citizens of Town B have second homes in Town A, and have all their leisure magazines delivered there.
- (C) The average citizen of Town B spends more time watching cable sports coverage of international sports than does the average citizen of Town A.

(D) A weekly magazine devoted entirely to high school football is published in Town A, where high school football is considered the most popular sport.

(E) The average price of a magazine subscription in Town A is lower than the average price in Town B.

13. A recent study from USC determined that although only 22 percent of students wore USC Trojans paraphernalia to school on a regular basis, over 65 percent of students who passed their finals were wearing USC Trojans clothing at the time. The study concluded that students who wear USC Trojans clothing are more likely to do well on their finals than students who don't.

Which of the following would best strengthen the study's conclusion?

(A) Of the students who failed their finals, none of them have ever been seen in class wearing USC branded clothing.

(B) The week of finals every year is always on the same week as a big football game.

(C) USC clothing is wellinsulated and the classrooms at USC are kept highly air conditioned.

(D) Many students who did not pass their finals regularly attend tailgate parties.

(E) Students at USC tend to show more school spirit than students at other colleges.

14. The Larchmont Animal Shelter has four types of animals available for adoption: dogs, cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs. Two years ago, rabbits were the least popular adopted pet, but last year rabbits were by far the most commonly adopted type of animal. The number of dogs, cats, and guinea pigs adopted did not change dramatically from year to year.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most likely reason for the shift in rabbit popularity?

(A) Last year, the Larchmont Animal Shelter introduced an incentive: people who adopted a dog did not have to pay for its shots if they agreed to foster a rabbit for two weeks.

(B) More government funding allowed the Larchmont Animal Shelter to build a "Rabbit Room" addition to their building last year, allowing prospective owners to get "one on one" time with individual rabbits before adoption.

(C) Animal control found a large illegal rabbit farm last year, and transferred hundreds of rabbits to the Larchmont Animal Shelter to be put up for adoption.

(D) Several vicious dog bite attacks in the Larchmont area were heavily covered by the media last year, leading potential pet owners to reconsider their pet of choice.

(E) Early last year, a new Pixar movie featuring a talking bunny was among the highest grossing films at the box office.

15. Asset protection manager: This year, for the fifth consecutive fiscal year, we've managed to reduce the number of in store thefts by more than 20% of the previous year's figure, evidence that our store continues to profit from our vigilance against shoplifting.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the asset protection manager's argument?

(A) Six years ago the store had the highest number of thefts of any store in the region.

(B) The store's gross sales dropped by nearly 8% from the previous year's figure.

(C) By utilizing motion controlled cameras and digital imaging software, similar stores have reduced theft by more than 50% over the same time period.

(D) As the store's clientele has become more affluent, the dollar value of items reported stolen has more than doubled over the last five years.

(E) Punishments for shoplifters in the city in which the store is located have been steadily becoming more lenient over the last five years.

16. **Nate:** Recently a craze has developed for home juicers, \$300 machines that separate the pulp of the fruits and vegetables from the juice they contain. Outrageous claims are being made about the benefits of these devices: Drinking the juice they produce is said to help one lose weight or acquire a clear complexion, to aid in digestion, and even to prevent cancer. But there is no indication that juice separated from the pulp of the fruit or vegetable has any properties that it does not have when unseparated. Save your money, if you want carrot juice, eat a carrot.

Which of the following, if true, most calls into question Nate's argument?

(A) Most people find it much easier to consume a given quantity of nutrients in liquid form than to eat solid foods containing the same quantity of the same nutrients.

(B) Drinking juice from home juicers is less healthy than is eating fruits and vegetables because such juice does not contain the fiber that is eaten if one consumes the entire fruit or vegetable.

- (C) To most people who would be tempted to buy a home juicer, \$300 would not be a major expense.
(D) Nate was a member of a panel that extensively evaluated early prototypes of home juicers
(E) Vitamin pills that supposedly contain nutrients available elsewhere only in fruits and vegetables often contain a form of those compounds that cannot be as easily metabolized as the varieties found in fruit and vegetables.

17. Art Critic: The most important painters of the past paid artistic tribute to the schools under which they developed while eventually breaking away to create their individual styles. And no important painter lacks the ability to create emotion in the viewers of their art. Therefore, any painter who intends to create an emotional reaction in his or her viewer pays tribute to the schools under which they trained, while at the same time creating an individual style.

Which one of the following contains flawed reasoning that most closely parallels that in the argument above?

