

OG12 CR Q1

“Life expectancy” is the average age at death of the entire live-born population. In the middle of the nineteenth century, life expectancy in North America was 40 years, whereas now it is nearly 80 years. Thus, in those days, people must have been considered old at an age that we now consider the prime of life.

Which of the following, if true, undermines the argument above?

- A. In the middle of the nineteenth century, the population of North America was significantly smaller than it is today.
- B. Most of the gains in life expectancy in the last 150 years have come from reductions in the number of infants who die in their first year of life.
- C. Many of the people who live to an advanced age today do so only because of medical technology that was unknown in the nineteenth century.
- D. The proportion of people who die in their seventies is significantly smaller today than is the proportion of people who die in their eighties.
- E. More people in the middle of the nineteenth century engaged regularly in vigorous physical activity than do so today

OG12 CR Q2

Scientists propose placing seismic stations on the floor of the Pacific Ocean to warn threatened coastal communities on the northwestern coast of the United States of approaching tidal waves caused by earthquakes. Since forewarned communities could take steps to evacuate, many of the injuries and deaths that would otherwise occur could be avoided if the government would implement this proposal.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most important in determining whether implementing the proposal would be likely to achieve the desired result?

- A. When was the last time that the coastal communities were threatened by an approaching tidal wave?
- B. How far below sea level would the stations be located?
- C. Would there be enough time after receiving warning of an approaching tidal wave for communities to evacuate safely?
- D. How soon after a tidal wave hits land is it safe for evacuees to return to their communities?
- E. Can the stations be equipped to collect and relay information about phenomena other than tidal waves caused by earthquakes?

OG12 CR Q8

A report that many apples contain a cancer-causing preservative called Alar apparently had little effect on consumers. Few consumers planned to change their apple-buying habits as a result of the report. Nonetheless, sales of apples in grocery stores fell sharply in March, a month after the report was issued.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the reason for the apparent discrepancy described above?

- A. In March, many grocers removed apples from their shelves in order to demonstrate concern about their customers' health.
- B. Because of a growing number of food-safety warnings, consumers in March were indifferent to such warnings.
- C. The report was delivered on television and also appeared in newspapers.
- D. The report did not mention that any other fruit contains Alar, although the preservative is used on other fruit.
- E. Public health officials did not believe that apples posed a health threat because only minute traces of Alar were present in affected apples.

OG12 CR Q10

Cable-television spokesperson: Subscriptions to cable television are a bargain in comparison to "free" television. Remember that "free" television is not really free. It is consumers, in the end, who pay for the costly advertising that supports "free" television.

Which of the following, if true, is most damaging to the position of the cable-television spokesperson?

- A. Consumers who do not own television sets are less likely to be influenced in their purchasing decisions by television advertising than are consumers who own television sets.
- B. Subscriptions to cable television include access to some public-television channels, which do not accept advertising.
- C. For locations with poor television reception, cable television provides picture quality superior to that provided by free television.
- D. There is as much advertising on many cable-television channels as there is on "free" television channels.
- E. Cable-television subscribers can choose which channels they wish to receive.

OG12 CR Q13

In Swartkans territory, archaeologists discovered charred bone fragments dating back one million years. Analysis of the fragments, which came from a variety of animals, showed that they had been heated to temperatures no higher than those produced in experimental campfires made from branches of white stinkwood, the most common tree around Swartkans.

Which of the following, if true, would, together with the information above, provide the best basis for the claim that the charred bone fragments are evidence of the use of fire by early hominids?

- A. The white stinkwood tree is used for building material by the present-day inhabitants of Swartkans.
- B. Forest fires can heat wood to a range of temperatures that occur in campfires.
- C. The bone fragments were fitted together by the archaeologists to form the complete skeletons of several animals.
- D. Apart from the Swartkans discovery, there is reliable evidence that early hominids used fire as many as 500,000 years ago.
- E. The bone fragments were found in several distinct layers of limestone that contained primitive cutting tools known to have been used by early hominids.

OG12 CR Q15

A conservation group in the United States is trying to change the long-standing image of bats as frightening creatures. The group contends that bats are feared and persecuted solely because they are shy animals that are active only at night.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most serious doubt on the accuracy of the group's contention?

- A. Bats are steadily losing natural roosting places such as caves and hollow trees and are thus turning to more developed areas for roosting.
- B. Bats are the chief consumers of nocturnal insects and thus can help make their hunting territory more pleasant for humans.
- C. Bats are regarded as frightening creatures not only in the United States but also in Europe, Africa, and South America.
- D. Raccoons and owls are shy and active only at night, yet they are not generally feared and persecuted.
- E. People know more about the behavior of other greatly feared animal species, such as lions, alligators, and snakes, than they do about the behavior of bats.

OG12 CR Q16

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

People buy prestige when they buy a premium product. They want to be associated with something special. Mass-marketing techniques and price-reduction strategies should not be used because .

- A. affluent purchasers currently represent a shrinking portion of the population of all purchasers
- B. continued sales depend directly on the maintenance of an aura of exclusivity
- C. purchasers of premium products are concerned with the quality as well as with the price of the products
- D. expansion of the market niche to include a broader spectrum of consumers will increase profits
- E. manufacturing a premium brand is not necessarily more costly than manufacturing a standard brand of the same product

OG12 CR Q18

In Asia, where palm trees are nonnative, the trees' flowers have traditionally been pollinated by hand, which has kept palm fruit productivity unnaturally low. When weevils known to be efficient pollinators of palm flowers were introduced into Asia in 1980, palm fruit productivity increased—by up to 50 percent in some areas—but then decreased sharply in 1984.

Which of the following statements, if true, would best explain the 1984 decrease in productivity?

- A. Prices for palm fruit fell between 1980 and 1984 following the rise in production and a concurrent fall in demand.
- B. Imported trees are often more productive than native trees because the imported ones have left behind their pests and diseases in their native lands.
- C. Rapid increases in productivity tend to deplete trees of nutrients needed for the development of the fruit-producing female flowers.
- D. The weevil population in Asia remained at approximately the same level between 1980 and 1984.
- E. Prior to 1980 another species of insect pollinated the Asian palm trees, but not as efficiently as the species of weevil that was introduced in 1980.

OG12 CR Q24

The Plexis Corporation, a leading computer chip manufacturer, is currently developing a new chip, which is faster and more efficient than any computer chip currently in use. The new chip will be released for sale in twelve months. Plexis' market research has shown that initial sales of the new chip would be maximized by starting to advertise it now, but the company has decided to wait another six months before doing so.

Which of the following, if true, provides the Plexis Corporation with the best reason for postponing advertising its new chip?

- A. Some computer users are reluctant to purchase new computer products when they are first released.
- B. The cost of an advertising campaign capable of maximizing initial sales of the new chip would be no greater than campaigns previously undertaken by Plexis.
- C. Advertising the new chip now will significantly decrease sales of Plexis' current line of computer chips.
- D. Plexis' major rivals in the computer chip manufacturing business are developing a chip with capabilities that are comparable to those of Plexis' new chip.
- E. Taking full advantage of the capacities of the new chip will require substantial adjustments in other segments of the computer industry.

OG12 CR Q25

Many breakfast cereals are fortified with vitamin supplements. Some of these cereals provide 100 percent of the recommended daily requirement of vitamins. Nevertheless, a well-balanced breakfast, including a variety of foods, is a better source of those vitamins than are such fortified breakfast cereals alone.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the position above?

- A. In many foods, the natural combination of vitamins with other nutrients makes those vitamins more usable by the body than are vitamins added in vitamin supplements.
- B. People who regularly eat cereals fortified with vitamin supplements sometimes neglect to eat the foods in which the vitamins occur naturally.
- C. Foods often must be fortified with vitamin supplements because naturally occurring vitamins are removed during processing.
- D. Unprocessed cereals are naturally high in several of the vitamins that are usually added to fortified breakfast cereals.

- E. Cereals containing vitamin supplements are no harder to digest than similar cereals without added vitamins.

OG12 CR Q28

The technological conservatism of bicycle manufacturers is a reflection of the kinds of demand they are trying to meet. The only cyclists seriously interested in innovation and willing to pay for it are bicycle racers. Therefore, innovation in bicycle technology is limited by what authorities will accept as standard for purposes of competition in bicycle races.

Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?

- A. The market for cheap, traditional bicycles cannot expand unless the market for high-performance competition bicycles expands.
- B. High-performance bicycles are likely to be improved more as a result of technological innovations developed in small workshops than as a result of technological innovations developed in major manufacturing concerns.
- C. Bicycle racers do not generate a strong demand for innovations that fall outside what is officially recognized as standard for purposes of competition.
- D. The technological conservatism of bicycle manufacturers results primarily from their desire to manufacture a product that can be sold without being altered to suit different national markets.
- E. The authorities who set standards for high-performance bicycle racing do not keep informed about innovative bicycle design.

OG12 CR Q30

Robot satellites relay important communications and identify weather patterns. Because the satellites can be repaired only in orbit, astronauts are needed to repair them. Without repairs, the satellites would eventually malfunction. Therefore, space flights carrying astronauts must continue.

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

- A. Satellites falling from orbit because of malfunctions burn up in the atmosphere.
- B. Although satellites are indispensable in the identification of weather patterns, weather forecasters also make some use of computer projections to identify weather patterns.
- C. The government, responding to public pressure, has decided to cut the budget for space flights and put more money into social welfare programs.

- D. Repair of satellites requires heavy equipment, which adds to the amount of fuel needed to lift a spaceship carrying astronauts into orbit.
- E. Technical obsolescence of robot satellites makes repairing them more costly and less practical than sending new, improved satellites into orbit.

OG12 CR Q31

A company's two divisions performed with remarkable consistency over the past three years: in each of those years, the pharmaceuticals division has accounted for roughly 20 percent of dollar sales and 40 percent of profits, and the chemicals division for the balance.

Which of the following can properly be inferred regarding the past three years from the statement above?

- A. Total dollar sales for each of the company's divisions have remained roughly constant.
- B. The pharmaceuticals division has faced stiffer competition in its markets than has the chemicals division.
- C. The chemicals division has realized lower profits per dollar of sales than has the pharmaceuticals division.
- D. The product mix offered by each of the company's divisions has remained unchanged.
- E. Highly profitable products accounted for a higher percentage of the chemicals division's sales than those of the pharmaceuticals division's.

OG12 CR Q33

Advertisement: Today's customers expect high quality. Every advance in the quality of manufactured products raises customer expectations. The company that is satisfied with the current quality of its products will soon find that its customers are not. At MegaCorp, meeting or exceeding customer expectations is our goal.

Which of the following must be true on the basis of the statements in the advertisement above?

- A. MegaCorp's competitors will succeed in attracting customers only if those competitors adopt MegaCorp's goal as their own.
- B. A company that does not correctly anticipate the expectations of its customers is certain to fail in advancing the quality of its products.
- C. MegaCorp's goal is possible to meet only if continuing advances in product quality are possible.
- D. If a company becomes satisfied with the quality of its products, then the quality of its products is sure to decline.

