

STRENGTHEN QUESTIONS

06 2017

Q 546

Candle Corporation's television stations are likely to have more income from advertisers than previously. This is because advertisers prefer to reach people in the 18- to 49-year-old age group and the number of people in the group watching Candle television is increasing. Furthermore, among Candle viewers, the percentage of viewers 18 to 49 years old is increasing.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that Candle Corporation will receive more income from advertisers?

- (A) Advertisers carefully monitor the demographic characteristics of television audiences and purchase advertising time to reach the audiences they prefer to reach.
- (B) Among people over 49 years old, fewer viewers of Candle stations buy products advertised on television than do viewers of other stations.
- (C) There will be increasingly more advertisements on television that are directed at viewers who are over 49 years old.
- (D) Candle stations plan to show reruns of television shows during hours when other stations run shows for the first time.
- (E) People 18 to 49 years old generally have less disposable income to spend than do people over 49 years old.

Q 547

A provincial government plans to raise the gasoline tax to give people an incentive to drive less, reducing traffic congestion in the long term. However, skeptics point out that most people in the province live in areas where cars are the only viable transportation to jobs and stores and therefore cannot greatly change their driving habits in response to higher gasoline prices.

In light of the skeptics' objection, which of the following, if true, would most logically support the prediction that the government's plan will achieve its goal of reducing traffic congestion?

(A) The revenue from the tax will be used to make public transportation a viable means of transportation to jobs and stores for far more people.

(B) The tax will encourage many residents to switch to more fuel-efficient cars, reducing air pollution and other problems.

(C) Because gasoline has been underpriced for decades, the province has many neighborhoods where cars are the only viable means of transportation.

(D) Most residents who cannot greatly change their driving habits could compensate for high gasoline prices by reducing other expenses.

(E) Traffic congestion is an especially serious problem for people for whom cars are the only viable means of transportation.

Q 550

Snowmaking machines work by spraying a mist that freezes immediately on contact with cold air. Because the sudden freezing kills bacteria, QuickFreeze is planning to market a wastewater purification system that works on the same principle. The process works only when temperatures are cold, however, so municipalities using it will still need to maintain a conventional system.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest grounds for a prediction that municipalities will buy QuickFreeze's purification system despite the need to maintain a conventional purification system as well?

- (A) Bacteria are not the only impurities that must be removed from wastewater.
- (B) Many municipalities have old wastewater purification systems that need to be replaced.
- (C) Conventional wastewater purification systems have not been fully successful in killing bacteria at cold temperatures.
- (D) During times of warm weather, when it is not in use, QuickFreeze's purification system requires relatively little maintenance.
- (E) Places where the winters are cold rarely have a problem of water shortage.

Q560

The Maxilux car company's design for its new luxury model, the Max 100, included a special design for the tires that was intended to complement the model's image. The winning bid for supplying these tires was submitted by Rubco. Analysts concluded that the bid would only just cover Rubco's costs on the tires, but Rubco executives claim that winning the bid will actually make a profit for the company.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly justifies the claim made by Rubco's executives?

(A) In any Maxilux model, the spare tire is exactly the same make and model as the tires that are mounted on the wheels.

(B) Rubco holds exclusive contracts to supply Maxilux with the tires for a number of other models made by Maxilux.

(C) The production facilities for the Max 100 and those for the tires to be supplied by Rubco are located very near each other.

(D) When people who have purchased a carefully designed luxury automobile need to replace a worn part of it, they almost invariably replace it with a part of exactly the same make and type.

(E) When Maxilux awarded the tire contract to Rubco, the only criterion on which Rubco's bid was clearly ahead of its competitors' bids was price.

Q564

Many agriculturally intensive areas of the world are beginning to encounter water scarcity problems. As a result, many farmers in these areas are likely to reduce their output as the water supply they need in order to maintain production shrinks. However, one group of farmers in such a region plans to increase their production by implementing techniques for water conservation.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the prediction that the group's plan will succeed?

- (A) Farmers that can gain a larger share of the food market in their regions will be better positioned to control more water resources.
- (B) Most agricultural practices in areas with water shortages are water-intensive.
- (C) Other regions of the world not facing water shortages are likely to make up for the reduction in agricultural output.
- (D) Demand for agricultural products in the group's region is not expected to decline.
- (E) More than half the water used for agriculture in the farmers' region is lost to evaporation or leakage from irrigation channels.