- (A) Significant historical treaties always describe reparations between two nations, and no historical treaty fails to include terms of peace. If a treaty describes reparations between two nations and includes terms of peace, it is of historical significance.
(B) Without resilience, a Marine Corps commander cannot discipline his troops. Without discipline, a commander is incapable of leading troops into battle. It follows, then, that a great Marine Corps commander is both resilient and disciplined.
(C) The most remarkable lightning strikes occur in tropical climates, and no truly remarkable lightning strikes have occurred in places of high desert. Therefore, if a country's climate is tropical yet also contains high desert, it is unlikely to have a high incidence of remarkable lightning storms.
(D) Any opera that doesn't have a beautiful aria must have a complex orchestration, since the famous operas never fail to impress with both beautiful arias and complex orchestrations.
(E) Obviously, any interior decorator who desires to better his or her clients' lives will listen to the personal design tastes of the clients. Any worthwhile interior decorator, after all, wants to improve clients' lives, and no worthwhile interior decorator ignores the personal design tastes of the clients whose lives he or she is trying to better.

18. One of the best ways you can feed your brain for better memory is by avoiding a diet high in transfat and saturated fat. A recent study has found that these fats, such as those from animal products, can cause inflammation as well as produce free radicals, which tend to weaken the brain's higher functions. Many meat producers, however, have pointed out that free radicals are a normal byproduct of the body's natural metabolism. Though this may be true, there is still sufficient proof that a better memory can be achieved by avoiding too much red meat.

Which of the following is an assumption upon which the argument depends?

- (A) Free radicals in high enough quantities can damage or kill brain cells.
(B) Memory is considered a higher brain function.
(C) The body's metabolism does not also cause inflammation.
(D) No other fats increase inflammation and free radicals.
(E) The free radicals found in red meat are not found in other types of food products.

19. Offshore oil drilling operations entail an unavoidable risk of an oil spill, but importing oil tankers presently entails an even greater such risk per barrel of oil. Therefore, if we are to reduce the risk of an oil spill without curtailing our use of oil, we must invest more in offshore operations and import less oil on tankers.

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

- (A) Tankers can easily be redesigned so that their use entails less risk of an oil spill.
(B) Oil spills caused by tankers have generally been more serious than those caused by offshore operations.
(C) The impact of offshore operations on the environment can be controlled by careful management.
(D) Offshore operations usually damage the ocean floor, but tankers rarely cause such damage.
(E) Importing oil on tankers is currently less expensive than drilling for it offshore.

20. In Patton City, days are categorized as having heavy rainfall (more than two inches), moderate rainfall (more than one inch, but no more than two inches), light rainfall (at least a trace, but no more than one inch), or no rainfall. In 1990, there were fewer days with light rainfall than in 1910 and fewer with moderate rainfall, yet total rainfall for the year was 20 percent higher in 1990 than in 1910.

If the statements above are true, then it is also possible that in Patton City

- (A) the number of days with heavy rainfall was lower in 1990 than in 1910
(B) the number of days with some rainfall, but no more than two inches, was the same in 1990 as in 1910

- (C) the number of days with some rainfall, but no more than two inches, was higher in 1990 than in 1910
- (D) the total number of inches of rain that fell on days with moderate rainfall in 1990 was more than twice what it had been in 1910
- (E) the average amount of rainfall per month was lower in 1990 than in 1910

21. Highways 24 and 105 each have relatively equal traffic loads, meaning their daily vehicle counts are virtually equal. According to records maintained by the State Department of Transportation, Highway 24 had fewer vehicle accidents last year than did Highway 105. Therefore, driving on Highway 24 is safer than driving on Highway 105.

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

- (A) Highway 105 runs through lowlands notorious for poor visibility due to heavy fog, while Highway 24 does not.
- (B) More than twice as many highway patrol officers are assigned to Highway 105 than to Highway 24.
- (C) The emergency rooms of the hospital located along Highway 105 report considerably more injuries than do those of the hospital near Highway 24.
- (D) Highway 24 had more fatal accidents than Highway 105 last year.
- (E) Highway 105 was built with traditional asphalt, while Highway 24 was built with a newer, more inexpensive asphalt substitute.

22. A year ago, Dietz Foods launched a yearlong advertising campaign for its canned tuna. Last year Dietz sold 12 million cans of tuna compared to the 10 million sold during the previous year, an increase directly attributable to new customers brought in by the campaign. Profits from the additional sales, however, were substantially less than the cost of the advertising campaign. Clearly, therefore, the campaign did nothing to further Dietz's economic interests.