- E. MegaCorp's customers are currently satisfied with the quality of its products.

OG12 CR Q36

Offshore oil-drilling operations entail an unavoidable risk of an oil spill, but importing oil on 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.

OG12 CR Q54

Journalist: In late 1994, the present government of the Republic of Bellam came into power. Each year since then, about thirty journalists have been imprisoned for printing articles that criticize the government. In 1994, under the old government, only six journalists were imprisoned for criticizing the government. So the old government was more tolerant of criticism by the press than the new one is.

Politician: But in 1994 only six journalists criticized the government, and now journalists routinely do.

The politician challenges the journalist's argument by doing which of the following?

- A. Presenting data that extend further into the past than the journalist's data
- B. Introducing evidence that undermines an assumption of the journalist's argument
- C. Questioning the accuracy of the evidence presented in support of the journalist's conclusion
- D. Pointing out that the argument illegitimately draws a general conclusion on the basis of a sample of only a few cases
- E. Stating that the argument treats information about some members of a group as if it applied to all members of that group

OG12 CR Q68

The local board of education found that, because the current physics curriculum has little direct relevance to today's world, physics classes attracted few high school students. So to attract students to physics classes, the board proposed a curriculum that emphasizes principles of physics involved in producing and analyzing visual images.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest reason to expect that the proposed curriculum will be successful in attracting students?

- A. Several of the fundamental principles of physics are involved in producing and analyzing visual images.
- B. Knowledge of physics is becoming increasingly important in understanding the technology used in today's world.
- C. Equipment that a large producer of photographic equipment has donated to the high school could be used in the proposed curriculum.
- D. The number of students interested in physics today is much lower than the number of students interested in physics 50 years ago.
- E. In today's world the production and analysis of visual images is of major importance in communications, business, and recreation.

OG12 CR Q70

Although aspirin has been proven to eliminate moderate fever associated with some illnesses, many doctors no longer routinely recommend its use for this purpose. A moderate fever stimulates the activity of the body's disease-fighting white blood cells and also inhibits the growth of many strains of disease-causing bacteria.

If the statements above are true, which of the following conclusions is most strongly supported by them?

- A. Aspirin, an effective painkiller, alleviates the pain and discomfort of many illnesses.
- B. Aspirin can prolong a patient's illness by eliminating moderate fever helpful in fighting some diseases.
- C. Aspirin inhibits the growth of white blood cells, which are necessary for fighting some illnesses.
- D. The more white blood cells a patient's body produces, the less severe the patient's illness will be.

- E. The focus of modern medicine is on inhibiting the growth of disease-causing bacteria within the body.

OG12 CR Q71

Roland: The alarming fact is that 90 percent of the people in this country now report that they know someone who is unemployed.

Sharon: But a normal, moderate level of unemployment is 5 percent, with one out of 20 workers unemployed. So at any given time if a person knows approximately 50 workers, one or more will very likely be unemployed.

Sharon's argument relies on the assumption that

- A. normal levels of unemployment are rarely exceeded
- B. unemployment is not normally concentrated in geographically isolated segments of the population
- C. the number of people who each know someone who is unemployed is always higher than 90 percent of the population
- D. Roland is not consciously distorting the statistics he presents
- E. knowledge that a personal acquaintance is unemployed generates more fear of losing one's job than does knowledge of unemployment statistics

OG12 CR Q80

Products sold under a brand name used to command premium prices because, in general, they were superior to nonbrand rival products. Technical expertise in product development has become so widespread, however, that special quality advantages are very hard to obtain these days and even harder to maintain. As a consequence, brand-name products generally neither offer higher quality nor sell at higher prices. Paradoxically, brand names are a bigger marketing advantage than ever.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the paradox outlined above?

- A. Brand names are taken by consumers as a guarantee of getting a product as good as the best rival products.
- B. Consumers recognize that the quality of products sold under invariant brand names can drift over time.

- C. In many acquisitions of one corporation by another, the acquiring corporation is interested more in acquiring the right to use certain brand names than in acquiring existing production facilities.
- D. In the days when special quality advantages were easier to obtain than they are now, it was also easier to get new brand names established.
- E. The advertising of a company's brand-name products is at times transferred to a new advertising agency, especially when sales are declining.

OG12 CR Q105

The average normal infant born in the United States weighs between 12 and 14 pounds at the age of three months. Therefore, if a three-month-old child weighs only 10 pounds, its weight gain has been below the United States average.

Which of the following indicates a flaw in the reasoning above?

- A. Weight is only one measure of normal infant development.
- B. Some three-month-old children weigh as much as 17 pounds.
- C. It is possible for a normal child to weigh 10 pounds at birth.
- D. The phrase "below average" does not necessarily mean insufficient.
- E. Average weight gain is not the same as average weight.

OG12 CR Q110

Correctly measuring the productivity of service workers is complex. Consider, for example, postal workers: they are often said to be more productive if more letters are delivered per postal worker. But is this really true? What if more letters are lost or delayed per worker at the same time that more are delivered?

The objection implied above to the productivity measure described is based on doubts about the truth of which of the following statements?

- A. Postal workers are representative of service workers in general.
- B. The delivery of letters is the primary activity of the postal service.
- C. Productivity should be ascribed to categories of workers, not to individuals.
- D. The quality of services rendered can appropriately be ignored in computing productivity.
- E. The number of letters delivered is relevant to measuring the productivity of postal workers.

OG12 CR Q113

The pharmaceutical industry argues that because new drugs will not be developed unless heavy development costs can be recouped in later sales, the current 20 years of protection provided by patents should be extended in the case of newly developed drugs. However, in other industries new-product development continues despite high development costs, a fact that indicates that the extension is unnecessary.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the pharmaceutical industry's argument against the challenge made above?

- A. No industries other than the pharmaceutical industry have asked for an extension of the 20-year limit on patent protection.
- B. Clinical trials of new drugs, which occur after the patent is granted and before the new drug can be marketed, often now take as long as 10 years to complete.
- C. There are several industries in which the ratio of research and development costs to revenues is higher than it is in the pharmaceutical industry.
- D. An existing patent for a drug does not legally prevent pharmaceutical companies from bringing to market alternative drugs, provided they are sufficiently dissimilar to the patented drug.
- E. Much recent industrial innovation has occurred in products—for example, in the computer and electronics industries—for which patent protection is often very ineffective.

OG12 CR Q115

Caterpillars of all species produce an identical hormone called “juvenile hormone” that maintains feeding behavior. Only when a caterpillar has grown to the right size for pupation to take place does a special enzyme halt the production of juvenile hormone. This enzyme can be synthesized and will, on being ingested by immature caterpillars, kill them by stopping them from feeding.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the view that it would NOT be advisable to try to eradicate agricultural pests that go through a caterpillar stage by spraying croplands with the enzyme mentioned above?

- A. Most species of caterpillar are subject to some natural predation.
- B. Many agricultural pests do not go through a caterpillar stage.
- C. Many agriculturally beneficial insects go through a caterpillar stage.

- D. Since caterpillars of different species emerge at different times, several sprayings would be necessary.
- E. Although the enzyme has been synthesized in the laboratory, no large-scale production facilities exist as yet.

OG12 CR Q116

Firms adopting “profit-related-pay” (PRP) contracts pay wages at levels that vary with the firm’s profits. In the metalworking industry last year, firms with PRP contracts in place showed productivity per worker on average 13 percent higher than that of their competitors who used more traditional contracts.

If, on the basis of the evidence above, it is argued that PRP contracts increase worker productivity, which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken that argument?

- A. Results similar to those cited for the metalworking industry have been found in other industries where PRP contracts are used.
- B. Under PRP contracts costs other than labor costs, such as plant, machinery, and energy, make up an increased proportion of the total cost of each unit of output.
- C. Because introducing PRP contracts greatly changes individual workers’ relationships to the firm, negotiating the introduction of PRP contracts is complex and time-consuming.
- D. Many firms in the metalworking industry have modernized production equipment in the last five years, and most of these introduced PRP contracts at the same time.
- E. In firms in the metalworking industry where PRP contracts are in place, the average take-home pay is 15 percent higher than it is in those firms where workers have more traditional contracts.

OG 13 CR Q4

According to a prediction of the not-so-distant future published in 1940, electricity would revolutionize agriculture. Electrodes would be inserted into the soil, and the current between them would kill bugs and weeds and make crop plants stronger.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly indicates that the logic of the prediction above is flawed?

- A. In order for farmers to avoid electric shock while working in the fields, the current could be turned off at such times without diminishing the intended effects.
- B. If the proposed plan for using electricity were put into practice, farmers would save on chemicals now being added to the soil.
- C. It cannot be taken for granted that the use of electricity is always beneficial.
- D. Since weeds are plants, electricity would affect weeds in the same way as it would affect crop plants.
- E. Because a planting machine would need to avoid coming into contact with the electrodes, new parts for planting machines would need to be designed.

OG 13 CR Q13

In order to reduce the number of items damaged while in transit to customers, packaging consultants recommended that the TrueSave mail-order company increase the amount of packing material so as to fill any empty spaces in its cartons. Accordingly, TrueSave officials instructed the company's packers to use more packing material than before, and the packers zealously acted on these instructions and used as much as they could. Nevertheless, customer reports of damaged items rose somewhat.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why acting on the consultants' recommendation failed to achieve its goal?

- A. The change in packing policy led to an increase in expenditure on packing material and labor.
- B. When packing material is compressed too densely, it loses some of its capacity to absorb shock.

- C. The amount of packing material used in a carton does not significantly influence the ease with which a customer can unpack the package.
- D. Most of the goods that TrueSave ships are electronic products that are highly vulnerable to being damaged in transit.
- E. TrueSave has lost some of its regular customers as a result of the high number of damaged items they received.

OG 13 CR Q16

In Washington County, attendance at the movies is just large enough for the cinema operators to make modest profits. The size of the county's population is stable and is not expected to increase much. Yet there are investors ready to double the number of movie screens in the county within five years, and they are predicting solid profits both for themselves and for the established cinema operators.

Which of the following, if true about Washington County, most helps to provide a justification for the investors' prediction?

- A. Over the next ten years, people in their teenage years, the prime moviegoing age, will be a rapidly growing proportion of the county's population.
- B. As distinct from the existing cinemas, most of the cinemas being planned would be located in downtown areas, in hopes of stimulating an economic revitalization of those areas.
- C. Spending on video purchases, as well as spending on video rentals, has been increasing modestly each year for the past ten years.
- D. The average number of screens per cinema is lower among existing cinemas than it is among cinemas still in the planning stages.
- E. The sale of snacks and drinks in cinemas accounts for a steadily growing share of most cinema operators' profits.

OG 13 CR Q21

In recent years many cabinetmakers have been winning acclaim as artists. But since furniture must be useful, cabinetmakers must exercise their craft with an eye to the practical utility of their product. For this reason, cabinetmaking is not art.

