

WEAKEN QUESTIONS

OG 2017

Q548

Editorial: The roof of Northtown's municipal equipment-storage building collapsed under the weight of last week's heavy snowfall. The building was constructed recently and met local building-safety codes in every particular, except that the nails used for attaching roof supports to the building's columns were of a smaller size than the codes specify for this purpose. Clearly, this collapse exemplifies how even a single, apparently insignificant departure from safety standards can have severe consequences.

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

(A) The only other buildings to suffer roof collapses from the weight of the snowfall were older buildings constructed according to less exacting standards than those in the codes.

(B) The amount of snow that accumulated on the roof of the equipment-storage building was greater than the predicted maximum that was used in drawing up the safety codes.

(C) Because the equipment-storage building was not intended for human occupation, some safety-code provisions that would have applied to an office building did not apply to it.

(D) The municipality of Northtown itself has the responsibility for ensuring that buildings constructed within its boundaries meet the provisions of the building-safety codes.

(E) Because the equipment-storage building was used for storing snow-removal equipment, the building was almost completely empty when the roof collapsed.

Q574

People who do regular volunteer work tend to live longer, on average, than people who do not. It has been found that “doing good,” a category that certainly includes volunteer work, releases endorphins, the brain’s natural opiates, which induce in people a feeling of well-being. Clearly, there is a connection: Regular releases of endorphins must in some way help to extend people’s lives.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the force of the evidence given as support for the hypothesis that endorphins promote longevity?

(A) People who do regular volunteer work are only somewhat more likely than others to characterize the work they do for a living as “doing good.”

(B) Although extremely high levels of endorphins could be harmful to health, such levels are never reached as a result of the natural release of endorphins.

(C) There are many people who have done some volunteer work but who do not do such work regularly.

(D) People tend not to become involved in regular volunteer work unless they are healthy and energetic to begin with.

(E) Releases of endorphins are responsible for the sense of well-being experienced by many long-distance runners while running.

Q589.

Archaeologist: Researchers excavating a burial site in Cyprus found a feline skeleton lying near a human skeleton. Both skeletons were in the same sediment at the same depth and equally well-preserved, suggesting that the feline and human were buried together about 9,500 years ago. This shows that felines were domesticated around the time farming began, when they would have been useful in protecting stores of grain from mice.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the archaeologist's argument?

(A) Archaeologists have not found any remains of stores of grain in the immediate vicinity of the burial site.

(B) The burial site in Cyprus is substantially older than any other known burial site in which a feline skeleton and a human skeleton appear to have been buried together.

(C) Paintings found near the burial site seem to show people keeping felines as domestic companions, but do not show felines hunting mice.

(D) In Cyprus, there are many burial sites dating from around 9,500 years ago in which the remains of wild animals appear to have been buried alongside human remains.

(E) Before felines were domesticated, early farmers had no effective way to protect stores of grain from mice.

Q606.

Journalist: In physics journals, the number of articles reporting the results of experiments involving particle accelerators was lower last year than it had been in previous years. Several of the particle accelerators at major research institutions were out of service the year before last for repairs, so it is likely that the low number of articles was due to the decline in availability of particle accelerators.

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

(A) Every article based on experiments with particle accelerators that was submitted for publication last year actually was published.

(B) The average time scientists must wait for access to a particle accelerator has declined over the last several years.

(C) The number of physics journals was the same last year as in previous years.

(D) Particle accelerators can be used for more than one group of experiments in any given year.

(E) Recent changes in the editorial policies of several physics journals have decreased the likelihood that articles concerning particle- accelerator research will be accepted for publication.

Q617

Fast-food restaurants make up 45 percent of all restaurants in Cantaria. Customers at these restaurants tend to be young; in fact, studies have shown that the older people get, the less likely they are to eat in fast-food restaurants. Since the average age of the Canatrian population is gradually rising and will continue to do so, the number of fast-food restaurants is likely to decrease.

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

- (A) Fast-food restaurants in Canatria are getting bigger, so each one can serve more customers.
- (B) Some older people eat at fast-food restaurants more frequently than the average young person.
- (C) Many people who rarely eat in fast-food restaurants nevertheless eat regularly in restaurants.
- (D) The overall population of Canatria is growing steadily.
- (E) As the population of Canatria gets older, more people are eating at home.