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

- (A) Sales of canned tuna account for a relatively small percentage of Dietz Foods' profits.
- (B) Most of the people who bought Dietz's canned tuna for the first time as a result of the campaign were already loyal customers of other Dietz products.
- (C) A less expensive advertising campaign would have brought in significantly fewer new customers for Dietz's canned tuna than did the campaign Dietz Foods launched last year.
- (D) Dietz made money on sales of canned tuna last year.
- (E) In each of the past five years, there was a steep, industrywide decline in sales of canned tuna.

23. Sarah, who is an excellent mechanic, said that in her opinion the used car John is considering is in good mechanical condition. However, it is clear that Sarah cannot be trusted to give an honest opinion, since when Emmett asked her opinion of his new haircut she lied and said she thought it looked good. Therefore, it is very likely that Sarah also lied in giving her opinion of the mechanical condition of that car.

The argument is flawed by virtue of having committed which one of the following errors of reasoning?

- (A) It fails to offer any grounds for the attack it makes on the character of the person.
- (B) It confuses claims about the past with claims about the future
- (C) It bases a sweeping claim on the evidence provided by an instance that is not clearly relevant
- (D) It presents evidence in value laden terms that presuppose the conclusion for which that evidence is being offered.
- (E) It wrongly assumes that because someone is a competent judge of one kind of thing, that person will be a competent judge of a very different kind of thing.

24. People often criticize their local government for not providing enough funds to the public libraries in their district. They complain of lacking infrastructure and out of date and worn out reading material. Surprisingly, the most frequent and vociferous complaints come from those who live in districts where the libraries are most well maintained and kept current.

All of the following, considered individually, help to explain the apparent paradox EXCEPT:

- (A) People from districts of well maintained libraries are more likely to use the public libraries.
- (B) People have no knowledge of the facilities and infrastructure provided by the other libraries in their district.
- (C) Good facilities cause people's expectations to rise leading them to demand even more.
- (D) The people in districts with well maintained libraries are likely to complain when the library they use is not as well maintained as the other libraries in that district.
- (E) Most complaints about libraries come from political activists, most of who live in districts with well maintained libraries.

25. In the early 20th century, ivory poaching led to the near extinction of the black rhino and the African elephant. As a result, numerous African nations supported a complete ban on all ivory sales. This ban has been in effect since 1989. The governments of South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia have recently put up for auction thousands of tons of confiscated ivory horns and tusks, in spite of the continued moratorium. However, the three governments have the full support of the same conservationists who helped impose the 1989 international ban on ivory sales.

Which of the following, if true, contributes most to an explanation of why conservationists support South Africa's, Botswana's and Namibia's auction of ivory?

- (A) The international demand for ivory has decreased significantly since 1989.
- (B) Most wild black rhinos and African elephants live outside of South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia.
- (C) Once the tons of confiscated ivory are auctioned, the market will be flooded with ivory, making poaching economically impractical.
- (D) If it were not for the auction, the confiscated ivory would never be used, and would have to remain in government warehouses.
- (E) Due to major conservation efforts, black rhino and African elephant populations have slowly but steadily increased in the last few years.

26. Informed people generally assimilate information from several divergent sources before coming to an opinion. However, most popular news organizations view foreign affairs solely through the eyes of our State Department. In reporting the political crisis in foreign country B, news organizations must endeavor to find alternative sources of information.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the argument above?

- (A) To the degree that a news source gives an account of another country that mirrors that of our State Department, that reporting is suspect.
- (B) To protect their integrity, news media should avoid the influence of State Department releases in their coverage of foreign affairs.
- (C) Reporting that is not influenced by the State Department is usually more accurate than are other accounts.
- (D) The alternative sources of information mentioned in the passage might not share the same views as the State Department.
- (E) A report cannot be seen as influenced by the State Department if it accurately depicts the events in a foreign country.

27. About two million years ago, lava dammed up a river in western Asia and caused a small lake to form. The lake existed for about half a million years. Bones of an early human ancestor were recently found in the ancient lake bottom sediments on top of the layer of lava. Therefore, ancestors of modern humans lived in Western Asia between 2 million and 1.5 million years ago.

Which one of the following is an assumption required by the argument?

- (A) There were not other lakes in the immediate area before the lava dammed up the river.
- (B) The lake contained fish that the human ancestors could have used for food.
- (C) The lava under the lake bottom sediments did not contain any human fossil remains.
- (D) The lake was deep enough that a person could drown in it.
- (E) The bones were already in the sediments by the time the lake disappeared.

28. All of John's friends say they know someone who has smoked 40 cigarettes a day for the past 40 years and yet who is really fit and well. John does not know anyone like that and it is quite certain that he is not unique among his friends in this respect.

If the statements in the passage are true, then which one of the following must also be true?