Which of the following is an assumption that supports drawing the conclusion above from the reason given for that conclusion?

- A. Some furniture is made to be placed in museums, where it will not be used by anyone.
- B. Some cabinetmakers are more concerned than others with the practical utility of the products they produce.
- C. Cabinetmakers should be more concerned with the practical utility of their products than they currently are.
- D. An object is not an art object if its maker pays attention to the objects practical utility.
- E. Artists are not concerned with the monetary value of their products.

OG 13 CR Q23

Male bowerbirds construct elaborately decorated nests, or bowers. Basing their judgment on the fact that different local populations of bowerbirds of the same species build bowers that exhibit different building and decorative styles, researchers have concluded that the bowerbirds' building styles are a culturally acquired, rather than a genetically transmitted, trait.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn by the researchers?

- A. There are more common characteristics than there are differences among the bower building styles of the local bowerbird population that has been studied most extensively.
- B. Young male bowerbirds are inept at bower building and apparently spend years watching their elders before becoming accomplished in the local bower style.
- C. The bowers of one species of bowerbird lack the towers and ornamentation characteristic of the bowers of most other species of bowerbird.
- D. Bowerbirds are found only in New Guinea and Australia, where local populations of the birds apparently seldom have contact with one another.

- E. It is well known that the song dialects of some songbirds are learned rather than transmitted genetically.

OG 13 CR Q25

A drug that is highly effective in treating many types of infection can, at present, be obtained only from the bark of the ibora, a tree that is quite rare in the wild. It takes the bark of 5,000 trees to make one kilogram of the drug. It follows, therefore, that continued production of the drug must inevitably lead to the ibora's extinction.

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

- A. The drug made from ibora bark is dispensed to doctors from a central authority.
- B. The drug made from ibora bark is expensive to produce.
- C. The leaves of the ibora are used in a number of medical products.
- D. The ibora can be propagated from cuttings and grown under cultivation.
- E. The ibora generally grows in largely inaccessible places.

OG 13 CR Q26

When a polygraph test is judged inconclusive, there is no reflection on the examinee. Rather, such a judgement means that the test has failed to show whether the examinee was truthful or untruthful. Nevertheless, employers will sometimes refuse to hire a job applicant because of an inconclusive polygraph test result.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- A. Most examinees with inconclusive polygraph test results are in fact untruthful.
- B. Polygraph tests should not be used by employers in the consideration of job applicants.
- C. An inconclusive polygraph test result is sometimes unfairly held against the examinee.
- D. A polygraph test indicating that an examinee is untruthful can sometimes be mistaken.
- E. Some employers have refused to consider the results of polygraph tests when evaluating job applicants.

OG 13 CR Q31

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Ferber's syndrome, a viral disease that frequently affects cattle, is transmitted to these animals through infected feed. Even though chickens commercially raised for meat are often fed the type of feed identified as the source of infection in cattle, Ferber's syndrome is only rarely observed in chickens. This fact, however, does not indicate that most chickens are immune to the virus that causes Ferber's syndrome, since _____.

- A. chickens and cattle are not the only kinds of farm animal that are typically fed the type of feed liable to be contaminated with the virus that causes Ferber's syndrome
- B. Ferber's syndrome has been found in animals that have not been fed the type of feed liable to be contaminated with the virus that can cause the disease
- C. resistance to some infectious organisms such as the virus that causes Ferber's syndrome can be acquired by exposure to a closely related infectious organism
- D. chickens and cattle take more than a year to show symptoms of Ferber's syndrome, and chickens commercially raised for meat, unlike cattle, are generally brought to market during the first year of life
- E. the type of feed liable to be infected with the virus that causes Ferber's syndrome generally constitutes a larger proportion of the diet of commercially raised chickens than of commercially raised cattle

OG 13 CR Q49

Maize contains the vitamin niacin, but not in a form the body can absorb. Pellagra is a disease that results from niacin deficiency. When maize was introduced into southern Europe from the Americas in the eighteenth century, it quickly became a dietary staple, and many Europeans who came to subsist primarily on maize developed pellagra. Pellagra was virtually unknown at that time in the Americas, however, even among people who subsisted primarily on maize.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the contrasting incidence of pellagra described above?

- A. Once introduced into southern Europe, maize became popular with landowners because of its high yields relative to other cereal crops.
- B. Maize grown in the Americas contained more niacin than maize grown in Europe did.
- C. Traditional ways of preparing maize in the Americas convert maize's niacin into a nutritionally useful form.
- D. In southern Europe many of the people who consumed maize also ate niacin-rich foods.
- E. Before the discovery of pellagra's link with niacin, it was widely believed that the disease was an infection that could be transmitted from person to person

OG 13 CR Q53

Insurance Company X is considering issuing a new policy to cover services required by elderly people who suffer from diseases that afflict the elderly. Premiums for the policy must be low enough to attract customers. Therefore, Company X is concerned that the income from the policies would not be sufficient to pay for the claims that would be made.

Which of the following strategies would be most likely to minimize Company X's losses on the policies?

- A. Attracting middle-aged customers unlikely to submit claims for benefits for many years
- B. Insuring only those individuals who did not suffer any serious diseases as children
- C. Including a greater number of services in the policy than are included in other policies of lower cost
- D. Insuring only those individuals who were rejected by other companies for similar policies
- E. Insuring only those individuals who are wealthy enough to pay for the medical services

OG 13 CR Q54

The fewer restrictions there are on the advertising of legal services, the more lawyers there are who advertise their services, and the lawyers who advertise a specific service usually charge less for that service than the lawyers who do not advertise. Therefore, if the state removes any of its current restrictions, such as the one against advertisements that do not specify fee

arrangements, overall consumer legal costs will be lower than if the state retains its current restrictions.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must be true?

- A. Some lawyers who now advertise will charge more for specific services if they do not have to specify fee arrangements in the advertisements.
- B. More consumers will use legal services if there are fewer restrictions on the advertising of legal services.
- C. If the restriction against advertisements that do not specify fee arrangements is removed, more lawyers will advertise their services.
- D. If more lawyers advertise lower prices for specific services, some lawyers who do not advertise will also charge less than they currently charge for those services.
- E. If the only restrictions on the advertising of legal services were those that apply to every type of advertising, most lawyers would advertise their services.

OG 13 CR Q56

Even though most universities retain the royalties from faculty members' inventions, the faculty members retain the royalties from books and articles they write. Therefore, faculty members should retain the royalties from the educational computer software they develop.

The conclusion above would be more reasonably drawn if which of the following were inserted into the argument as an additional premise?

- A. Royalties from inventions are higher than royalties from educational software programs.
- B. Faculty members are more likely to produce educational software programs than inventions.
- C. Inventions bring more prestige to universities than do books and articles.
- D. In the experience of most universities, educational software programs are more marketable than are books and articles.
- E. In terms of the criteria used to award royalties, educational software programs are more nearly comparable to books and articles than to inventions.

OG 13 CR Q58

Red blood cells in which the malarial-fever parasite resides are eliminated from a person's body after 120 days. Because the parasite cannot travel to a new generation of red blood cells, any fever that develops in a person more than 120 days after that person has moved to a malaria-free region is not due to the malarial parasite.

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

- A. The fever caused by the malarial parasite may resemble the fever caused by flu viruses.
- B. The anopheles mosquito, which is the principal insect carrier of the malarial parasite, has been eradicated in many parts of the world.
- C. Many malarial symptoms other than the fever, which can be suppressed with antimalarial medication, can reappear within 120 days after the medication is discontinued.
- D. In some cases, the parasite that causes malarial fever travels to cells of the spleen, which are less frequently eliminated from a person's body than are red blood cells.
- E. In any region infested with malaria-carrying mosquitoes, there are individuals who appear to be immune to malaria.

OG 13 CR Q60

Neither a rising standard of living nor balanced trade, by itself, establishes a country's ability to compete in the international marketplace. Both are required simultaneously since standards of living can rise because of growing trade deficits and trade can be balanced by means of a decline in a country's standard of living.

If the facts stated in the passage above are true, a proper test of a country's ability to be competitive is its ability to

- A. balance its trade while its standard of living rises
- B. balance its trade while its standard of living falls
- C. increase trade deficits while its standard of living rises
- D. decrease trade deficits while its standard of living falls
- E. keep its standard of living constant while trade deficits rise

OG 13 CR Q62

When hypnotized subjects are told that they are deaf and are then asked whether they can hear the hypnotist, they reply, "No." Some theorists try to explain this result by arguing that the selves of hypnotized subjects are dissociated into separate parts, and that the part that is deaf is dissociated from the part that replies.

Which of the following challenges indicates the most serious weakness in the attempted explanation described above?

- A. Why does the part that replies not answer, "Yes"?
- B. Why are the observed facts in need of any special explanation?
- C. Why do the subjects appear to accept the hypnotist's suggestion that they are deaf?
- D. Why do hypnotized subjects all respond the same way in the situation described?
- E. Why are the separate parts of the self the same for all subjects?

OG 13 CR Q64

Excavation of the ancient city of Kourion on the island of Cyprus revealed a pattern of debris and collapsed buildings typical of towns devastated by earthquakes. Archaeologists have hypothesized that the destruction was due to a major earthquake known to have occurred near the island in A.D. 365.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the archaeologists' hypothesis?

- A. Bronze ceremonial drinking vessels that are often found in graves dating from years preceding and following A.D. 365 were also found in several graves near Kourion.
- B. No coins minted after A.D. 365 were found in Kourion, but coins minted before that year were found in abundance
- C. Most modern histories of Cyprus mention that an earthquake occurred near the island in A.D. 365.
- D. Several small statues carved in styles current in Cyprus in the century between A.D. 300 and 400 were found in Kourion.
- E. Stone inscriptions in a form of the Greek alphabet that was definitely used in Cyprus after A.D. 365 were found in Kourion.

OG 13 CR Q71

In comparison to the standard typewriter keyboard, the EFCO keyboard, which places the most-used keys nearest the typist's strongest fingers, allows faster typing and results in less fatigue. Therefore, replacement of standard keyboards with the EFCO keyboard will result in an immediate reduction of typing costs.

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

- A. People who use both standard and EFCO keyboards report greater difficulty in the transition from the EFCO keyboard to the standard keyboard than in the transition from the standard keyboard to the EFCO keyboard.
- B. EFCO keyboards are no more expensive to manufacture than are standard keyboards and require less frequent repair than do standard keyboards.
- C. The number of businesses and government agencies that use EFCO keyboards is increasing each year.
- D. The more training and experience an employee has had with the standard keyboard, the more costly it is to train that employee to use the EFCO keyboard.
- E. Novice typists can learn to use the EFCO keyboard in about the same amount of time it takes them to learn to use the standard keyboard.

OG 13 CR Q73

An overly centralized economy, not the changes in the climate, is responsible for the poor agricultural production in Country X since its new government came to power. Neighboring Country Y has experienced the same climatic conditions, but while agricultural production has been falling in Country X, it has been rising in Country Y.