Q568

A major network news organization experienced a drop in viewership in the week following the airing of a controversial report on the economy. The network also received a very large number of complaints regarding the report. The network, however, maintains that negative reactions to the report had nothing to do with its loss of viewers.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the network's position?

(A) The other major network news organizations reported similar reductions in viewership during the same week.

(B) The viewers who registered complaints with the network were regular viewers of the news organization's programs.

(C) Major network news organizations publicly attribute drops in viewership to their own reports only when they receive complaints about those reports.

(D) This was not the first time that this network news organization has aired a controversial report on the economy that has inspired viewers to complain to the network.

(E) Most network news viewers rely on network news broadcasts as their primary source of information regarding the economy.

Q 571

The air quality board recently informed Coffee Roast, a small coffee roasting firm, of a complaint regarding the smoke from its roaster. Recently enacted air quality regulations requires machine roasting more than 10 pounds of coffee to be equipped with expensive smoke-dissipating afterburners. The firm, however, roasts only 8 pounds of coffee at a time. Nevertheless, the company has decided to purchase and install an afterburner.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the firm's decision?

- (A) Until setting on the new air quality regulations, the board had debated whether to require afterburners for machines roasting more than 5 pounds of coffee at a time.
- (B) Coffee roasted in a machine equipped with an afterburner has its flavor subtly altered.
- (C) The cost to the firm of an afterburner is less than the cost of replacing its roaster with a smaller one.
- (D) Fewer complaints are reported in areas that maintain strict rules regarding afterburners.
- (E) The firm has reason to fear that negative publicity regarding the complaints could result in lost sales.

Q 575

The Eurasian ruffe, a fish species inadvertently introduced into North America's Great Lakes in recent years, feeds on the eggs of lake white fish, a native species, thus threatening the lakes' natural ecosystem. To help track the ruffe's spread, government agencies have produced wallet-sized cards about the ruffe. The cards contain pictures of the ruffe and explain the danger they pose; the cards also request anglers to report any ruffe they catch.

Which of the following, if true, would provide most support for the prediction that the agencies' action will have its intended effect?

- (A) The ruffe has spiny fins that make it unattractive as prey.
- (B) Ruffe generally feed at night, but most recreational fishing on the Great Lakes is done during daytime hours.
- (C) Most people who fish recreationally on the Great Lakes are interested in the preservation of the lake white fish because it is a highly prized game fish.
- (D) The ruffe is one of several nonnative species in the Great Lakes whose existence threatens the survival of lake white fish populations there.
- (E) The bait that most people use when fishing for white fish on the Great Lakes is not attractive to ruffe.

Q592

Many industrialized nations are trying to reduce atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, a gas released by the burning of fossil fuels. One proposal is to replace conventional cement, which is made with calcium carbonate, by a new "eco-cement." This new cement, made with magnesium carbonate, absorbs large amount of carbon dioxide when exposed to the atmosphere. Therefore, using eco-cement for new concrete building projects will significantly help reduce atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide.

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

- (A) The cost of magnesium carbonate, currently greater than the cost of calcium carbonate, probably will fall as more magnesium carbonate is used in cement manufacture.
- (B) Eco-cement is strengthened when absorbed carbon dioxide reacts with the cement.
- (C) Before the development of eco-cement, magnesium-based cement was considered too susceptible to water erosion to be of practical use.
- (D) The manufacture of eco-cement uses considerably less fossil fuel per unit of cement than the manufacture of conventional cement does.
- (E) Most building-industry groups are unaware of the development or availability of eco-cement.

Q 594

Advertisement: When your car's engine is running at its normal operating temperature, any major brand of motor oil will protect it about as well as Tuff does. When the engine is cold, it is a different story: Tuff motor oil flows better at lower temperatures than its major competitors do. So, if you want your car's engine to have maximum protection, you should use Tuff.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument in the advertisement?