- (A) Smokers often lie about how much they smoke.
- (B) People often knowingly exaggerate without intending to lie.
- (C) All John's friends know the same lifelong heavy smoker.
- (D) Most of John's friends are not telling the truth.
- (E) Some of John's friends are not telling the truth.

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2013 Answers

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1	B
2	D
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	B
7	E
8	B
9	A
10	C
11	D
12	E
13	A
14	E
15	D
16	A
17	E
18	A
19	A
20	A
21	A
22	E
23	C
24	B
25	C
26	D
27	E
28	E

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2014 Questions

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1. Historian: In the Drindian Empire, censuses were conducted annually to determine the population of each village. **Village census records for the last half of the 1600's are remarkably complete.** This very completeness makes one point stand out; in five different years, villages overwhelmingly reported significant population declines. Tellingly, each of those five years immediately followed an increase in a certain Drindian tax. This tax, which was assessed on villages, was computed by the central government using the annual census figures. Obviously, whenever the tax went up, villages had an especially powerful economic incentive to minimize the number of people they recorded; and concealing the size of a village's population from government census takers would have been easy. **Therefore, it is reasonable to think that the reported declines did not happen.**

In the historian's argument, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first supplies a context for the historian's argument; the second acknowledges a consideration that has been used to argue against the position the historian seeks to establish.
- (B) The first presents evidence to support the position that the historian seeks to establish; the second acknowledges a consideration that has been used to argue against that position.
- (C) The first provides a context for certain evidence that supports the position that the historian seeks to establish; the second is that position.
- (D) The first is a position for which the historian argues; the second is an assumption that serves as the basis of that argument.
- (E) The first is an assumption that the historian explicitly makes in arguing for a certain position; the second acknowledges a consideration that calls that assumption into question.

2. From 1994 to 2001, violent crime in New York City steadily decreased by over 50% from a rate of 1,861 violent crimes per 100,000 people in 1994 down to 851 violent crimes per 100,000 people in 2001. Criminologists have partially attributed this drop to proactive policing tactics such as "broken window policing", wherein city officials immediately fixed small acts of vandalism and, as a result, lowered other types of criminal behavior. During this same period, the rate of violent crime in the United States steadily decreased by 28% (down to 500 violent crimes per 100,000 people).

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?

- (A) The decrease in the total crime rate in the United States caused the decrease in New York City's crime rate.
- (B) New York City spends more per capita on law enforcement than does the rest of the United States.
- (C) If the rest of the United States were to adopt law enforcement tactics similar to those of New York City, national violent crime rates would continue to fall.
- (D) Between 1994 and 2001, the violent crime rate in New York City was consistently higher than the national average.
- (E) The violent crime rate in New York City will soon be below the national average.

3. The team of Schleicher and Sun should win the gold medal in ice dancing. After all, they were leading after the short program and they skated the long program with fewer mistakes than any other pair. Therefore, they should end up with the highest overall score.

The argument above relies on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) None of the judges will allow bias to affect their scoring decisions.
- (B) Schleicher and Sun also skated the short program with fewer mistakes than any other pair.
- (C) Schleicher and Sun did not make any noticeable mistakes in either the short or the long program.
- (D) Factors other than their number of mistakes do not affect a pair's overall score.
- (E) Schleicher and Sun's twizzles were perfectly synchronized.

4. The metropolitan cooking academy surveyed prospective students and found that students wanted a curriculum that focused on today's healthy dining trends. In order to reverse the trend of declining interest in the school's programs, administrators propose a series of new courses focused on cooking exotic species of fish, alternative grains such as quinoa, and organically produced vegetables.

Which of the following, if true, supplies the best reason to suspect that the proposed new course will increase interest in the metropolitan cooking academy?

- (A) Cooking fish, grains, and vegetables relies on same culinary fundamentals as does the preparation of other ingredients.
- (B) In the food and beverage industry, many employers no longer have time to train apprentices and therefore demand basic culinary skills from their new hires.
- (C) Local producers in the area near the Metropolitan cooking academy are excellent sources of exotic fish and organic vegetables.
- (D) Many other cooking schools have found a decline in the level of interest in their program.
- (E) Many advocates of healthy dining stress the importance of including fish, grains and organically produced vegetables in one's diet.

5. The retail price of decaffeinated coffee is considerably higher than that of regular coffee. However, the process by which coffee beans are decaffeinated is fairly simple and not very costly. Therefore, the price difference cannot be accounted for by the greater cost of providing decaffeinated coffee to the consumer.

The argument relies on assuming which one of the following?