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

- A. Industrial production also is declining in Country X.
- B. Whereas Country Y is landlocked, Country X has a major seaport.
- C. Both Country X and Country Y have been experiencing drought conditions.
- D. The crops that have always been grown in Country X are different from those that have always been grown in Country Y.

- E. Country X's new government instituted a centralized economy with the intention of ensuring an equitable distribution of goods.

OG 13 CR Q75

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 levels in the management hierarchy at which they occur
- B. employees should be rewarded for accurately reporting problems to their superiors
- C. problems-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

OG 13 CR Q77

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.

OG 13 CR Q79

When demand for a factory's products is high, more money is spent at the factory for safety precautions and machinery maintenance than when demand is low. Thus the average number of on-the-job accidents per employee each month should be lower during periods when demand is high than when demand is low and less money is available for safety precautions and machinery maintenance.

Which of the following, if true about a factory when demand for its products is high, casts the most serious doubt on the conclusion drawn above?

- A. Its employees ask for higher wages than they do at other times.
- B. Its management hires new workers but lacks the time to train them properly.
- C. Its employees are less likely to lose their jobs than they are at other times.
- D. Its management sponsors a monthly safety award for each division in the factory.
- E. Its old machinery is replaced with modern, automated models.

OG 13 CR Q80

A sudden increase in the production of elephant ivory artifacts on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa occurred in the tenth century. Historians explain this increase as the result of an area opening up as a new source of ivory and argue on this basis that the important medieval trade between North Africa and East Africa began at this period.

Each of following, if true, provides some support for the historians' account described above EXCEPT:

- A. In East Africa gold coins from Mediterranean North Africa have been found at a tenth-century site but at no earlier sites.
- B. The many surviving letters of pre-tenth-century North African merchants include no mention of business transactions involving East Africa.
- C. Excavations in East Africa reveal a tenth-century change in architectural style to reflect North African patterns.
- D. Documents from Mediterranean Europe and North Africa that date back earlier than the tenth century show knowledge of East African animals.

- E. East African carvings in a style characteristic of the tenth century depict seagoing vessels very different from those used by local sailors but of a type common in the Mediterranean.

OG 13 CR Q87

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.

OG 13 CR Q96

Although parapsychology is often considered a pseudoscience, it is in fact a genuine scientific enterprise, for it uses scientific methods such as controlled experiments and statistical tests of clearly stated hypotheses to examine the questions it raises.

The conclusion above is properly drawn if which of the following is assumed?

- A. If a field of study can conclusively answer the questions it raises, then it is a genuine science.

- B. Since parapsychology uses scientific methods, it will produce credible results.
- C. Any enterprise that does not use controlled experiments and statistical tests is not genuine science.
- D. Any field of study that employs scientific methods is a genuine scientific enterprise.
- E. Since parapsychology raises clearly statable questions, they can be tested in controlled experiments.

OG 13 CR Q103

For a trade embargo against a particular country to succeed, a high degree of both international accord and ability to prevent goods from entering or leaving that country must be sustained. A total blockade of Patria's ports is necessary to an embargo, but such an action would be likely to cause international discord over the embargo.

The claims above, if true, most strongly support which of the following conclusions?

- A. The balance of opinion is likely to favor Patria in the event of a blockade.
- B. As long as international opinion is unanimously against Patria, a trade embargo is likely to succeed.
- C. A naval blockade of Patria's ports would ensure that no goods enter or leave Patria.
- D. Any trade embargo against Patria would be likely to fail at some time.
- E. For a blockade of Patria's ports to be successful, international opinion must be unanimous.

OG 13 CR Q105

The cost of producing radios in country Q is 10 percent less than the cost of producing radios in country Y. Even after transportation fees and tariff charges are added, it is still cheaper for a company to import radios from country Q to Country Y than to produce radios in Country Y.

The statements above, if true, best support which of the following assertions?

- A) Labor costs in country Q are 10 percent below those in Country Y.

B) Importing radios from country Q to country Y will eliminate 10 percent of the manufacturing jobs in Country Y.

C) The tariff on a radio imported from country Q to country Y is less than 10 percent of the cost of manufacturing the radio in country Y

D) The fee for transporting a radio from country Q to Country Y is more than 10 percent of the cost of manufacturing the radio in country Q

E) It takes 10 percent less time to manufacture a radio in country Q than it does in Country Y.

OG 13 CR Q108

Kale has more nutritional value than spinach. But since collard greens have more nutritional value than lettuce, it follows that kale has more nutritional value than lettuce.

Any of the following, if introduced into the argument as an additional premise, makes the argument above logically correct EXCEPT:

- A. Collard greens have more nutritional value than kale
- B. Spinach has more nutritional value than lettuce
- C. Spinach has more nutritional value than collard greens
- D. Spinach and collard greens have the same nutritional value
- E. Kale and collard greens have the same nutritional value

OG 13 CR Q110

Although custom prosthetic bone replacements produced through a new computer-aided design process will cost more than twice as much as ordinary replacements, custom replacements should still be cost-effective. Not only will surgery and recovery time be reduced, but custom replacements should last longer; thereby reducing the need for further hospital stays.

Which of the following must be studied in order to evaluate the argument presented above?

(A) The amount of time a patient spends in surgery versus the amount of time spent recovering from surgery

(B) The amount by which the cost of producing custom replacements has declined with the introduction of the new technique for producing them

(C) The degree to which the use of custom replacements is likely to reduce the need for repeat surgery when compared with the use of ordinary replacements

(D) The degree to which custom replacements produced with the new technique are more carefully manufactured than are ordinary replacements

(E) The amount by which custom replacements produced with the new technique will drop in cost as the production procedures become standardized and applicable on a larger scale

OG 13 CR Q112

The difficulty with the proposed high-speed train line is that a used plane can be bought for one-third the price of the train line, and the plane, which is just as fast, can fly anywhere. The train would be a fixed linear system, and we live in a world that is spreading out in all directions and in which consumers choose the free-wheel systems (cars, buses, aircraft), which do not have fixed routes. Thus a sufficient market for the train will not exist.

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

- A. Cars, buses, and planes require the efforts of drivers and pilots to guide them, whereas the train will be guided mechanically.
- B. Cars and buses are not nearly as fast as the high-speed train will be.
- C. Planes are not a free-wheel system because they can fly only between airports, which are less convenient for consumers than the high-speed train's stations would be.
- D. The high-speed train line cannot use currently underutilized train stations in large cities.
- E. For long trips, most people prefer to fly rather than to take ground-level transportation.

OG 13 CR Q117

Northern Air has dozens of flights daily into and out of Belleville Airport, which is highly congested. Northern Air depends for its success on economy and quick turnaround and

consequently is planning to replace its large planes with Skybuses, whose novel aerodynamic design is extremely fuel efficient. The Skybus's fuel efficiency results in both lower fuel costs and reduced time spent refueling.

Which of the following, if true, could present the most serious disadvantage for Northern Air in replacing their large planes with Skybuses?

- A. The Skybus would enable Northern Air to schedule direct flights to destinations that currently require stops for refueling.
- B. Aviation fuel is projected to decline in price over the next several years.
- C. The fuel efficiency of the Skybus would enable Northern Air to eliminate refueling at some of its destinations, but several mechanics would lose their jobs.
- D. None of Northern Air's competitors that use Belleville Airport are considering buying Skybuses.
- E. The aerodynamic design of the Skybus causes turbulence behind it when taking off that forces other planes on the runway to delay their takeoffs.

OG 13 CR Q118

It is true of both men and women that those who marry as young adults live longer than those who never marry. This does not show that marriage causes people to live longer, since, as compared with other people of the same age, young adults who are about to get married have fewer of the unhealthy habits that can cause a person to have a shorter life, most notably smoking and immoderate drinking of alcohol.

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

- A. Marriage tends to cause people to engage less regularly in sports that involve risk of bodily harm.
- B. A married person who has an unhealthy habit is more likely to give up that habit than a person with the same habit who is unmarried.
- C. A person who smokes is much more likely than a nonsmoker to marry a person who smokes at the time of marriage, and the same is true for people who drink alcohol immoderately.
- D. Among people who marry as young adults, most of those who give up an unhealthy habit after marriage do not resume the habit later in life.

- E. Among people who as young adults neither drink alcohol immoderately nor smoke, those who never marry live as long as those who marry.

OG 13 CR Q119

The earliest Mayan pottery found at Colha, in Belize, is about 3,000 years old. Recently, however, 4,500-year-old stone agricultural implements were unearthed at Colha. These implements resemble Mayan stone implements of a much later period, also found at Colha. Moreover, the implements' designs are strikingly different from the designs of stone implements produced by other cultures known to have inhabited the area in prehistoric times. Therefore, there were surely Mayan settlements in Colha 4,500 years ago.

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

- A. Ceramic ware is not known to have been used by the Mayan people to make agricultural implements.
- B. Carbon-dating of corn pollen in Colha indicates that agriculture began there around 4,500 years ago.
- C. Archaeological evidence indicates that some of the oldest stone implements found at Colha were used to cut away vegetation after controlled burning of trees to open areas of swampland for cultivation.
- D. Successor cultures at a given site often adopt the style of agricultural implements used by earlier inhabitants of the same site.
- E. Many religious and social institutions of the Mayan people who inhabited Colha 3,000 years ago relied on a highly developed system of agricultural symbols.

OG 13 CR Q120

Codex Berinensis, a Florentine copy of an ancient Roman medical treatise, is undated but contains clues to when it was produced. Its first eighty pages are by a single copyist, but the remaining twenty pages are by three different copyists, which indicates some significant disruption. Since a letter in handwriting identified as that of the fourth copyist mentions a plague that killed many people in Florence in 1148, Codex Berinensis was probably produced in that year.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the hypothesis that Codex Berinensis was produced in 1148?

- A. Other than Codex Berinensis, there are no known samples of the handwriting of the first three copyists
- B. According to the account by the fourth copyist, the plague went on for ten months.
- C. A scribe would be able to copy a page of text the size and style of Codex Berinensis in a day.
- D. there was only one outbreak of plague in Florence in the 1100s
- E. The number of pages of Codex Berinensis produced by a single scribe becomes smaller with each successive change of copyist

OG 13 CR Q122

Outsourcing is the practice of obtaining from an independent supplier a product or service that a company has previously provided for itself. Since a company's chief objective is to realize the highest possible year-end profits, any product or service that can be obtained from an independent supplier for less than it would cost the company to provide the product or service on its own should be outsourced.

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

- A. If a company decides to use independent suppliers for a product, it can generally exploit the vigorous competition arising among several firms that are interested in supplying that product.
- B. Successful outsourcing requires a company to provide its suppliers with information about its products and plans that can fall into the hands of its competitors and give them a business advantage.
- C. Certain tasks, such as processing a company's payroll, are commonly outsourced, whereas others, such as handling the company's core business, are not.
- D. For a company to provide a product or service for itself as efficiently as an independent supplier can provide it, the managers involved need to be as expert in the area of that product or service as the people in charge of that product or service at an independent supplier are.
- E. When a company decides to sue an independent supplier for a product or service, the independent supplier sometimes hires members of the company's staff who formerly made the product or provided the service that the independent supplier now supplies.

