

NEW CR QUESTIONS FROM OG REVIEW 2017

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PhishCo runs a number of farms in the arid province of Nufa, depending largely on irrigation. Now, as part of a plan to efficiently increase the farms' total production, it plans to drill down to an aquifer containing warm, slightly salty water that will be used to raise fish in ponds. The water from the ponds will later be used to supplement piped-in irrigation water for PhishCo's vegetable fields, and the ponds and accompanying vegetation should help reduce the heat in the area of the farms

Which of the following would, if true, most strongly suggest that the plan, if implemented, would increase the overall efficiency of PhishCo's farms?

- (A) Most of the vegetation to be placed around the ponds is native to Nufa.
- (B) Fish raised in PhishCo's farms are likely to be saleable in the nearest urban areas.
- (C) Organic waste from fish in the pond water will help to fertilize fields where it is used for irrigation.
- (D) The government of Nufa will help to arrange loan financing to partially cover the costs of drilling.
- (E) Ponds will be located on the low-lying land now partially occupied by grain crops.

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The rate at which a road wears depends on various factors. Including climate, amount of traffic, and the size and weight of the vehicles using it. The only land transportation to Rittland's seaport is via a divided highway, one side carrying traffic to the seaport and one carrying traffic away from it. The side leading to the seaport has worn faster, even though each side has carried virtually the same traffic, consisting mainly of large trucks.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the difference in the rate of wear?

- (A) The volume of traffic to and from Rittland's seaport has increased beyond the intended capacity of the highway that serves it.
- (B) Wear on the highway that serve Rittland's seaport is considerably greater during the cold months.
- (C) Wear on the side if the highway that leads to Rittland's seaport has encouraged people to take buses to the seaport rather than driving there in their own automobiles.
- (D) A greater tonnage of goods is exported from Rittland's seaport than is imported through it.
- (E) All of Rittland's automobiles are imported by ship.

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Many leadership theories have provided evidence that leaders affect group success rather than success of particular individuals. So it is irrelevant to analyze the effects of superior traits on the attitudes of individuals whom they supervise. Instead, assessment of leadership effectiveness should occur only at the group level.

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

- (A) Whether supervisor's documentation of individual supervisees' attitudes towards them is usually accurate.
- (B) Whether it is possible to assess individual supervisees' attitudes towards their supervisors without thereby changing those attitudes.
- (C) Whether any of the leadership theories in question hold that leaders should assess other leaders' attitudes.
- (D) Whether some types of groups do not need supervision in order to be successful in their endeavors.
- (E) Whether individuals' attitudes towards supervisors affect group success.

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To evaluate a plan to save money on the office-space expenditures by having its employees work at home, XYZ Company asked volunteers from its staff to try the arrangement for six months. During this period, the productivity of these employees was as high or higher than before.

Which of the following, if true, would argue most strongly against deciding, on the basis of the trial results, to implement the company's plan?

- (A) The employees who agreed to participate in the test of the plan were among the company's most self-motivated and independent workers.
- (B) The savings that would accrue from reduced office-space expenditures alone would be sufficient to justify the arrangement for the company, apart from any productivity increases.
- (C) Other companies that have achieved successful results from work-at-home plan have workforces that are substantially larger than that of XYZ.
- (D) The volunteers who worked at home were able to communicate with other employees as necessary for performing the work.
- (E) Minor changes in the way office work is organized at XYZ would yield increases in employee productivity similar to those achieved in the trial.

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Newsletter: A condominium generally offers more value for its cost than an individual house because of economies of scale. The homeowners in a condominium association can collectively buy products and services that they could not afford on their own. And since a professional management company handles maintenance of common areas, condominium owners spend less time and money on maintenance than individual homeowners do.

The two portions in the boldface play which of the following roles in the newsletter's argument?

- (A) The first is the argument's main conclusion; the second is another conclusion supporting the first.
- (B) The first is a premise, for which no evidence is provided; the second is the argument's only conclusion.
- (C) The first is a conclusion supporting the second; the second is the argument's main conclusion.
- (D) The first is the argument's only conclusion; the second is a premise, for which no evidence is provided.
- (E) Both are premises, for which no evidence is provided, and both support the argument's only conclusion.

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Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

When officials in Tannersburg released their plan to widen city's main roads, environmentalists protested that widened roads would attract more traffic and lead to air pollution. In response, city officials pointed out that today's pollution-control devices are at their most effective in vehicles travelling at higher speeds and that widening roads would increase the average speed of traffic. However, this effect can hardly be expected to offset the effect pointed out by environmentalists, since _____.

- (A) increases in traffic volume generally produce decreases in the average speed of traffic unless roads are widened
- (B) several of the roads that are slated for widening will have to be closed temporarily while construction is underway
- (C) most of the air pollution generated by urban traffic comes from vehicles that do not have functioning pollution-control devices
- (D) the newly widened roads will not have increased traffic volume if the roads that must be used to reach the are inadequate
- (E) a vehicle travelling on a route that goes through Tannersburg will spend less time on Tannersburg's roads once the roads are widened

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Conventional wisdom suggests vaccinating elderly people first in flu season, because they are at greatest risk if they contract the virus. This year's flu virus poses particular risk to elderly people and almost none at all younger people, particularly children. Nevertheless, health professionals are recommending vaccinating children first against the virus rather than elderly people.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest reason for the health professionals' recommendation?

