

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS****Ø6 2017****Q563**

Hunter: **Many people blame hunters alone for the decline in Greenrock National Forest's deer population over the past ten years.** Yet clearly, black bears have also played an important role in this decline. In the past ten years, the forest's protected black bear population has risen sharply, and examination of black bears found dead in the forest during the deer hunting season showed that a number of them had recently fed on deer.

In the hunter's argument, the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles?

- (A) It is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (B) It is a finding that the argument seeks to explain.
- (C) It is an explanation that the argument concludes is correct.
- (D) It provides evidence in support of the main conclusion of the argument.
- (E) It introduces a judgment that the argument opposes.

**Q573**

Last year a record number of new manufacturing jobs were created. Will this year bring another record? Well, a new manufacturing job is created either within an existing company or by the start-up of a new company. Within existing firms, new jobs have been created this year at well below last year's record pace. At the same time, there is considerable evidence that the number of new companies starting up will be no higher this year than it was last year, and surely **the new companies starting up this year will create no more jobs per company than did last year's start-ups**. Clearly, it can be concluded that **the number of new jobs created this year will fall short of last year's record**.

In the argument given, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a prediction that, if accurate, would provide support for the main conclusion of the argument; the second is that main conclusion.
- (B) The first is a prediction that, if accurate, would provide support for the main conclusion of the argument; the second is a conclusion drawn in order to support that main conclusion.
- (C) The first is an objection that the argument rejects; the second is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (D) The first is an objection that the argument rejects; the second presents a conclusion that could be drawn if that objection were allowed to stand.
- (E) The first is a claim that has been advanced in support of a position that the argument opposes; the second is a claim advanced in support of the main conclusion of the argument.

**Q624**

Public health expert: **Increasing the urgency of a public health message may be counterproductive.** In addition to irritating the majority who already behave responsibly, **it may undermine all government pronouncements on health by convincing people that such messages are overly cautious.** And there is no reason to believe that those who ignore measured voices will listen to shouting.

The two sections in boldface play which of the following roles in the public health expert's argument?

(A) The first is a conclusion for which support is provided, but is not the argument's main conclusion; the second is an unsupported premise supporting the argument's main conclusion.

(B) The first is a premise supporting the only explicit conclusion; so is the second.

(C) The first is the argument's main conclusion; the second supports that conclusion and is itself a conclusion for which support is provided.

(D) The first is a premise supporting the argument's only conclusion; the second is that conclusion.

(E) The first is the argument's only explicit conclusion; the second is a premise supporting that conclusion.

**Q625**

A prominent investor who holds a large stake in the Burton Tool Company has recently claimed that **the company is mismanaged**, citing as evidence the company's failure to slow production in response to a recent rise in its inventory of finished products. It is doubtful whether an investor's sniping at management can ever be anything other than counterproductive, **but in this case it is clearly not justified**. It is true that an increased inventory of finished products often indicates that production is outstripping demand, but in Burton's case it indicates no such thing. Rather, the increase in inventory is entirely attributable to products that have already been assigned to orders received from customers.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second provides evidence to undermine the support for the position being opposed.
- (B) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second is evidence that has been used to support the position being opposed.
- (C) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument as a whole.
- (D) The first is evidence that has been used to support a position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second provides information to undermine the force of that evidence.
- (E) The first is evidence that has been used to support a position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument as a whole.

**Q636**

Although the earliest surviving Greek inscriptions written in an alphabet date from the eighth century B.C., **the fact that the text of these Greek inscriptions sometimes runs from right to left and sometimes from left to right** indicates that the Greeks adopted alphabetic writing at least two centuries before these inscriptions were produced. After all, the Greeks learned alphabetic writing from the Phoenicians, and presumably, along with the alphabet, they also adopted the then-current Phoenician practice with respect to the direction of text. **And although Phoenician writing was originally inconsistent in direction, by the eighth century B.C. Phoenician was consistently written from right to left and had been for about two centuries.**

In the argument given, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first and the second each describe evidence that has been used to challenge the position that the argument seeks to establish.
- (B) The first is evidence that forms the basis for an objection to the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is that position.
- (C) The first is evidence that forms the basis for an objection to the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is a consideration that is introduced to counter the force of that evidence.
- (D) The first and the second each provide evidence in support of the position that the argument seeks to establish.
- (E) The first provides evidence in support of the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is that position.