- (A) Processing regular coffee costs more than processing decaffeinated coffee
- (B) Price differences between products can generally be accounted for by such factors as supply and demand, not by differences in production costs
- (C) There is little competition among companies that process decaffeinated coffee
- (D) Retail coffee sellers do not expect that consumers are content to pay more for decaffeinated coffee than for regular coffee.
- (E) The beans used for producing decaffeinated coffee do not cost much more before processing than the beans used for producing regular coffee.

6. Environmentalists support a major phasedown of fossil fuels and substitution of favored 'nonpolluting' energies to conserve depleting resources and protect the environment. Yet energy megatrends contradict those concerns. Fossil fuel resources are becoming more abundant, not scarcer, and promise to continue expanding as technology improves, world markets liberalize, and investment capital expands. However, these facts do not mean a smaller role of the nonpolluting sources of energy in the long run given that

- A) The costs of producing energy from nonpolluting sources of energy have remained constant in the last five years.
- B) The availability of fossil fuels does mean an increased use of the same.
- C) The amount of confirmed deposits of fossil fuels is sufficient to serve the world energy needs at least over the next two centuries.
- D) There is an increasing sense of acceptance across the world on the harmful effects of the use of fossil fuels on the environment.
- E) Nonpolluting sources of energy are less cost effective than fossil fuels.

7. Some political observers believe that the only reason members of the state's largest union supported Senator Hughes in his recent reelection campaign was that the union's leaders must have been assured by Hughes that, if elected, he would stay out of their coming negotiations with the union's national leadership, whose members have been financial backers of several close associates of Hughes. More likely, the union's members believed that Hughes deserved to serve another term in office

Which of the following best parallels the method of argument used by the author?

- (A) The popularity of Deap, a powerful carpet cleaning system that can be used by the homeowner is, some industry observers say, due to an agreement made by a leading professional carpet cleaning company to supply Deap with the chemicals that are sold as accessories. This does not, however, fully explain the sudden popularity of the product in the last three months.
- (B) After a rocky start, Shade, a new cosmetics line, is now selling briskly. The reason for the turnaround is almost certainly that Shade is now being marketed to women in their twenties, not just to teens. This has helped the product achieve a more sophisticated appeal, which has translated into greater sales in every age group.
- (C) The Shakelight, a small flashlight that can be powered for several minutes by a shaking motion, has once again proven a popular gift item this holiday season. Other similar devices are available, but none has been as successful, and the reason is simple: the cost of

The Shakedown has fluctuated so that it has always been at least one dollar less than that of any competitor. The manufacturers' claim that they have a better product is nonsense.

(D) The continued success of the Daddo line of toys is due to the simple appeal that these toys have for kids between three years of age and six. Others disagree. One industry journal ascribed the brand's popularity to a deal made with a major toy retailer guaranteeing that the retailer would carry the coming line of Daddo products exclusively for three months.

(E) As with last year, this year's best selling foreign policy journal is World Opinion. It may be that the content in World Opinion is simply more exhaustive and better presented than that of similar publications, or it may be that the journal's publishers have the substantial support of their parent company, which has been a good friend to bookstores and other outlets.

8. SwiftCo recently remodeled its offices to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires that certain businesses make their properties accessible to those with disabilities. Contractors built ramps where stairs had been, increased the number of handicapped parking spaces in the parking lot, lowered door knobs and cabinet handles, and installed adaptive computer equipment.

Which of the following is the most likely inference based on the statements above?

- (A) SwiftCo is now in compliance with ADA requirements.
- (B) SwiftCo has at least one employee or customer who uses a wheelchair.
- (C) Prior to the renovation, some doors and cabinets may have been out of reach for some employees.
- (D) The costs of renovation were less than what SwiftCo would have been liable for had it been sued for ADA violations.
- (E) Businesses without adaptive computer equipment are in violation of the ADA.

9. A few people who are bad writers simply cannot improve their writing, whether or not they receive instruction. Still, most bad writers can at least be taught to improve their writing enough so that they are no longer bad writers. However, no one can become a great writer simply by being taught how to be a better writer, since great writers must have not only skill but also talent.

Which one of the following can be properly inferred from the passage above?

- (A) All bad writers can become better writers.
- (B) All great writers had to be taught to become better writers.
- (C) Some bad writers can never become great writers.
- (D) Some bad writers can become great writers.
- (E) Some great writers can be taught to be even better writers.

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2014 - Answers

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1	C
2	D
3	D
4	E
5	E
6	D
7	D
8	C
9	C

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2015 - Questions

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1. It is a mistake to give post office employees individual discretion as to when to inspect or open suspicious packages. If individual employees are allowed to open "suspicious" packages without first following a strict protocol, it is only a matter of time before all packages will arrive having already been opened due to some postal employee's idle curiosity.