OG 13 CR 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

OG2016 CR Q6

Homeowners aged 40 to 50 are more likely to purchase ice cream and are more likely to purchase it in larger amounts than are members of any other demographic group. The popular belief that teenagers eat more ice cream than adults must, therefore, be false.

The argument is flawed primarily because the author

- A. fails to distinguish between purchasing and consuming
- B. does not supply information about homeowners in age groups other than 40 to 50
- C. depends on popular belief rather than on documented research findings
- D. does not specify the precise amount of ice cream purchased by any demographic group
- E. discusses ice cream rather than more nutritious and healthful foods

OG2016 CR Q13

The amount of time it takes for most of a worker's occupational knowledge and skills to become obsolete has been declining because of the introduction of advanced manufacturing technology (AMT). Given the rate at which AMT is currently being introduced in manufacturing, the average worker's old skills become obsolete and new skills are required within as little as five years.

Which of the following plans, if feasible, would allow a company to prepare most effectively for the rapid obsolescence of skills described above?

- A. The company will develop a program to offer selected employees the opportunity to receive training six years after they were originally hired.
- B. The company will increase its investment in AMT every year for a period of at least five years.
- C. The company will periodically survey its employees to determine how the introduction of AMT has affected them.
- D. Before the introduction of AMT, the company will institute an educational program to inform its employees of the probable consequences of the introduction of AMT.
- E. The company will ensure that it can offer its employees any training necessary for meeting their job requirements.

OG2016 CR Q19

Wood smoke contains dangerous toxins that cause changes in human cells. Because woodsmoke presents such a high health risk, legislation is needed to regulate the use of open-air fires and wood-burning stoves.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the argument above?

- A. The amount of dangerous toxins contained in woodsmoke is much less than the amount contained in an equal volume of automobile exhaust.
- B. Within the jurisdiction covered by the proposed legislation, most heating and cooking is done with oil or natural gas.
- C. Smoke produced by coal-burning stoves is significantly more toxic than smoke from wood-burning stoves.
- D. No significant beneficial effect on air quality would result if open-air fires were banned within the jurisdiction covered by the proposed legislation.
- E. In valleys where wood is used as the primary heating fuel, the concentration of smoke results in poor air quality.

OG2016 CR Q40

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.

OG2016 CR Q44

The computer industry's estimate that it loses millions of dollars when users illegally copy programs without paying for them is greatly exaggerated. Most of the illegal copying is done by people with no serious interest in the programs. Thus, the loss to the industry is much smaller than estimated because

- A. many users who illegally copy programs never find any use for them
- B. most of the illegally copied programs would not be purchased even if purchasing them were the only way to obtain them
- C. even if the computer industry received all the revenue it claims to be losing, it would still be experiencing financial difficulties
- D. the total market value of all illegal copies is low in comparison to the total revenue of the computer industry
- E. the number of programs that are frequently copied illegally is low in comparison to the number of programs available for sale

OG2016 CR Q45

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 of 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 percent less coffee today 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.

OG2016 CR Q46

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

When the products of several competing suppliers are perceived by consumers to be essentially the same, classical economics predicts that price competition will reduce prices to the same minimal levels

and all suppliers' profits to the same minimal levels. Therefore, if classical economics is true, and given suppliers' desire to make as much profit as possible, it should be expected that .

- A. in a crowded market widely differing prices will be charged for products that are essentially the same as each other
- B. as a market becomes less crowded as suppliers leave, the profits of the remaining suppliers will tend to decrease
- C. each supplier in a crowded market will try to convince consumers that its product differs significantly from its competitors' products.
- D. when consumers are unable to distinguish the products in a crowded market, consumers will judge that the higher-priced products are of higher quality
- E. suppliers in crowded markets will have more incentive to reduce prices and thus increase sales than to introduce innovations that would distinguish their product from their competitors' products

OG2016 CR Q47

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

OG2016 CR Q50

Some anthropologists study modern-day societies of foragers in an effort to learn about our ancient ancestors who were also foragers. A flaw in this strategy is that forager societies are extremely varied. Indeed, any forager society with which anthropologists are familiar has had considerable contact with modern nonforager societies.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the criticism made above of the anthropologists' strategy?

- A. All forager societies throughout history have had a number of important features in common that are absent from other types of societies.
- B. Most ancient forager societies either dissolved or made a transition to another way of life.
- C. All anthropologists study one kind or another of modern-day society.
- D. Many anthropologists who study modern-day forager societies do not draw inferences about ancient societies on the basis of their studies.
- E. Even those modern-day forager societies that have not had significant contact with modern societies are importantly different from ancient forager societies.

OG2016 CR Q51

Contrary to earlier predictions, demand for sugarcane has not increased in recent years. Yet, even though prices and production amounts have also been stable during the last three years, sugarcane growers last year increased their profits by more than 10% over their previous year's level.

Any of the following statements, if true about last year, helps to explain the rise in profits EXCEPT:

- A. Many countries that are large consumers of sugarcane increased their production of sugarcane-based ethanol, yet their overall consumption decreased.
- B. Sugarcane growers have saved money on wages by switching from paying laborers an hourly wage to paying them by the amount harvested.
- C. The price of the oil, the major energy source used by sugarcane growers in harvesting their crops, dropped by more than 20%.
- D. Many small sugarcane growers joined together to form an association of sugarcane producers and began to buy supplies at low group rates.
- E. Rainfall in sugarcane-growing regions was higher than it had been during the previous year, allowing the growers to save money on expensive artificial irrigation.

OG2016 CR Q52

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 to people. Therefore, children who spent their spare time playing these games have less experience in interpersonal communication than other children have.

The argument depends on which of the following assumption?

- 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 their after hour playing computer games spend at 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

OG2016 CR Q56

Certain genetically modified strains of maize produce a powerful natural insecticide. The insecticide occurs throughout the plant, including its pollen. Maize pollen is dispersed by the wind and frequently blows onto milkweed plants that grow near maize fields. Caterpillars of monarch butterflies feed exclusively on milkweed leaves. When these caterpillars are fed milkweed leaves dusted with pollen from modified maize plants, they die. Therefore, by using genetically modified maize, farmers put monarch butterflies at risk.

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

- A. Whether the natural insecticide is as effective against maize-eating insects as commercial insecticides typically used on maize are
- B. Whether the pollen of genetically modified maize contains as much insecticide as other parts of these plants
- C. Whether monarch butterfly caterpillars are actively feeding during the part of the growing season when maize is releasing pollen
- D. Whether insects that feed on genetically modified maize plants are likely to be killed by insecticide from the plant's pollen
- E. Whether any maize-eating insects compete with monarch caterpillars for the leaves of milkweed plants growing near maize fields

OG2016 CR Q61

One variety of partially biodegradable plastic beverage container is manufactured from small bits of plastic bound together by a degradable bonding agent such as cornstarch. Since only the bonding agent

degrades, leaving the small bits of plastic, no less plastic refuse per container is produced when such containers are discarded than when comparable nonbiodegradable containers are discarded.

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

- A. Both partially biodegradable and nonbiodegradable plastic beverage containers can be crushed completely flat by refuse compactors.
- B. The partially biodegradable plastic beverage containers are made with more plastic than comparable nonbiodegradable ones in order to compensate for the weakening effect of the bounding agents.
- C. Many consumers are ecology-minded and prefer to buy a product sold in the partially biodegradable plastic beverage containers rather than in nonbiodegradable containers, even if the price is higher.
- D. The manufacturing process for the partially biodegradable plastic beverage containers results in less plastic waste than the manufacturing process for nonbiodegradable plastic beverage containers.
- E. Technological problems with recycling currently prevent the reuse as food or beverage containers of the plastic from either type of plastic beverage container.

OG2016 CR Q62

Most employees in the computer industry move from company to company, changing jobs several times in their careers. However, Summit Computers is known throughout the industry for retaining its employees. Summit credits its success in retaining employees to its informal, non hierarchical work environment.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports Summit's explanation of its success in retaining employees?

- A. Some people employed in the computer industry change jobs if they become bored with their current projects
- B. A hierarchical work environment hinders the cooperative exchange of ideas that computer industry employees consider necessary for their work
- C. Many of Summit's senior employees had previously worked at only one other computer company
- D. In a nonhierarchical work environment, people avoid behavior that might threaten group harmony and thus avoid discussing with their colleagues any dissatisfaction they might have with their jobs
- E. The cost of living near Summit is relatively low compared to areas in which some other computer companies are located

OG2016 CR Q80

To protect certain fledgling industries, the government of country Z banned imports of the types of products those industries were starting to make. As a direct result, the cost of those products to the buyers, several export-dependent industries in Z, went up, sharply limiting the ability of those industries to compete effectively in their export markets.

Which of the following conclusions about country Z's adversely affected export-dependent industries is best supported by the passage?

- A. Profit margins in those industries were not high enough to absorb the rise in costs mentioned above.
- B. Those industries had to contend with the fact that other countries banned imports from country Z.
- C. Those industries succeeded in expanding the domestic market for their products.
- D. Steps to offset rising materials costs by decreasing labor costs were taken in those industries.
- E. Those industries started to move into export markets that they had previously judged unprofitable.

OG2016 CR Q95

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.

OG2016 CR Q96

Hotco oil burners, designed to be used in asphalt plants, are so efficient that Hotco will sell one to the Clifton Asphalt plant for no payment other than the cost savings between the total amount the asphalt plant actually paid for oil using its former burner during the last two years and the total amount it will pay for oil using the Hotco burner during the next two years. On installation, the plant will make an estimated payment, which will be adjusted after two years to equal the actual cost savings.

Which of the following, if it occurred, would constitute a disadvantage for Hotco of the plan described above?

- A. Another manufacturer's introduction to the market of a similarly efficient burner
- B. The Clifton Asphalt plant's need for more than one new burner
- C. Very poor efficiency in the Clifton Asphalt plant's old burner
- D. A decrease in the demand for asphalt
- E. A steady increase in the price of oil beginning soon after the new burner is installed

OG2016 CR Q98

Networks of blood vessels in bats' wings serve only to disperse heat generated in flight. This heat is generated only because bats flap their wings. Thus paleontologists' recent discovery that the winged dinosaur *Sandactylus* had similar networks of blood vessels in the skin of its wings provides evidence for the hypothesis that *Sandactylus* flew by flapping its wings, not just by gliding.

In the passage, the author develops the argument by

- A. forming the hypothesis that best explains several apparently conflicting pieces of evidence
- B. reinterpreting evidence that had been used to support an earlier theory
- C. using an analogy with a known phenomenon to draw a conclusion about an unknown phenomenon
- D. speculating about how structures observed in present-day creatures might have developed from similar structures in creatures now extinct
- E. pointing out differences in the physiological demands that flight makes on large, as opposed to small, creatures

OG2016 CR Q99

Keith: Compliance with new government regulations requiring the installation of smoke alarms and sprinkler systems in all theaters and arenas will cost the entertainment industry \$25 billion annually.