- (A) Children are vulnerable to dangerous infections when their immune systems are severely weakened by other diseases.
- (B) Children are particularly unconcerned with hygiene and therefore are the group most responsible for spreading the flu virus to others.
- (C) The vaccinations received last year will confer no immunity to this year's flu virus.
- (D) Children who catch one strain of the flu virus and then recover are likely to develop immunity to at least some strains with which they have not yet come in contact.
- (E) Children are no more likely than adults to have immunity to a particular flu virus if they have never lived through a previous epidemic of the same virus.

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Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

Leaf beetles damage willow trees by stripping away their leaves, but a combination parasites and predators generally keeps populations of these beetles in check. Researchers have found that severe air pollution results in reduced predator populations. The pollution; nevertheless, the researcher's discovery probably does explain why leaf beetles cause particularly severe damage to willows in areas with severe air pollution, since _____.

- (A) neither the predators nor the parasites of leaf beetles themselves attack willow trees
- (B) the parasites that leaf beetles actually tend to be more prevalent in areas with severe air pollution than they are elsewhere
- (C) the damage caused by leaf beetles is usually not enough to kill a willow tree outright
- (D) where air pollution is not especially severe, predators have much more impact on leaf-beetles populations than parasites do
- (E) willows often grow in areas where air pollution is especially severe

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In setting environmental standards for industry and others to meet, it is unadvisable to require the best results that state-of-the-art technology can achieve. Current technology is able to detect and eliminate even extremely minute amounts of contaminants, but at a cost that is exorbitant relative to the improvement achieved. So it would be reasonable instead to set standards by taking into account all of the current and future risks involved.

The argument given concerning the reasonable way to set standards presupposes that

- (A) industry currently meets the standards that have been set by environmental authorities
- (B) there are effective ways to take into account all of the relevant risks posed by allowing different levels of contaminants
- (C) the only contaminants worth measuring are generated by industry
- (D) it is not costly to prevent large amounts of contaminants from entering environment
- (E) minute amounts of some contaminants can be poisonous

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The Sumpton town council recently voted to pay a prominent artist to create an abstract sculpture for the town square critics of this decision protested that town residents tend to dislike most abstract art, and any art in the town square should reflect their tastes. But a town council spokesperson dismissed this criticism, pointing out that other public abstract sculptures that the same sculptor has installed in other cities have been extremely popular with those cities' local residents.

The statements above most strongly suggest that the main point of disagreement between the critics and the spokesperson is whether

- (A) it would have been reasonable to consult town residents on the decision
- (B) most Sumpton residents will find the new sculpture to their taste
- (C) abstract sculptures by the same sculptor have truly been popular in other cities
- (D) a more traditional sculpture in the town square would be popular among local residents
- (E) public art that residents of Sumpton would find desirable by the residents of other cities

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Microbiologist: A lethal strain of salmonella recently showed up in a European country, causing an outbreak of illness that killed two people and infected twenty-seven others. Investigators blame the severity of the outbreak on the overuse of antibiotics, since the salmonella bacteria tested were shown to be drug-resistant. But this is unlikely because patients in the country where the outbreak occurred cannot obtain antibiotics to treat illness without prescription, and the country's doctors prescribe antibiotics less readily than do doctors in any other European country.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the microbiologist's reasoning?

- (A) Physicians in the country where the outbreak occurred have become hesitant to prescribe antibiotics since they are frequently in short supply.
- (B) People in the country where the outbreak occurred often consume foods produced from animals that eat antibiotics-laden livestock feed.
- (C) Use of antibiotics in two countries that neighbor the country where the outbreak occurred has risen over the past decade.
- (D) Drug-resistant strains of salmonella have not been found in countries in which antibiotics are generally available.
- (E) Salmonella has been shown to spread easily along the distribution chains of certain vegetables, such as raw tomatoes.

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Images from ground-based telescopes are invariably distorted by the Earth's atmosphere. Orbiting space telescopes, however, operating above Earth's atmosphere, should provide superbly detailed images. Therefore, ground-based telescopes will soon become obsolete for advanced astronomical research purposes.

Which of the following statements, if true, would cast the most doubt on the conclusion drawn above?

- (A) An orbiting space telescope due to be launched this year is far behind schedule and over budget, whereas the largest ground-based telescope was both within budget and on schedule.
- (B) Ground-based telescopes located on mountain summits are not subject to the kinds of atmospheric distortion, which, at low altitudes, make stars appear to twinkle.
- (C) By careful choice of observatory location, it is possible for large-aperture telescopes to avoid most of the kind of wind turbulence that can distort image quality.
- (D) When large-aperture telescopes are located at high altitudes near the equator, they permit the best Earth-based observations of the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, a prime target of astronomical research.
- (E) Detailed spectral analyses, upon which astronomers rely for determining the chemical composition and evolutionary history of stars, require telescopes with more light-gathering capacity than space telescope can provide.

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In an experiment, volunteers walked individually through a dark, abandoned theatre. Half of the volunteers had been told that the theater was haunted and the other half that it was under renovation. The first half reported significantly more unusual experiences than the second did. The researchers concluded that reports of encounters with ghosts and other supernatural entities generally result from prior expectations of such experiences.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the researchers' reasoning?

- (A) None of the volunteers in the second half believed that unusual experiences they reported were supernatural.
- (B) All the volunteers in the first half believed that the researchers' statement that the theater was haunted a lie.
- (C) Before being told the theater, the volunteers within each group varied considerably in their beliefs about supernatural experiences.
- (D) Each unusual experience reported by the volunteers had a cause that did not involve the supernatural.
- (E) The researchers did not believe that the theater was haunted.