The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Postal service managers are the only people with the authority to open suspicious packages.
- (B) Suspicious packages are indistinguishable from all other kinds of packages.
- (C) The efficiency of the postal service will be greatly reduced if more packages are inspected.
- (D) There is currently no protocol in place for the inspection of suspicious packages.
- (E) Postal employees desire to open packages out of curiosity.

2. According to recent research, a blindfolded person whose nostrils have been pinched so that smelling is impossible will have great difficulty in differentiating a bite of an apple from a bite of a raw potato. This clearly demonstrates that taste buds are not the only sense organs involved in determining the taste of a piece of food.

Which of the following premises, is an assumption required by the argument?

- (A) All people agree that an apple and a potato differ in taste.
- (B) There are no other senses involved in tasting other than taste, smell, and sight.
- (C) The word "taste" can be used to describe an experience that involves sight or smell or both.
- (D) The research was based on experiments that were conducted on a broad spectrum of the general population.
- (E) People who have been blindfolded and whose nostrils are pinched can differentiate a bite of an apple from a bite of an onion more easily than they can differentiate a bite of an apple from a bite of a raw potato.

3. In the last decade there has been a significant decrease in coffee consumption. During this same time, there has been increasing publicity about the adverse long term effects on health from the caffeine in coffee. Therefore, the decrease in coffee consumption must have been caused by consumers' awareness of the harmful effects of caffeine.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously calls into question the explanation above?

- A. On average, people consume 30% less coffee than they did 10 years ago.
- B. Heavy coffee drinkers may have mild withdrawal symptoms, such as headaches, for a day or so after, significantly decreasing their coffee consumption.
- C. Sales of specialty types of coffee have held steady, as sales of regular brands have declined.
- D. The consumption of fruit juices and caffeine free herbal teas has increased over the past decade.
- E. Coffee prices increased steadily in the past decade because of unusually severe frosts in coffee growing nations.

4. The growing popularity of computer based activities was widely predicted to result in a corresponding decline in television viewing. Recent studies have found that, in the United States, people who own computers watch, on average, significantly less television than people who do not own computers. In itself, however, this finding does very little to show that computer use tends to reduce television viewing time, since_____.

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

- (A) many people who watch little or no television do not own a computer.
- (B) even though most computer owners in the United States watch significantly less television than the national average, some computer owners watch far more television than the national average.
- (C) computer owners in the United States predominately belong to a demographic group that have long been known to spend less time watching television than the population as a whole does.
- (D) many computer owners in the United States have enough leisure time that spending significant amounts of time on the computer still leaves ample time for watching television.

(E) many people use their computers primarily for tasks such as correspondence that can be done more rapidly on the computer, and doing so leaves more leisure time for watching television.

5. Kernland imposes a high tariff on the export of unprocessed cashew nuts in order to ensure that the nuts are sold to domestic processing plants. If the tariff were lifted and unprocessed cashews were sold at world market prices, more farmers could profit by growing cashews. However, since all the processing plants are in urban areas, removing the tariff would seriously hamper the government's effort to reduce urban unemployment over the next five years.

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

- A. Some of the byproducts of processing cashews are used for manufacturing paints and plastics
- B. Other countries in which cashews are processed subsidize their processing plants
- C. More people in Kernland are engaged in farming cashews than in processing them
- D. Buying unprocessed cashews at lower than world market prices enables cashew processors in Kernland to sell processed nuts at competitive prices
- E. A lack of profitable crops is driving an increasing number of small farmers in Kernland off their land and into the cities

6. Researchers have recently discovered that approximately 70% of restaurant lemon wedges they studied were contaminated with harmful microorganisms such as bacteria and fungal pathogens. The researchers looked at numerous different restaurants in different regions of the country. Most of the organisms had the potential to cause infectious disease. For that reason, people should not order lemon wedges with their drinks.

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

- A. The researchers could not determine why or how the microbial contamination occurred on the lemon wedges.
- B. The researchers failed to investigate contamination of restaurant lime wedges by harmful microorganisms.
- C. The researchers found that people who ordered the lemon wedges at restaurants were equally likely to contract the diseases caused by the discovered bacteria as were people who did not order lemon wedges.
- D. Health laws require lemons to be handled with gloves or tongs, but the common practice for waiters and waitresses is to handle them with their bare hands.
- E. Many factors affect the chance of an individual contracting a disease by coming into contact with bacteria that have nothing to do with lemons. These factors include things such as health and age of the individual, as well as the status of their immune system.