- (A) Tuff motor oil provides above-average protection for engines that happen to overheat.
- (B) Tuff motor oil is periodically supplied free of charge to automobile manufacturers to use in factory-new cars.
- (C) Tuff motor oil's share of the engine oil market peaked three years ago.
- (D) Tuff motor oil, like any motor oil, is thicker and flows less freely at cold temperatures than at hot temperatures.
- (E) Tuff motor oil is manufactured at only one refinery and shipped from there to all markets.

Q 595

The *Testament of William Thorpe* was published around 1530 as an appendix to Thorpe's longer *Examination*. Many scholars, however, doubt the attribution of the *Testament* to Thorpe because, whereas the *Examination* is dated 1406, the *Testament* is dated 1460. One scholar has recently argued that the 1460 date be amended to 1409, based on the observation that when these numbers are expressed as Roman numerals, MCCCCLX and MCCCIX, it becomes easy to see how the dates might have become confused through scribal error.

Which of the following, if true, would most support the scholar's hypothesis concerning the date of the *Testament*?

(A) The sole evidence that historians have had that William Thorpe died no earlier than 1460 was the presumed date of publication of the *Testament*.

(B) In the preface to the 1530 publication, the editor attributes both works to William Thorpe.

(C) Few writers in fifteenth-century England marked dates in their works using only Roman numerals.

(D) The *Testament* alludes to a date, "Friday, September 20," as apparently contemporaneous with the writing of the *Testament*, and September 20 fell on a Friday in 1409 but not in 1460.

(E) The *Testament* contains few references to historical events that occurred later than 1406.

Q 598

Advertising by mail has become much less effective, with fewer consumers responding. Because consumers are increasingly overwhelmed by the sheer amount of junk mail they receive, most discard almost all offers without considering them. Thus, an effective way for corporations to improve response rates would be to more carefully target the individuals to whom they mail advertising, thereby cutting down on the amount of junk mail each consumer receives.

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

(A) There are cost-effective means by which corporations that currently advertise by mail could improve response rates.

(B) Many successful corporations are already carefully targeting the individuals to whom they mail advertising.

(C) Any consumer who, immediately after receiving an advertisement by mail, merely glances at it, is very likely to discard it.

(D) Improvements in the quality of the advertising materials used in mail that is carefully targeted to individuals can improve the response rate for such mail.

(E) Response rates to carefully targeted advertisements by mail are considerably higher, on average, than response rates to most other forms of advertising.

Q 599

Petrochemical industry officials have said that the extreme pressure exerted on plant managers during the last five years to improve profits by cutting costs has done nothing to impair the industry's ability to operate safely. However, environmentalists contend that the recent rash of serious oil spills and accidents at petrochemical plants is traceable to cost-cutting measures.

Which of the following, if true, would provide the strongest support for the position held by industry officials?

- (A) The petrochemical industry benefits if accidents do not occur, since accidents involve risk of employee injury as well as loss of equipment and product.
- (B) Petrochemical industry unions recently demanded that additional money be spent on safety and environment protection measures, but the unions readily abandoned those demands in exchange for job security.
- (C) Despite major cutbacks in most other areas of operation, the petrochemical industry has devoted more of its resources to environmental and safety measures in the last five years than in the preceding five years.
- (D) There is evidence that the most damaging of the recent oil spills would have been prevented had cost-cutting measures not been instituted.
- (E) Both the large fines and adverse publicity generated by the most recent oil spills have prompted the petrochemical industry to increase the resources devoted to oil-spill prevention.

Q 602

One summer, floods covered low-lying garlic fields situated in a region with a large mosquito population. Since mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water, flooded fields would normally attract mosquitoes, yet no mosquitoes were found in the fields. Diallyl sulfide, a major component of garlic, is known to repel several species of insects, including mosquitoes, so it is likely that diallyl sulfide from the garlic repelled the mosquitoes.

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

- (A) Diallyl sulfide is also found in onions but at concentrations lower than in garlic.
- (B) The mosquito population of the region as a whole was significantly smaller during the year in which the flooding took place than it had been in previous years.
- (C) By the end of the summer, most of the garlic plants in the flooded fields had been killed by waterborne fungi.
- (D) Many insect species not repelled by diallyl sulfide were found in the flooded garlic fields throughout the summer.
- (E) Mosquitoes are known to be susceptible to toxins in plants other than garlic, such as marigolds.