Consequently, jobs will be lost and profits diminished. Therefore, these regulations will harm the country's economy.

Laura: The \$25 billion spent by some businesses will be revenue for others. Jobs and profits will be gained as well as lost.

Laura responds to Keith by

- A. demonstrating that Keith's conclusion is based on evidence that is not relevant to the issue at hand
- B. challenging the plausibility of the evidence that serves as the basis for Keith's argument
- C. suggesting that Keith's argument overlooks a mitigating consequence
- D. reinforcing Keith's conclusion by supplying a complementary interpretation of the evidence Keith cites
- E. agreeing with the main conclusion of Keith's argument but construing that conclusion as grounds for optimism rather than for pessimism

VR2 CR Q4

The price the government pays for standard weapons purchased from military contractors is determined by a pricing method called “historical costing.” Historical costing allows contractors to protect their profits by adding a percentage increase, based on the current rate of inflation, to the previous year’s contractual price.

Which of the following statements, if true, is the best basis for a criticism of historical costing as an economically sound pricing method for military contracts?

- A. The government might continue to pay for past inefficient use of funds.
- B. The rate of inflation has varied considerably over the past twenty years.
- C. The contractual price will be greatly affected by the cost of materials used for the products.
- D. Many taxpayers question the amount of money the government spends on military contracts.
- E. The pricing method based on historical costing might not encourage the development of innovative weapons.

VR2 CR Q7

A researcher discovered that people who have low levels of immune-system activity tend to score much lower on tests of mental health than do people with normal or high immune-system activity. The researcher concluded from this experiment that the immune system protects against mental illness as well as against physical disease.

The researcher’s conclusion depends on which of the following assumptions?

- A. High immune-system activity protects against mental illness better than normal immune-system activity does.
- B. Mental illness is similar to physical disease in its effects on body systems.
- C. People with high immune-system activity cannot develop mental illness.
- D. Mental illness does not cause people’s immune-system activity to decrease.
- E. Psychological treatment of mental illness is not as effective as is medical treatment.

VR2 CR Q16

Since the deregulation of airlines, delays at the nation's increasingly busy airports have increased by 25 percent. To combat this problem, more of the takeoff and landing slots at the busiest airports must be allocated to commercial airlines.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the effectiveness of the solution proposed above?

- A. The major causes of delays at the nation's busiest airports are bad weather and overtaxed air traffic control equipment.
- B. Since airline deregulation began, the number of airplanes in operation has increased by 25 percent.
- C. Over 60 percent of the takeoff and landing slots at the nation's busiest airports are reserved for commercial airlines.
- D. After a small mid western airport doubled its allocation of takeoff and landing slots, the number of delays that were reported decreased by 50 percent.
- E. Since deregulation the average length of delay at the nation's busiest airports has doubled.

VR2 CR Q21

Aphasia, an impairment of the capacity to use language, often occurs when a stroke damages the left half of the brain. Many people with stroke-related aphasia recover at least some capacity to use language within a year. One proposed explanation for such recoveries is that the right side of the brain, which is not usually the major language center, develops its latent language capabilities to compensate for the damage to the left side.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the explanation?

- A. In a study of local brain activity in people performing a language task, people with stroke related aphasia showed higher activity levels in the right half of the brain than people who did not have aphasia.
- B. A blow to the head injuring the left half of the brain can result in impairment of the capacity to use language indistinguishable from that produced by a stroke.
- C. Among people with stroke-related aphasia, recovering lost capacity to use language does not lead to any impairment of those capacities normally controlled by the right half of the brain.
- D. A stroke that damages the left half of the brain often causes physical impairments of the right side of the body that lessen over time.
- E. Studies of numerous people with aphasia have indicated that the functions that govern language production and those that govern language comprehension are located in separate areas of the brain.

VR2 CR Q22

In the arid land along the Colorado River, use of the river's water is strictly controlled: farms along the river each have a limited allocation that they are allowed to use for irrigation. But the trees that grow in narrow strips along the river's banks also use its water. Clearly, therefore, if farmers were to remove those trees, more water would be available for crop irrigation

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

- A. The trees along the river's banks shelter it from the sun and wind, thereby greatly reducing the amount of water lost through evaporation
- B. Owners of farms along the river will probably not undertake the expense of cutting down trees along the banks unless they are granted a greater allocation of water in return
- C. Many of the tree species currently found along the river's banks are specifically adapted to growing in places where tree roots remain constantly wet.
- D. The strip of land where trees grow along the river's banks would not be suitable for growing crops if the trees were removed.
- E. The distribution of water allocations for irrigation is intended to prevent farms farther upstream from using water needed by farms farther downstream

VR2 CR Q23

Near Chicago a newly built hydroponic spinach "factory," a completely controlled environment for growing spinach, produces on 1 acre of floor space what it takes 100 acres of fields to produce. Expenses, especially for electricity, are high, however, and the spinach produced costs about four times as much as washed California field spinach, the spinach commonly sold throughout the United States.

Which of the following, if true, best supports a projection that the spinach-growing facility near Chicago will be profitable?

- A. Once the operators of the facility are experienced, they will be able to cut operating expenses by about 25 percent.
- B. There is virtually no scope for any further reduction in the cost per pound for California field spinach.
- C. Unlike washed field spinach, the hydroponically grown spinach is untainted by any pesticides or herbicides and thus will sell at exceptionally high prices to such customers as health food restaurants.

- D. Since spinach is a crop that ships relatively well, the market for the hydroponically grown spinach is no more limited to the Chicago area than the market for California field spinach is to California.
- E. A second hydroponic facility is being built in Canada, taking advantage of inexpensive electricity and high vegetable prices.

VR2 CR Q26

Editorial: The mayor plans to deactivate the city's fire alarm boxes, because most calls received from them are false alarms. The mayor claims that the alarm boxes are no longer necessary, since most people now have access to either public or private telephone. But the city's commercial district, where there is the greatest risk of fire, has few residents and few public telephones, so some alarm boxes are still necessary.

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

- A. Maintaining the fire alarm boxes costs the city more than five million dollars annually.
- B. Commercial buildings have automatic fire alarm systems that are linked directly to the fire department.
- C. The fire department gets less information from an alarm box than it does from a telephone call.
- D. The city's fire department is located much closer to the residential areas than to the commercial district.
- E. On average, almost 25 percent of the public telephones in the city are out of order.

VR2 CR Q27

State spokesperson: Many businesspeople who have not been to our state believe that we have an inadequate road system. Those people are mistaken, as is obvious from the fact that in each of the past six years, our state has spent more money per mile on road improvements than any other state.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the reasoning in the spokesperson's argument?

- A. In the spokesperson's state, spending on road improvements has been increasing more slowly over the past six years than it has in several other states.
- B. Adequacy of a state's road system is generally less important to a businessperson considering doing business there than is the availability of qualified employees.
- C. Over the past six years, numerous businesses have moved into the state.

- D. In general, the number of miles of road in a state' road system depends on both the area and the population of the state.
- E. Only states with seriously inadequate road systems need to spend large amounts of money on road improvements.

VR2 CR Q30

Toughened hiring standards have not been the primary cause of the present staffing shortage in public schools. The shortage of teachers is primarily caused by the fact that in recent years teachers have not experienced any improvements in working conditions and their salaries have not kept pace with salaries in other professions.

Which of the following, if true, would most support the claims above?

- A. Many teachers already in the profession would not have been hired under the new hiring standards.
- B. Today more teachers are entering the profession with a higher educational level than in the past.
- C. Some teachers have cited higher standards for hiring as a reason for the current staffing shortage.
- D. Many teachers have cited low pay and lack of professional freedom as reasons for their leaving the profession.
- E. Many prospective teachers have cited the new hiring standards as a reason for not entering the profession.

VR2 CR Q36

Certain messenger molecules fight damage to the lungs from noxious air by telling the muscle cells encircling the lungs' airways to contract. This partially seals off the lungs. An asthma attack occurs when the messenger molecules are activated unnecessarily, in response to harmless things like pollen or household dust.

Which of the following, if true, points to the most serious flaw of a plan to develop a medication that would prevent asthma attacks by blocking receipt of any messages sent by the messenger molecules referred to above?

- A. Researchers do not yet know how the body produces the messenger molecules that trigger asthma attacks.

- B. Researchers do not yet know what makes one person's messenger molecules more easily activated than another's.
- C. Such a medication would not become available for several years, because of long lead times in both development and manufacture.
- D. Such a medication would be unable to distinguish between messages triggered by pollen and household dust and messages triggered by noxious air.
- E. Such a medication would be a preventative only and would be unable to alleviate an asthma attack once it had started

VR2 CR Q37

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Although the pesticide TDX has been widely used by fruit growers since the early 1960's, a regulation in force since 1960 has prohibited sale of fruit on which any TDX residue can be detected. That regulation is about to be replaced by one that allows sale of fruit on which trace amounts of TDX residue are detected. In fact, however, the change will not allow more TDX on fruit than was allowed in the 1960's, because _____.

- A. pre-1970 techniques for detecting TDX residue could detect it only when it was present on fruit in more than the trace amounts allowed by the new regulations
- B. many more people today than in the 1960's habitually purchase and eat fruit without making an effort to clean residues off the fruit
- C. people today do not individually consume any more pieces of fruit, on average, than did the people in the 1960's
- D. at least a small fraction of the fruit sold each year since the early 1960's has had on it greater levels of TDX than the regulation allows
- E. the presence of TDX on fruit in greater than trace amounts has not been shown to cause any harm even to children who eat large amounts of fruit

VR2 CR Q40

Journalist: Well-known businessman Arnold Bergeron has long been popular in the state, and he has often talked about running for governor, but he has never run. However, we have just learned that Bergeron has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement for candidacy by submitting a detailed list of his current financial holdings to the election commission. So, it is very likely that Bergeron will be a candidate for governor this year.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most useful in evaluating the journalist's argument?

- A. Has anybody else who has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement for the upcoming election reported greater financial holdings than Bergeron?
- B. Is submitting a list of holdings the only way to fulfill the election commission's financial disclosure requirements?
- C. Did the information recently obtained by the journalists come directly from the election commission?
- D. Have Bergeron's financial holdings increased in value in recent years?
- E. Had Bergeron also fulfilled the financial disclosure requirements for candidacy before any previous gubernatorial elections?

VR2 CR Q42

Leaders of a miners' union on strike against Coalco are contemplating additional measures to pressure the company to accept the union's contract proposal. The union leaders are considering as their principal new tactic a consumer boycott against Gasco gas stations, which are owned by Energy Incorporated, the same corporation that owns Coalco.

The answer to which of the following questions is LEAST directly relevant to the union leaders' consideration of whether attempting a boycott of Gasco will lead to acceptance of their contract proposal?