7. In the United States, of the people who moved from one state to another when they retired, the percentage who retired to Florida has decreased by three percentage points over the past ten years. Since many local businesses in Florida cater to retirees, these declines are likely to have a noticeably negative economic effect on these businesses and therefore on the economy of Florida.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument given?

- A) People who moved from one state to another when they retired moved a greater distance, on average, last year than such people did ten years ago.
- B) People were more likely to retire to North Carolina from another state last year than people were ten years ago.
- C) The number of people who moved from one state to another when they retired has increased significantly over the past ten years.
- D) The number of people who left Florida when they retired to live in another state was greater last year than it was ten years ago.
- E) Florida attracts more people who move from one state to another when they retire than does any other state.

8. **Economic analysts predict that by 2030 populations of urban areas will have increased by 60%.** This will have tremendous impact on the demand for water in these areas. The increased demand will exhaust the local supplies of water and **potable water sources will be drawn to urban areas from longer distances,** resulting in a dramatic rise in the price of water.

Which of the following roles do the two boldfaced portions play?

- A) The first is the conclusion of the argument; the second is a prediction that serves as the basis for the argument
- B) The first is a prediction that serves as the basis for the argument; the second is the conclusion of the argument
- C) The first is a conclusion that serves as the basis of the argument; the second is a prediction that follows from the conclusion and is used to support the argument

- D) The first is a prediction that serves as the basis for the argument; the second is a prediction that follows from the conclusion.
- E) The first is a prediction that serves as the basis for the argument; the second is a consequence that follows from the prediction and is used to support the argument

9. A system wide county school antismoking education program was instituted last year. The program was clearly a success. Last year, the incidence of students smoking on school premises decreased by over 70 percent

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

- (A) The author of this statement is a school system official hoping to generate good publicity for the antismoking program.
- (B) Most students who smoke stopped smoking on school premises last year continued to smoke when away from school.
- (C) Last year, another policy change made it much easier for students to leave and return to school grounds during the school day.
- (D) The school system spent more on antismoking education programs last year than it did in all previous years.
- (E) The amount of time students spent in antismoking education programs last year resulted in a reduction of inclass hours devoted to academic subjects

10. **Nick:** The best way to write a good detective story is to work backward from the crime. The writer should first decide what the crime is and who the perpetrator is, and then come up with the circumstances and clues based on those decisions.

Which one of the following illustrates a principle most similar to that illustrated by the passage?

- A) When planning a trip, some people first decide where they want to go and then plan accordingly, but, for most of us, much financial planning must be done before we can choose where we are going.
- B) In planting a vegetable garden, you should prepare the soil first, and then decide what kind of vegetables to plant.
- C) Good architects do not extemporaneously construct their plans in the course of an afternoon; an architectural design cannot be divorced from the method of constructing the building.
- D) In solving mathematical problems, the best method is to try out as many strategies as possible in the time allotted. This is particularly effective if the number of possible strategies is fairly small.
- E) To make a great tennis shot, you should visualize where you want the shot to go. Then you can determine the position you need to be in to execute the shot properly

11. Editor of an automobile magazine: The materials used to make older model cars (those built before 1980) are clearly superior to those used to make late model cars (those built since 1980). For instance, all the 1960's and 1970's cars that I routinely inspect are in surprisingly good condition: they run well, all components work perfectly, and they have very little rust, even though many are over 50 years old. However, almost all of the late model cars I inspect that are over 10 years old run poorly, have lots of rust, and are barely fit to be on the road.

Which of the following is an assumption required by the argument above?

- A) The quality of materials used in older model cars is not superior to those used to make other types of vehicles produced in the same time period.
- B) Cars built before 1980 are not used for shorter trips than cars built since then.
- C) Manufacturing techniques used in modern automobile plants are not superior to those used in plants before 1980.
- D) Well maintained and seldom used older model vehicles are not the only ones still on the road.
- E) Owners of older model vehicles take particularly good care of those vehicles

12. Technological improvements and reduced equipment costs have made converting solar energy directly into electricity far more cost efficient in the last decade. However, the threshold of economic viability for solar power (that is, the price per barrel to which oil would have to rise in order for new solar power plants to be more economical than new oil fired power plants) is unchanged at thirty five dollars.

Which of the following, if true, does most to help explain why the increased cost efficiency of solar power has not decreased its threshold of economic viability?