Q618

Last year a chain of fast-food restaurants, whose menu had always centered on hamburger, added its first vegetarian sandwich, much lower in fat than the chain's other offerings. Despite heavy marketing, the new sandwich accounts for a very small proportion of the chain's sales. The sandwich's sales would have to quadruple to cover the costs associated with including it on the menu. Since such an increase is unlikely, the chain would be more profitable if it dropped the sandwich.

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

- (A) Although many of the chain's customers have never tried the vegetarian sandwich, in a market research survey most of those who had tried it reported that they were very satisfied with it.
- (B) Many of the people who eat at the chain's restaurants also eat at the restaurants of competing chains and report no strong preference among the competitors.
- (C) Among fast-food chains in general, there has been little or no growth in hamburger sales over the past several years as the range of competing offerings at other restaurants has grown.
- (D) When even one member of group of diner's is a vegetarian or has a preference for low-fat food, the group tends to avoid restaurants that lack vegetarian or low-fat menu options.
- (E) An attempt by the chain to introduce a lower-fat hamburger failed several years ago, since it attracted few new customers and most of the chain's regular customers greatly preferred the taste of the regular hamburger.

Q620

Voters commonly condemn politicians for being insincere, but politicians often must disguise their true feelings when they make public statements. If they expressed their honest views—about, say, their party’s policies—then achieving politically necessary compromises would be much more difficult. Clearly, the very insincerity that people decry shows that our government is functioning well.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines this reasoning?

- (A) Achieving political compromises is not all that is necessary for the proper functioning of a government.
- (B) Some political compromises are not in the best long-term interest of the government.
- (C) Voters often judge politicians by criteria other than the sincerity with which they express their views.
- (D) A political party’s policies could turn out to be detrimental to the functioning of a government.
- (E) Some of the public statements made by politicians about their party’s policies could in fact be sincere.

Q621

To reduce waste of raw materials, the government of Sperland is considering requiring household appliances to be broken down for salvage when discarded. To cover the cost of salvage, the government is planning to charge a fee, which would be imposed when the appliance is first sold. Imposing the fee at the time of salvage would reduce waste more effectively, however, because consumers tend to keep old appliances longer if they are faced with a fee for discarding them.

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

- (A) Increasing the cost of disposing of an appliance properly increases the incentive to dispose of it improperly.
- (B) The fee provides manufacturers with no incentive to produce appliances that are more durable.
- (C) For people who have bought new appliances recently, the salvage fee would not need to be paid for a number of years.
- (D) People who sell their used, working appliances to others would not need to pay the salvage fee.
- (E) Many nonfunctioning appliances that are currently discarded could be repaired at relatively little expense.

Q623

Increased use of incineration is sometimes advocated as a safe way to dispose of chemical waste. But opponents of incineration point to the 40 incidents involving unexpected releases of dangerous chemical agents that were reported just last year at two existing incinerators commissioned to destroy a quantity of chemical waste material. Since designs for proposed new incinerators include no additional means of preventing such releases, leaks will only become more prevalent if use of incineration increases.

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

(A) At the two incinerators at which leaks were reported, staff had had only cursory training on the proper procedures for incinerating chemical waste.

(B) Other means of disposing of chemical waste, such as chemical neutralization processes, have not been proven safer than incineration.

(C) The capacity of existing incinerators is sufficient to allow for increased incineration of chemical waste without any need for new incinerators.

(D) The frequency of reports of unexpected releases of chemical agents at newly built incinerators is about the same as the frequency at older incinerators.

(E) In only three of the reported incidents of unexpected chemical leaks did the releases extend outside the property on which the incinerators were located.

Q627

The difference in average annual income in favor of employees who have college degrees, compared with those who do not have such degrees, doubled between 1980 and 1990. Some analysts have hypothesized that increased competition between employers for employees with college degrees drove up income for such employees.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the explanation described above?

- (A) During the 1980s a growing percentage of college graduates, unable to find jobs requiring a college degree, took unskilled jobs.
- (B) The average age of all employees increased slightly during the 1980s.
- (C) The unemployment rate changed very little throughout the 1980s.
- (D) From 1980 to 1990 the difference in average income between employees with advanced degrees and those with bachelor's degrees also increased.
- (E) During the 1980s there were some employees with no college degree who earned incomes comparable to the top incomes earned by employees with a college degree.

Q629.