Q638

**In countries where automobile insurance includes compensation for whiplash injuries sustained in automobile accidents, reports of having suffered such injuries are twice as frequent as they are in countries where whiplash is not covered.** Presently, no objective test for whiplash exists, so it is true that spurious reports of whiplash injuries cannot be readily identified. Nevertheless, these facts do not warrant the conclusion drawn by some commentators that in the countries with the higher rates of reported whiplash injuries, half of the reported cases are spurious. Clearly, **in countries where automobile insurance does not include compensation for whiplash, people often have little incentive to report whiplash injuries that they actually have suffered.**

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim that the argument disputes; the second is a conclusion that has been based on that claim.
- (B) The first is a claim that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument accepts; the second is that conclusion.
- (C) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion for which the argument provides further evidence; the second is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (D) The first is a finding whose implications are at issue in the argument; the second is a claim presented in order to argue against deriving certain implications from that finding.
- (E) The first is a finding whose accuracy is evaluated in the argument; the second is evidence presented to establish that the finding is accurate.

**Q646**

Since it has become known that **several of a bank's top executives have been buying shares in their own bank**, the bank's depositors, who had been worried by rumors that the bank faced impending financial collapse, have been greatly relieved. They reason that, since top executives evidently have faith in the bank's financial soundness, those worrisome rumors must be false. Such reasoning might well be overoptimistic, however, since **corporate executives have been known to buy shares in their own company in a calculated attempt to dispel negative rumors about the company's health**.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first describes evidence that has been taken as supporting a conclusion; the second gives a reason for questioning that support.
- (B) The first describes evidence that has been taken as supporting a conclusion; the second states a contrary conclusion that is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (C) The first provides evidence in support of the main conclusion of the argument; the second states that conclusion.
- (D) The first describes the circumstance that the argument as a whole seeks to explain; the second gives the explanation that the argument seeks to establish.
- (E) The first describes the circumstance that the argument as a whole seeks to explain; the second provides evidence in support of the explanation that the argument seeks to establish.

**Q651**

**Delta Products Inc. has recently switched at least partly from older technologies using fossil fuels to new technologies powered by electricity.** The question has been raised whether it can be concluded that **for a given level of output Delta's operation now causes less fossil fuel to be consumed than it did formerly.** The answer, clearly, is yes, since the amount of fossil fuel used to generate the electricity needed to power the new technologies is less than the amount needed to power the older technologies, provided level of output is held constant.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first identifies the content of the conclusion of the argument; the second provides support for that conclusion.
- (B) The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second identifies the content of that conclusion.
- (C) The first states the conclusion of the argument; the second calls that conclusion into question.
- (D) The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second calls that conclusion into question.
- (E) Each provides support for the conclusion of the argument.

**Q659**

Scientists typically do their most creative work before the age of forty. It is commonly thought that this happens because aging by itself brings about a loss of creative capacity. However, studies show that **of scientists who produce highly creative work beyond the age of forty, a disproportionately large number entered their field at an older age than is usual**. Since by the age of forty the large majority of scientists have been working in their field for at least fifteen years, the studies' finding strongly suggests that the real reason why **scientists over forty rarely produce highly creative work is not that they have aged but rather that scientists over forty have generally spent too long in their field**.

In the argument given, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim, the accuracy of which is at issue in the argument; the second is a conclusion drawn on the basis of that claim.
- (B) The first is an objection that has been raised against a position defended in the argument; the second is that position.
- (C) The first is evidence that has been used to support an explanation that the argument challenges; the second is that explanation.
- (D) The first is evidence that has been used to support an explanation that the argument challenges; the second is a competing explanation that the argument favors.
- (E) The first provides evidence to support an explanation that the argument favors; the second is that explanation.

**06 2015****Q123**

Museums that house Renaissance oil paintings typically store them in environments that are carefully kept within narrow margins of temperature and humidity to inhibit any deterioration. Laboratory tests have shown that the kind of oil paint used in these paintings actually adjusts to climatic changes quite well. If, as some museum directors believe, **paint is the most sensitive substance in these works**, then by relaxing the standards for temperature and humidity control, **museums can reduce energy costs without risking damage to these paintings**. Museums would be rash to relax those standards, however, since results of preliminary tests indicate that gesso, a compound routinely used by Renaissance artists to help paint adhere to the canvas, is unable to withstand significant variations in humidity.

In the argument above, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is an objection that has been raised against the position taken by the argument; the second is the position taken by the argument.
- (B) The first is the position taken by the argument; the second is the position that the argument calls into question.
- (C) The first is a judgment that has been offered in support of the position that the argument calls into question; the second is a circumstance on which that judgment is, in part, based.
- (D) The first is a judgment that has been offered in support of the position that the argument calls into question; the second is that position.
- (E) The first is a claim that the argument calls into question; the second is the position taken by the argument.