Q 604

Coffee shop owner: A large number of customers will pay at least the fair market value for a cup of coffee, even if there is no formal charge. Some will pay more than this out of appreciation of the trust that is placed in them. And our total number of customers is likely to increase. We could therefore improve our net cash flow by implementing an honor system in which customers pay what they wish for coffee by depositing money in a can.

Manager: We're likely to lose money on this plan. Many customers would cheat the system, paying a very small sum or nothing at all.

Which of the following, if true, would best support the owner's plan, in light of the manager's concern?

- (A) The new system, if implemented, would increase the number of customers.
- (B) By roasting its own coffee, the shop has managed to reduce the difficulties (and cost) of maintaining an inventory of freshly roasted coffee.
- (C) Many customers stay in the cafe for long stretches of time.
- (D) The shop makes a substantial profit from pastries and other food bought by the coffee drinkers.
- (E) No other coffee shop in the area has such a system.

Q 610

Previously, Autoco designed all of its cars itself and then contracted with specialized parts suppliers to build parts according to its specifications. Now it plans to include its suppliers in designing the parts they are to build. Since many parts suppliers have more designers with specialized experience than Autoco has, Autoco expects this shift to reduce the overall time and cost of the design of its next new car.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports Autoco's expectation?

- (A) When suppliers provide their own designs, Autoco often needs to modify its overall design.
- (B) In order to provide designs for Autoco, several of the parts suppliers will have to add to their existing staffs of designers.
- (C) Parts and services provided by outside suppliers account for more than 50 percent of Autoco's total costs.
- (D) When suppliers built parts according to specifications provided by Autoco, the suppliers competed to win contracts.
- (E) Most of the Autoco's suppliers have on hand a wide range of previously prepared parts designs that can readily be modified for a new car.

Q 612

In Stenland, many workers have been complaining that they cannot survive on minimum wage, the lowest wage an employer is permitted to pay. The government is proposing to raise the minimum wage. Many employers who pay their workers the current minimum wage argue that if it is raised, unemployment will increase because they will no longer be able to afford to employ as many workers.

Which of the following, if true in Stenland, most strongly supports the claim that raising the minimum wage there will not have the effects that the employers predict?

- (A) For any position with wages below a living wage, the difficulty of finding and retaining employees adds as much to employment costs as would raising wages.
- (B) Raising the minimum wage does not also increase the amount employers have to contribute in employee benefits.
- (C) When inflation is taken into account, the proposed new minimum wage is not high as the current one was when it was introduced.
- (D) Many employees currently being paid wages at the level of the proposed new minimum wage will demand significant wage increases.
- (E) Many employers who pay some workers only the minimum wage also pay other workers wages that are much higher than the minimum.

Q 626

Several industries have recently switched at least partly from older technologies powered by fossil fuels to new technologies powered by electricity. It is thus evident that less fossil fuel is being used as a result of the operations of these industries than would have been used if these industries had retained their older technologies.

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

- (A) Many of the industries that have switched at least partly to the new technologies have increased their output.
- (B) Less fossil fuel was used to manufacture the machinery employed in the new technologies than was originally used to manufacture the machinery employed in the older technologies.
- (C) More electricity is used by those industries that have switched at least partly to the new technologies than by those industries that have not switched.
- (D) Some of the industries that have switched at least partly to the new technologies still use primarily technologies that are powered by fossil fuels.
- (E) The amount of fossil fuel used to generate the electricity needed to power the new technologies is less than the amount that would have been used to power the older technologies.

Q 647

Between 1980 and 2000 the sea otter population of the Aleutian Islands declined precipitously. There were no signs of disease or malnutrition, so there was probably an increase in the number of otters being eaten by predators. Orcas will eat otters when seals, their normal prey, are unavailable, and the Aleutian Islands seal population declined dramatically in the 1980s. Therefore, orcas were most likely the immediate cause of the otter population decline.

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

- (A) The population of sea urchins, the main food of sea otters, has increased since the sea otter population declined.
- (B) Seals do not eat sea otters, nor do they compete with sea otters for food.
- (C) Most of the surviving sea otters live in a bay that is inaccessible to orcas.
- (D) The population of orcas in the Aleutian Islands has declined since the 1980s.
- (E) An increase in commercial fishing near the Aleutian Islands in the 1980s caused a slight decline in the population of the fish that seals use for food.