- A. Would revenue losses by Gasco seriously affect Energy Incorporated?
- B. Can current Gasco customers easily obtain gasoline elsewhere?
- C. Have other miners' unions won contracts similar to the one proposed by this union?
- D. Have other unions that have employed a similar tactic achieved their goals with it?
- E. Do other corporations that own coal companies also own gas stations?

VR2 CR Q44

Bank depositors in the United States are all financially protected against bank failure because the government insures all individuals' bank deposits. An economist argues that this insurance is partly responsible for the high rate of bank failures, since it removes from depositors any financial incentive to find out whether the bank that holds their money is secure against failure. If depositors were more selective, then banks would need to be secure in order to compete for depositors' money.

The economist's argument makes which of the following assumptions?

- A. Bank failures are caused when big borrowers default on loan repayments.
- B. A significant proportion of depositors maintain accounts at several different banks.
- C. The more a depositor has to deposit, the more careful he or she tends to be in selecting a bank.
- D. The difference in the interest rates paid to depositors by different banks is not a significant factor in bank failures.
- E. Potential depositors are able to determine which banks are secure against failure.

VR2 CR Q46

A study of marital relationships in which one partner's sleeping and waking cycles differ from those of the other partner reveals that such couples share fewer activities with each other and have more violent arguments than do couples in a relationship in which both partners follow the same sleeping and waking patterns. Thus, mismatched sleeping and waking cycles can seriously jeopardize a marriage.

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

- A. Married couples in which both spouses follow the same sleeping and waking patterns also occasionally have arguments that can jeopardize the couple's marriage.
- B. The sleeping and waking cycles of individuals tend to vary from season to season.
- C. The individuals who have sleeping and waking cycles that differ significantly from those of their spouses tend to argue little with colleagues at work.
- D. People in unhappy marriages have been found to express hostility by adopting a different sleeping and waking cycle from that of their spouses.
- E. According to a recent study, most people's sleeping and waking cycles can be controlled and modified easily.

VR2 CR Q48

Editorial: An arrest made by a Midville police officer is provisional until the officer has taken the suspect to the police station and the watch commander has officially approved the arrest. Such approval is denied if the commander judges that the evidence on which the provisional arrest is based is insufficient. A government efficiency expert has observed that **almost all provisional arrests meet the standards for adequacy of evidence that the watch commanders enforce**. The expert has therefore recommended that, because **the officers' time spent obtaining approval is largely wasted**, the watch commander's approval no longer be required. This recommendation should be rejected as dangerous,

however, since there is no assurance that the watch commanders' standards will continue to be observed once approval is no longer required.

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

- A. The first is a claim, the accuracy of which is disputed by the editorial; the second is a conclusion drawn in order to support the main conclusion of the editorial.
- B. The first is an observation that the editorial disputes; the second is a conclusion that was drawn from that observation.
- C. The first is a finding that was used in support of a proposal that the editorial opposes; the second is a judgment that was based on that finding and in turn was used to support the proposal.
- D. The first is a finding introduced to support the main conclusion of the editorial; the second is that main conclusion.
- E. The first is a conclusion, the evidence for which the editorial evaluates; the second is part of the evidence cited in favor of that conclusion.

VR2 CR Q53

Useful protein drugs, such as insulin, must still be administered by the cumbersome procedure of injection under the skin. If proteins are taken orally, they are digested and cannot reach their target cells. Certain nonprotein drugs, however, contain chemical bonds that are not broken down by the digestive system. They can, thus, be taken orally.

The statements above most strongly support a claim that a research procedure that successfully accomplishes which of the following would be beneficial to users of protein drugs?

- A. Coating insulin with compounds that are broken down by target cells, but whose chemical bonds are resistant to digestion
- B. Converting into protein compounds, by procedures that work in the laboratory, the nonprotein drugs that resist digestion
- C. Removing permanently from the digestive system any substances that digest proteins
- D. Determining, in a systematic way, what enzymes and bacteria are present in the normal digestive system and whether they tend to be broken down within the body
- E. Determining the amount of time each nonprotein drug takes to reach its target cells.

VR2 CR Q58

If there is an oil-supply disruption resulting in higher international oil prices, domestic oil prices in open-market countries such as the United States will rise as well, whether such countries import all or none of their oil.

If the statement in the passage concerning oil-supply disruptions is true, which of the following policies in an open-market nation is most likely to reduce the long-term economic impact on that nation of sharp and unexpected increases in international oil prices?

- A. Maintaining the quantity of oil imported at constant yearly levels
- B. Increasing the number of oil tankers in its fleet
- C. Suspending diplomatic relations with major oil-producing nations
- D. Decreasing oil consumption through conservation
- E. Decreasing domestic production of oil

VR2 CR Q60

The tobacco industry is still profitable and projections are that it will remain so. In the United States this year, the total amount of tobacco sold by tobacco-farmers has increased, even though the number of adults who smoke has decreased.

Each of the following, if true, could explain the simultaneous increase in tobacco sales and decrease in the number of adults who smoke EXCEPT:

- A. During this year, the number of women who have begun to smoke is greater than the number of men who have quit smoking
- B. The number of teen-age children who have begun to smoke this year is greater than the number of adults who have quit smoking during the same period
- C. During this year, the number of nonsmokers who have begun to use chewing tobacco or snuff is greater than the number of people who have quit smoking
- D. The people who have continued to smoke consume more tobacco per person than they did in the past
- E. More of the cigarettes made in the United States this year were exported to other countries than was the case last year.

VR2 CR Q62

In response to viral infection, the immune systems of mice typically produce antibodies that destroy the virus by binding to proteins on its surface. Mice infected with a herpesvirus generally develop keratitis, a

degenerative disease affecting part of the eye. Since proteins on the surface of cells in this part of the eye closely resemble those on the herpesvirus surface, scientists hypothesize that these cases of keratitis are caused by antibodies to herpesvirus.

Which of the following, if true, gives the greatest additional support to the scientist's hypothesis?

- A. Other types of virus have surface proteins that closely resemble proteins found in various organs of mice.
- B. There are mice that are unable to form antibodies in response to herpes infections, and these mice contract herpes at roughly the same rate as other mice.
- C. Mice that are infected with a herpesvirus but do not develop keratitis produce as many antibodies as infected mice that do develop keratitis.
- D. There are mice that are unable to form antibodies in response to herpes infections, and these mice survive these infections without ever developing keratitis.
- E. Mice that have never been infected with a herpesvirus can sometimes develop keratitis.

VR2 CR Q66

Hardin argued that grazing land held in common (that is, open to any user) would always be used less carefully than private grazing land. Each rancher would be tempted to overuse common land because the benefits would accrue to the individuals, while the costs of reduced land quality that results from overuse would be spread among all users. But a study comparing 217 million acres of common grazing land with 433 million acres of private grazing land showed that the common land was in better condition.

Which of the following, if true and known by the ranchers, would best help explain the results of the study?

- A. With private grazing land, both the costs and the benefits of overuse fall to the individual user.
- B. The cost in reduced land quality that is attributable to any individual user is less easily measured with common land than it is with private land.
- C. An individual who overuses common grazing land might be able to achieve higher returns than other users can, with the result that he or she would obtain a competitive advantage.
- D. If one user of common land overuses it even slightly, the other users are likely to do so even more, with the consequence that the costs to each user outweigh the benefits.
- E. There are more acres of grazing land held privately than there are held in common.

VR2 CR Q69

When people evade income taxes by not declaring taxable income, a vicious cycle results. Tax evasion forces lawmakers to raise income tax rates, which causes the tax burden on nonevading taxpayers to become heavier. This, in turn, encourages even more taxpayers to evade income taxes by hiding taxable income.

The vicious cycle described above could not result unless which of the following were true?

- A. An increase in tax rates tends to function as an incentive for taxpayers to try to increase their pretax incomes.
- B. Some methods for detecting tax evaders, and thus recovering some tax revenue lost through evasion, bring in more than they cost, but their success rate varies from year to year.
- C. When lawmakers establish income tax rates in order to generate a certain level of revenue, they do not allow adequately for revenue that will be lost through evasion.
- D. No one who routinely hides some taxable income can be induced by a lowering of tax rates to stop hiding such income unless fines for evaders are raised at the same time.
- E. Taxpayers do not differ from each other with respect to the rate of taxation that will cause them to evade taxes.

VR2 CR Q71

Because postage rates are rising, Home Decorator magazine plans to maximize its profits by reducing by one half the number of issues it publishes each year. The quality of articles, the number of articles published per year, and the subscription price will not change. Market research shows that neither subscribers nor advertisers will be lost if the magazine's plan is instituted.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest evidence that the magazine's profits are likely to decline if the plan is instituted?

- A. With the new postage rates, a typical issue under the proposed plan would cost about one-third more to mail than a typical current issue would.
- B. The majority of the magazine's subscribers are less concerned about a possible reduction in the quantity of the magazine's articles than about a possible loss of the current high quality of its articles.
- C. Many of the magazine's long-time subscribers would continue their subscriptions even if the subscription price were increased.
- D. Most of the advertisers that purchase advertising space in the magazine will continue to spend the same amount on advertising per issue as they have in the past.

- E. Production costs for the magazine are expected to remain stable

VR2 CR Q73

The cotton farms of Country Q became so productive that that market could not absorb all that they produced. Consequently, cotton prices fell. The government tried to boost cotton prices by offering farmers who took 25 percent of their cotton acreage out of production direct support payments up to a specified maximum per farm.

The government's program, if successful, will not be a net burden on the budget. Which of the following, if true, is the basis for an explanation how this could be so?

- A. Depressed cotton prices meant operating losses for cotton farms, and the government lost revenue from taxes on farm profits.
- B. Cotton production in several countries other than Q declined slightly the year that support-payment program went into effect in Q.
- C. The first year that the support-payment program was in effect, cotton acreage in Q was 5% below its level in the base year for the program.
- D. The specified maximum per farm meant that for very large cotton farms the support payments were less per acre for those acres that were withdrawn from production than they were for smaller farms.
- E. Farmers who wished to qualify for support payments could not use the cotton acreage that was withdrawn from production to grow any other crop

VR2 CR Q75

United States Hospitals have traditionally relied primarily on revenues from paying patients to offset losses from unreimbursed care. Almost all paying patients now rely on governmental or private health insurance to pay hospital bills. Recently, insurers have been strictly limiting what they pay hospitals for the care of insured patients to amounts at or below actual costs.

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

- A. Although the advance of technology has made expensive medical procedures available to the wealthy, such procedures are out of the reach of low-income patients.
- B. If hospitals do not find ways of raising additional income for unreimbursed care, they must either deny some of that care or suffer losses if they give it.

- C. Some patients have incomes too high for eligibility for governmental health insurance but are unable to afford private insurance for hospital care.
- D. If the hospitals reduce their costs in providing care, insurance companies will maintain the current level of reimbursement, thereby providing more funds for unreimbursed care.
- E. Even though philanthropic donations have traditionally provided some support for the hospitals, such donations are at present declining.