The introduction of the new drugs into the market is frequently prevented by a shortage of human subjects for the clinical trials needed to show that the drugs are safe and effective. Since the lives and health of people in future generations may depend on treatments that are currently experimental, practicing physicians are morally in the wrong when, in the absence of any treatment proven to be effective, they fail to encourage suitable patients to volunteer for clinical trials.

Which of the following, if true, casts most doubt on the conclusion of the argument?

- (A) Many drugs undergoing clinical trials are intended for the treatment of conditions for which there is currently no effective treatment.
- (B) Patients do not share the physician's professional concern for public health, but everyone has a moral obligation to alleviate suffering when able to do so.
- (C) Usually, half the patients in a clinical trial serve as a control group and receive a nonactive drug in place of the drug being tested.
- (D) An experimental drug cannot legally be made available to patients unless those patients are subjects in clinical trials of the drug.
- (E) Physicians have an overriding moral and legal duty to care for the health and safety of their current patients.

Q640

Most of the year, the hermit thrush, a North American songbird, eats a diet consisting mainly of insects, but in autumn, as the thrushes migrate to their Central and South American wintering grounds, they feed almost exclusively on wild berries. Wild berries, however, are not as rich in calories as insects, yet thrushes need to consume plenty of calories in order to complete their migration. One possible explanation is that berries contain other nutrients that thrushes need for migration and that insects lack.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously calls into question the explanation given for the thrush's diet during migration?

- (A) Hermit thrushes, if undernourished, are unable to complete their autumn migration before the onset of winter.
- (B) Insect species contain certain nutrients that are not found in wild berries.
- (C) For songbirds, catching insects requires the expenditure of significantly more calories than eating wild berries does.
- (D) Along the hermit thrushes' migration routes, insects are abundant throughout the migration season.
- (E) There are some species of wild berries that hermit thrushes generally do not eat, even though these berry species are exceptionally rich in calories

Q643

Businesses are suffering because of a lack of money available for development loans. To help businesses, the government plans to modify the income-tax structure in order to induce individual taxpayers to put a larger portion of their incomes into retirement savings accounts, because as more money is deposited in such accounts, more money becomes available to borrowers.

Which of the following, if true, raises the most serious doubt regarding the effectiveness of the government's plan to increase the amount of money available for development loans for businesses?

- (A) When levels of personal retirement savings increase, consumer borrowing always increases correspondingly.
- (B) The increased tax revenue the government would receive as a result of business expansion would not offset the loss in revenue from personal income taxes during the first year of the plan.
- (C) Even with tax incentives, some people will choose not to increase their levels of retirement savings.
- (D) Bankers generally will not continue to lend money to businesses whose prospective earnings are insufficient to meet their loan repayment schedules.
- (E) The modified tax structure would give all taxpayers, regardless of their incomes, the same tax savings for a given increase in their retirement savings.

Q644

A new law gives ownership of patents—documents providing exclusive right to make and sell an invention—to universities, not the government, when those patents result from government-sponsored university research. Administrators at Logos University plan to sell any patents they acquire to corporations in order to fund programs to improve undergraduate teaching.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the viability of the college administrators' plan described above?

- (A) Profit-making corporations interested in developing products based on patents held by universities are likely to try to serve as exclusive sponsors of ongoing university research projects.
- (B) Corporate sponsors of research in university facilities are entitled to tax credits under new federal tax-code guidelines.
- (C) Research scientists at Logos University have few or no teaching responsibilities and participate little if at all in the undergraduate programs in their field.
- (D) Government-sponsored research conducted at Logos University for the most part duplicates research already completed by several profit-making corporations.
- (E) Logos University is unlikely to attract corporate sponsorship of its scientific research.

Q654

Although the discount stores in Goreville's central shopping district are expected to close within five years as a result of competition from a SpendLess discount department store that just opened, those locations will not stay vacant for long. In the five years since the opening of Colson's, a nondiscount department store, a new store has opened at the location of every store in the shopping district that closed because it could not compete with Colson's.

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

- (A) Many customers of Colson's are expected to do less shopping there than they did before the SpendLess store opened.
- (B) Increasingly, the stores that have opened in the central shopping district since Colson's opened have been discount stores.
- (C) At present, the central shopping district has as many stores operating in it as it ever had.
- (D) Over the course of the next five years, it is expected that Goreville's population will grow at a faster rate than it has for the past several decades.
- (E) Many stores in the central shopping district sell types of merchandise that are not available at either SpendLess or Colson's.