Q 649

Studies in restaurants show that the tips left by customers who pay their bill in cash tend to be larger when the bill is presented on a tray that bears a credit-card logo. Consumer psychologists hypothesize that simply seeing a credit-card logo makes many credit-card holders willing to spend more because it reminds them that their spending power exceeds the cash they have immediately available.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the psychologists' interpretation of the studies?

- (A) The effect noted in the studies is not limited to patrons who have credit cards.
- (B) Patrons who are under financial pressure from their credit-card obligations tend to tip less when presented with a restaurant bill on a tray with a credit-card logo than when the tray has no logo.
- (C) In virtually all of the cases in the studies, the patrons who paid bills in cash did not possess credit cards.
- (D) In general, restaurant patrons who pay their bills in cash leave larger tips than do those who pay by credit card.
- (E) The percentage of restaurant bills paid with a given brand of credit card increases when that credit card's logo is displayed on the tray with which the bill is presented.

Q 656

Spring field Fire Commissioner: The vast majority of false fire alarms are prank calls made anonymously from re alarm boxes on street corners. Since virtually everyone has access to a private telephone, these alarm boxes have outlived their usefulness. Therefore, we propose to remove the boxes. Removing the boxes will reduce the number of prank calls without hampering people's ability to report a fire.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the claim that the proposal, if carried out, will have the announced effect?

(A) The fire department traces all alarm calls made from private telephones and records where they came from.

(B) Maintaining the fire alarm boxes costs Spring field approximately \$5 million annually.

(C) A telephone call can provide the fire department with more information about the nature and size of a re than can an alarm placed from an alarm box.

(D) Responding to false alarms significantly reduces the re department's capacity for responding to fires.

(E) On any given day, a significant percentage of the public telephones in Spring field are out of service.

Q 660

The spacing of the four holes on a fragment of a bone flute excavated at a Neanderthal campsite is just what is required to play the third through sixth notes of the diatonic scale—the seven-note musical scale used in much of Western music since the Renaissance. Musicologists therefore hypothesize that the diatonic musical scale was developed and used thousands of years before it was adopted by Western musicians.

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

- (A) Bone flutes were probably the only musical instrument made by Neanderthals.
- (B) No musical instrument that is known to have used a diatonic scale is of an earlier date than the flute found at the Neanderthal campsite.
- (C) The flute was made from a cave-bear bone and the campsite at which the flute fragment was excavated was in a cave that also contained skeletal remains of cave bears.
- (D) Flutes are the simplest wind instrument that can be constructed to allow playing a diatonic scale.
- (E) The cave-bear leg bone used to make the Neanderthal flute would have been long enough to make a flute capable of playing a complete diatonic scale.

06 2016

Q 19

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

Q 24

Hollywood restaurant is replacing some of its standard tables with tall tables and stools. The restaurant already fills every available seat during its operating hours, and the change in seating arrangements will not result in an increase in the restaurant's seating capacity. Nonetheless, the restaurant's management expects revenue to increase as a result of the seating change without any concurrent change in menu, prices, or operating hours.

Which of the following, if true, provides the best reason for the expectation?

- (A) One of the taller tables takes up less floor space than one of the standard tables.
- (B) Diners seated on stools typically do not linger over dinner as long as diners seated at standard tables.
- (C) Since the restaurant will replace only some of its standard tables, it can continue to accommodate customers who do not care for the taller tables.
- (D) Few diners are likely to avoid the restaurant because of the new seating arrangement.
- (E) The standard tables being replaced by tall tables would otherwise have to be replaced with new standard tables at a greater expense.

Q36

Crowding on Mooreville's subway frequently leads to delays, because it is difficult for passengers to exit from the trains. Subway ridership is projected to increase by 20 percent over the next 10 years. The Mooreville Transit Authority plans to increase the number of daily train trips by only 5 percent over the same period. Officials predict that this increase is sufficient to ensure that the incidence of delays due to crowding does not increase.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest grounds for the officials' prediction?

(A) By changing maintenance schedules, the Transit Authority can achieve the 5 percent increase in train trips without purchasing any new subway cars.

(B) The Transit Authority also plans a 5 percent increase in the number of bus trips on routes that connect to subways.