- (A) The cost of oil has fallen dramatically.
- (B) The reduction in the cost of solar power equipment has occurred despite increased raw material costs for that equipment.
- (C) Technological changes have increased the efficiency of oil fired power plants.
- (D) Most electricity is generated by coal fired or nuclear, rather than oil fired, power plants.

(E) When the price of oil increases, reserves of oil not previously worth exploiting become economically viable

13. In the past the country of Malvernia has relied heavily on imported oil. Malvernia recently implemented a program to convert heating systems from oil to natural gas. Malvernia currently produces more natural gas each year than it uses, and oil production in Malvernian oil fields is increasing at a steady pace. If these trends in fuel production and usage continue, therefore, Malvernian reliance on foreign sources for fuel is likely to decline soon.

Which of the following would it be most useful to establish in evaluating the argument?

- (A) When, if ever, will production of oil in Malvernia outstrip production of natural gas?
- (B) Is Malvernia among the countries that rely most on imported oil?
- (C) What proportion of Malvernia's total energy needs is met by hydroelectric, solar, and nuclear power?
- (D) Is the amount of oil used each year in Malvernia for generating electricity and fuel for transportation increasing?
- (E) Have any existing oilburning heating systems in Malvernia already been converted to natural gas burning heating systems?

14. Citizens of Parktown are worried by the increased frequency of serious crimes committed by local teenagers. In response the city government has instituted a series of measures designed to keep teenagers at home in the late evening. Even if the measures succeeded in keeping teenagers at home, however, they are unlikely to affect the problem that concerns citizens, since more crimes committed by local teenagers take place between 3p.m. and 6p.m.

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

- A) Similar measures adopted in other places have failed to reduce the number of teenagers on the streets in the late evening.
- B) The crimes committed by teenagers in the afternoon are mostly small thefts and inconsequential vandalism
- C) Teenagers are much less likely to commit serious crimes when they are at home than when they are not at home
- D) Any decrease in the need for police patrols in the late evening would not mean that there could be more intensive patrolling in the afternoon
- E) The schools in Parktown have introduced a number of afterschool programs that will be available to teenagers until 6 p.m. on weekday afternoons.

15. From 1998 to 2008, the amount of oil exported from the nation of Livonia increased by nearly 20% as the world's demand soared. Yet over the same period, Livonia lost over 8,000 jobs in oil drilling and refinement, representing a 25% increase in the nation's unemployment rate.

Which of the following, if true, would best explain the discrepancy outlined above?

- A) Because of a slumping local economy, Livonia also lost 5,000 service jobs and 7,500 manufacturing jobs.
- B) Several other countries in the region reported similar percentages of jobs lost in the oil industry over the same period.
- C) Because of Livonia's overvalued currency, most of the nation's crude oil is now being refined after it has been exported.
- D) Technological advancements in oil drilling techniques have allowed for a greater percentage of the world's oil to be obtained from underneath the ocean floor.
- E) Many former oil employees have found more lucrative work in the Livonia's burgeoning precious metals mining industry

16. Some species of Arctic birds are threatened by recent sharp increases in the population of snow geese, which breed in the Arctic and are displacing birds of less vigorous species. Although snow geese are a popular quarry for hunters in the southern regions where they winter, the hunting season ends if and when hunting has reduced the population by five percent, according to official estimates. Clearly, dropping this restriction would allow the other species to recover.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the argument?

- (A) Hunting limits for snow geese were imposed many years ago in response to a sharp decline in the population of snow geese.
- (B) It has been many years since the restriction led to the hunting season for snow geese being closed earlier than the scheduled date.
- (C) The number of snow geese taken by hunters each year has grown every year for several years.
- (D) As their population has increased, snow geese have recolonized wintering grounds that they had not used for several seasons
- (E) In the snow goose's winter habitats, the goose faces no significant natural predation

17. Two types of earthworm, one black and one red brown, inhabit the woods near the town of Millerton. Because the red brown worm's coloring affords it better camouflage from predatory birds, its population in 1980 was approximately five times that of the black worm. In 1990, a factory was built in Millerton and emissions from the factory blackened much of the woods. The population of black earthworms is now almost equal to that of the red brown earthworm, a result, say local ecologists, solely stemming from the blackening of the woods.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion of the local ecologists?

- (A) The number of red brown earthworms in the Millerton woods has steadily dropped since the factory began operations.
- (B) The birds that prey on earthworms prefer black worms to red brown worms.
- (C) Climate conditions since 1990 have been more favorable to the survival of the red brown worm than to the black worm.
- (D) The average life span of the earthworms has remained the same since the factory began operations.
- (E) Since the factory took steps to reduce emissions six months ago, there has been a slight increase in the earthworm population.

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2015 – Answers

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