Q658

Guidebook writer: I have visited hotels throughout the country and have noticed that in those built before 1930 the quality of the original carpentry work is generally superior to that in hotels built afterward. Clearly carpenters working on hotels before 1930 typically worked with more skill, care, and effort than carpenters who have worked on hotels built subsequently.

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

- (A) The quality of original carpentry in hotels is generally far superior to the quality of original carpentry in other structures, such as houses and stores.
- (B) Hotels built since 1930 can generally accommodate more guests than those built before 1930.
- (C) The materials available to carpenters working before 1930 were not significantly different in quality from the materials available to carpenters working after 1930.
- (D) The better the quality of original carpentry in a building, the less likely that building is to fall into disuse and be demolished.
- (E) The average length of apprenticeship for carpenters has declined significantly since 1930.

Q663

In Colorado subalpine meadows, nonnative dandelions co-occur with a native flower, the larkspur. Bumblebees visit both species, creating the potential for interactions between the two species with respect to pollination. In a recent study, researchers selected 16 plots containing both species; all dandelions were removed from eight plots; the remaining eight control plots were left undisturbed. The control plots yielded significantly more larkspur seeds than the dandelion-free plots, leading the researchers to conclude that the presence of dandelions facilitates pollination (and hence seed production) in the native species by attracting more pollinators to the mixed plots.

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

- (A) Bumblebees preferentially visit dandelions over larkspurs in mixed plots.
- (B) In mixed plots, pollinators can transfer pollen from one species to another to augment seed production.
- (C) If left unchecked, nonnative species like dandelions quickly crowd out native species.
- (D) Seed germination is a more reliable measure of a species' fitness than seed production.
- (E) Soil disturbances can result in fewer blooms, and hence lower seed production.

Q666

With seventeen casinos, Moneyland operates the most casinos in a certain state. Although intent on expanding, it was outmaneuvered by Apex Casinos in negotiations to acquire the Eldorado chain. To complete its acquisition of Eldorado, Apex must sell five casinos to comply with a state law forbidding any owner to operate more than one casino per county. Since Apex will be still be left operating twenty casinos in the state, it will then have most casinos in the state.

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

- (A) Apex, Eldorado, and Moneyland are the only organizations to operate casinos in the state.
- (B) The majority of Eldorado's casinos in the state will need extensive renovations if they are to continue to operate profitably.
- (C) Some of the state counties do not permit casinos.
- (D) Moneyland already operates casinos in the majority of the state's counties.
- (E) Apex will use funds it obtains from the sale of the five casinos to help fund its acquisition of the Eldorado chain.

Q667

It is widely assumed that people need to engage in intellectual activities such as solving crossword puzzles or mathematics problems in order to maintain mental sharpness as they age. In fact, however, simply talking to other people—that is, participating in social interaction, which engages many mental and perceptual skills—suffices. Evidence to this effect comes from a study showing that the more social contact people report, the better their mental skills.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the force of the evidence cited?

- (A) As people grow older, they are often advised to keep exercising their physical and mental capacities in order to maintain or improve them.
- (B) Many medical conditions and treatments that adversely affect a person's mental sharpness also tend to increase that person's social isolation.
- (C) Many people are proficient both in social interactions and in solving mathematical problems.
- (D) The study did not itself collect data but analyzed data bearing on the issue from prior studies.
- (E) The tasks evaluating mental sharpness for which data were compiled by the study were more akin to mathematics problems than to conversation.

OG 2016

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.

Q 50

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, non-forager 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.

OG 2015

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.

Q32

Last year the rate of inflation was 1.2 percent, but for the current year it has been 4 percent. We can conclude that inflation is on an upward trend and the rate will be still higher next year.

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

- (A) The inflation figures were computed on the basis of a representative sample of economic data rather than all of the available data.
- (B) Last year a dip in oil prices brought inflation temporarily below its recent stable annual level of 4 percent.
- (C) Increases in the pay of some workers are tied to the level of inflation, and at an inflation rate of 4 percent or above, these pay raises constitute a force causing further inflation.
- (D) The 1.2 percent rate of inflation last year represented a 10-year low.
- (E) Government intervention cannot affect

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.

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?

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 that it takes them to learn to use the standard keyboard.

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.

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.

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.

Q112

The difficulty with the proposed high-speed trainline 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.

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.

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.

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 use 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.