(C) For most commuters who use the subway system, there is no practical alternative public transportation available.

(D) Most of the projected increase in ridership is expected to occur in off-peak hours when trains are now sparsely used.

(E) The 5 percent increase in the number of train trips can be achieved without an equal increase in Transit Authority operational costs.

Q 61

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 non- biodegradable 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 bonding 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.

Q 62

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, nonhierarchical 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.

Q 94

Last year a global disturbance of weather patterns disrupted harvests in many of the world's important agricultural areas. Worldwide production of soybeans, an important source of protein for people and livestock alike, was not adversely affected, however. Indeed, last year's soybean crop was actually slightly larger than average. Nevertheless, the weather phenomenon is probably responsible for a recent increase in the world price of soybeans.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest justification for the attribution of the increase in soybean prices to the weather phenomenon?

(A) Last year's harvest of anchovies, which provide an important protein source for livestock, was disrupted by the effects of the weather phenomenon.

(B) Most countries that produce soybeans for export had above-average harvests of a number of food crops other than soybeans last year.

(C) The world price of soybeans also rose several years ago, immediately after an earlier occurrence of a similar global weather disturbance.

(D) Heavy rains attributable to the weather phenomenon improved grazing pastures last year, allowing farmers in many parts of the world to reduce their dependence on supplemental feed.

(E) Prior to last year, soybean prices had been falling for several years.

Q104

Environmentalist: The commissioner of the Fish and Game Authority would have the public believe that increases in the number of marine fish caught demonstrate that this resource is no longer endangered. This is a specious argument, as unsound as it would be to assert that the ever-increasing rate at which rain forests are being cut down demonstrates a lack of danger to that resource. The real cause of the increased fish-catch is a greater efficiency in using technologies that deplete resources.

The environmentalist's statements, if true, best support which of the following as a conclusion?

- (A) The use of technology is the reason for the increasing encroachment of people on nature.
- (B) It is possible to determine how many fish are in the sea in some way other than by catching fish.
- (C) The proportion of marine fish that are caught is as high as the proportion of rain forest trees that are cut down each year.
- (D) Modern technologies waste resources by catching inedible fish.
- (E) Marine fish continue to be an endangered resource.

06 2015

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.

Q 64

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 A.D. 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.

Q 80

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 the 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.

Q 102

One way to judge the performance of a company is to compare it with other companies. This technique, commonly called “benchmarking,” permits the manager of a company to discover better industrial practices and can provide a justification for the adoption of good practices.

Any of the following, if true, is a valid reason for benchmarking the performance of a company against companies with which it is not in competition rather than against competitors EXCEPT:

(A) Comparisons with competitors are most likely to focus on practices that the manager making the comparisons already employs.

(B) Getting “inside” information about the unique practices of competitors is particularly difficult.

(C) Since companies that compete with each other are likely to have comparable levels of efficiency, only benchmarking against noncompetitors is likely to reveal practices that would aid in beating competitors.

(D) Managers are generally more receptive to new ideas that they find outside their own industry.

(E) Much of the success of good companies is due to their adoption of practices that take advantage of the special circumstances of their products or markets.

Q 109

Last year all refuse collected by Shelbyville city services was incinerated. This incineration generated a large quantity of residual ash. In order to reduce the amount of residual ash Shelbyville generates this year to half of last year's total, the city has revamped its collection program. This year city services will separate for recycling enough refuse to reduce the number of truckloads of refuse to be incinerated to half of last year's number.

Which of the following is required for the revamped collection program to achieve its aim?

(A) This year, no materials that city services could separate for recycling will be incinerated.

(B) Separating recyclable materials from materials to be incinerated will cost Shelbyville less than half what it cost last year to dispose of the residual ash.

(C) Refuse collected by city services will contain a larger proportion of recyclable materials this year than it did last year.

(D) The refuse incinerated this year will generate no more residual ash per truckload incinerated than did the refuse incinerated last year.

(E) The total quantity of refuse collected by Shelbyville city services this year will be no greater than that collected last year.

Q 118

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.

Q 120

Codex Berinensis, a Florentine copy of an ancient Roman medical treatise, is undated but contains clues to when it was produced. Its first 80 pages are by a single copyist, but the remaining 20 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 10 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.