VR 2016 CR Q4

A cost-effective solution to the problem of airport congestion is to provide high-speed ground transportation between major cities lying 200 to 500 miles apart. The successful implementation of this plan would cost far less than expanding existing airports and would also reduce the number of airplanes clogging both airports and airways.

Which of the following, if true, could proponents of the plan above most appropriately cite as a piece of evidence for the soundness of their plan?

- (A) An effective high-speed ground-transportation system would require major repairs to many highways and mass-transit improvements.
- (B) One-half of all departing flights in the nation's busiest airport head for a destination in a major city 225 miles away.
- (C) The majority of travelers departing from rural airports are flying to destinations in cities over 600 miles away.
- (D) Many new airports are being built in areas that are presently served by high-speed ground-transportation systems.
- (E) A large proportion of air travelers are vacationers who are taking long-distance flights.

VR 2016 CR Q5

In an attempt to promote the widespread use of paper rather than plastic, and thus reduce non biodegradable waste, the council of a small town plans to ban the sale of disposable plastic goods for which substitutes made of paper exist. The council argues that since most paper is entirely biodegradable, paper goods are environmentally preferable.

Which of the following, if true, indicates that the plan to ban the sale of disposable plastic goods is ill suited to the town council's environmental goals?

- (A) Although biodegradable plastic goods are now available, members of the town council believe biodegradable paper goods to be safer for the environment.
- (B) The paper factory at which most of the townspeople are employed plans to increase production of biodegradable paper goods.

(C) After other towns enacted similar bans on the sale of plastic goods, the environmental benefits were not discernible for several years.

(D) Since most townspeople prefer plastic goods to paper goods in many instances, they are likely to purchase them in neighboring towns where plastic goods are available for sale.

(E) Products other than those derived from wood pulp are often used in the manufacture of paper goods that are entirely biodegradable.

VR 2016 CR Q8

People's television-viewing habits could be monitored by having television sets, when on, send out low-level electromagnetic waves that are reflected back to the sets. The reflected waves could then be analyzed to determine how many persons are within the viewing area of the sets. Critics fear adverse health effects of such a monitoring system, but a proponent responds, "The average dose of radiation is less than one chest x-ray. As they watch, viewers won't feel a thing."

Which of the following issues would it be most important to resolve in evaluating the dispute concerning the health effects of the proposed system?

- A. Whether the proposed method of monitoring viewership can distinguish between people and pets
- B. Whether radar speed monitors also operate on the principle of analyzing reflected waves of electromagnetic radiation
- C. Whether the proposed system has been tried out in various areas of the country or in a single area only
- D. What uses are foreseen for the viewership data
- E. Whether the average dose that the proponent describes is a short-term dose or a lifetime cumulative dose

VR 2016 CR Q12

Shelby Industries manufactures and sells the same gauges as Jones Industries. Employee wages account for forty percent of the cost of manufacturing gauges at both Shelby Industries and Jones Industries. Shelby Industries is seeking a competitive advantage over Jones Industries. Therefore, to promote this end, Shelby Industries should lower employee wages.

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

- (A) Because they make a small number of precision instruments, gauge manufacturers cannot receive volume discounts on raw materials.
- (B) Lowering wages would reduce the quality of employee work, and this reduced quality would lead to lowered sales.
- (C) Jones Industries has taken away twenty percent of Shelby Industries' business over the last year.
- (D) Shelby Industries pays its employees, on average, ten percent more than does Jones Industries.
- (E) Many people who work for manufacturing plants live in areas in which the manufacturing plant they work for is the only industry.

VR 2016 CR Q26

Company Alpha buys free-travel coupons from people who are awarded the coupons by Bravo Airlines for flying frequently on Bravo airplanes. The coupons are sold to people who pay less for the coupons than they would pay by purchasing tickets from Bravo. This marketing of coupons results in lost revenue for Bravo.

To discourage the buying and selling of free-travel coupons, it would be best for Bravo Airlines to restrict the

- (A) number of coupons that a person can be awarded in a particular year
- (B) use of the coupons to those who were awarded the coupons and members of their immediate families
- (C) days that the coupons can be used to Monday through Friday
- (D) amount of time that the coupons can be used after they are issued
- (E) number of routes on which travelers can use the coupons

VR 2016 CR Q31

A recent spate of launching and operating mishaps with television satellites led to a corresponding surge in claims against companies underwriting satellite insurance. As a result, insurance premiums shot up, making satellites more expensive to launch and operate. This, in turn, has added to the pressure to squeeze more performance out of currently operating satellites.

Which of the following, if true, taken together with the information above, best supports the conclusion that the cost of television satellites will continue to increase?

- A. Since the risk to insurers of satellites is spread over relatively few units, insurance premiums are necessarily very high.
- B. When satellites reach orbit and then fail, the causes of failure are generally impossible to pinpoint with confidence.
- C. The greater the performance demands placed on satellites, the more frequently those satellites break down.
- D. Most satellites are produced in such small numbers that no economies of scale can be realized.
- E. Since many satellites are built by unwieldy international consortia, inefficiencies are inevitable.

VR 2016 CR Q32

If the airspace around centrally located airports were restricted to commercial airliners and only those private planes equipped with radar, most of the private-plane traffic would be forced to use outlying airfields. Such a reduction in the amount of private-plane traffic would reduce the risk of midair collision around the centrally located airports

The conclusion drawn in the first sentence depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Outlying airfields would be as convenient as centrally located airports for most pilots of private planes.
- (B) Most outlying airfields are not equipped to handle commercial-airline traffic.
- (C) Most private planes that use centrally located airports are not equipped with radar.
- (D) Commercial airliners are at greater risk of becoming involved in midair collisions than are private planes.
- (E) A reduction in the risk of midair collision would eventually lead to increases in commercial airline traffic.

VR 2016 CR Q45

Dental researchers recently discovered that tooth-brushes can become contaminated with bacterial that cause pneumonia and strep throat. They found that contamination usually occurs after toothbrushes have been used for four weeks. For that reason, people should replace their toothbrushes at least once a month.

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

- (A) The dental researchers could not discover why toothbrush contamination usually occurred only after toothbrushes had been used for four weeks.
- (B) The dental researchers failed to investigate contamination of toothbrushes by viruses, yeasts, and other pathogenic microorganisms.
- (C) The dental researchers found that among people who used toothbrushes contaminated with bacterial that cause pneumonia and strep throat, the incidence of these diseases was no higher than among people who used uncontaminated toothbrushes.
- (D) The dental researchers found that people who rinsed their toothbrushes thoroughly in hot water after each use were as likely to have contaminated toothbrushes as were people who only rinsed their toothbrushes hurriedly in cold water after each use.
- (E) The dental researchers found that, after six weeks of use, greater length of use of a toothbrush did not correlate with a higher number of bacterial being present.

VR 2016 CR Q49

Division manager: I want to replace the Microton computers in my division with Vitech computers.

General manager: Why?

Division manager: It costs 28 percent less to train new staff on the Vitech.

General manager: But that is not a good enough reason. We can simply hire only people who already know how to use the Microton computer.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the general manager's objection to the replacement of Microton computers with Vitechs?

- (A) Currently all employees in the company are required to attend workshops on how to use Microton computers in new applications.

(B) Once employees learn how to use a computer, they tend to change employers more readily than before.

(C) Experienced users of Microton computers command much higher salaries than do prospective employees who have no experience in the use of computers.

(D) The average productivity of employees in the general manager's company is below the average productivity of the employees of its competitors.

(E) The high costs of replacement parts make Vitech computers more expensive to maintain than Microton computers.

VR 2016 CR Q51

There is a great deal of geographical variation in the frequency of many surgical procedures - up to tenfold variation per hundred thousand between different areas in the numbers of hysterectomies, prostatectomies, and tonsillectomies.

To support a conclusion that much of the variation is due to unnecessary surgical procedure, it would be most important to establish which of the following?

A) A local board of review to each hospital examines the records of every operation to determine whether the surgical procedure was necessary.

B) The variation is unrelated to factors (other than the surgical procedures themselves) that influence the incidence of diseases for which surgery might be considered.

C) There are several categories of surgical procedure (other than hysterectomies, prostatectomies, and tonsillectomies) that are often performed unnecessarily.

D) For certain surgical procedures, it is difficult to determine after the operation whether the procedures were necessary or whether alternative treatment would have succeeded.

E) With respect to how often they are performed unnecessarily, hysterectomies, prostatectomies, and tonsillectomies are representative of surgical procedures in general.

VR 2016 CR Q65

Meteorite explosions in the Earth's atmosphere as large as the one that destroyed forests in Siberia, with approximately the force of a twelve-megaton nuclear blast, occur about once a century. The

response of highly automated systems controlled by complex computer programs to unexpected circumstances is unpredictable.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn, if the statements above are true, about a highly automated nuclear-missile defense system controlled by a complex computer program?

- A. Within a century after its construction, the system would react inappropriately and might accidentally start a nuclear war.
- B. The system would be destroyed if an explosion of a large meteorite occurred in the Earth's atmosphere.
- C. It would be impossible for the system to distinguish the explosion of a large meteorite from the explosion of a nuclear weapon.
- D. Whether the system would respond inappropriately to the explosion of a large meteorite would depend on the location of the blast.
- E. It is not certain what the system's response to the explosion of a large meteorite would be, if its designers did not plan for such a contingency.

VR 2016 CR Q76

A compelling optical illusion called the illusion of velocity and size makes objects appear to be moving more slowly the larger the objects are. Therefore, a motorist's estimate of the time available for crossing a highway with a small car approaching is bound to be lower than it would be with a large truck approaching.

The conclusion above would be more properly drawn if it were made clear that the

- (A) truck's speed is assumed to be lower than the car's
- (B) truck's speed is assumed to be the same as the car's
- (C) truck's speed is assumed to be higher than the car's
- (D) motorist's estimate of time available is assumed to be more accurate with cars approaching than with trucks approaching
- (E) motorist's estimate of time available is assumed to be more accurate with trucks approaching than with cars approaching

VR 2016 CR Q77

Country Y uses its scarce foreign-exchange reserves to buy scrap iron for recycling into steel. Although the steel thus produced earns more foreign exchange than it costs, that policy is foolish. Country Y's own territory has vast deposits of iron ore, which can be mined with minimal expenditure of foreign exchange.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest support for Country Y's policy of buying scrap iron abroad?

- (A) The price of scrap iron on international markets rose significantly in 1987.
- (B) Country Y's foreign-exchange reserves dropped significantly in 1987.
- (C) There is virtually no difference in quality between steel produced from scrap iron and that produced from iron ore.
- (D) Scrap iron is now used in the production of roughly half the steel used in the world today, and experts predict that scrap iron will be used even more extensively in the future.
- (E) Furnaces that process scrap iron can be built and operated in Country Y with substantially less foreign exchange than can furnaces that process iron ore