

Question Type Attack Strategy:

Anders: The physical structure of the brain plays an important role in thinking. So researchers developing “thinking machines”—computers that can make decisions based on both common sense and factual knowledge—should closely model those machines on the structure of the brain.

Yang: Important does not mean essential. After all, no flying machine closely modeled on birds has worked; workable aircraft are structurally very different from birds. So thinking machines closely modeled on the brain are also likely to fail. In developing a workable thinking machine, researchers would therefore increase their chances of success if they focus on the brain’s function and simply ignore its physical structure.

In evaluating Yang’s argument it would be most helpful to know whether

- A. studies of the physical structure of birds provided information crucial to the development of workable aircraft
- B. researchers currently working on thinking machines take all thinking to involve both common sense and factual knowledge
- C. as much time has been spent trying to develop a workable thinking machine as had been spent in developing the first workable aircraft
- D. researchers who specialize in the structure of the brain are among those who are trying to develop thinking machines
- E. some flying machines that were not closely modeled on birds failed to work

Conclusion of Yang: Ignore the brain physical structure and focus on function.

Premise: No flying machine closely modeled on birds has worked; workable aircraft are structurally very different from birds.

A - weakens the argument

“Studies of the physical structure of birds provided information crucial to the development of workable aircraft”

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

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

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

Critics:

Premise: People in this city tend to dislike most abstract art, and any art in the town square should reflect their tastes.

Conclusion/Inference: **People will not like the new sculpture**

Spokesperson:

Premise: People in other cities admire the work of new sculpture

Conclusion: **People in this city will like the new sculpture**

Main difference: People will not like the new sculpture - OA - B

So basically approach to all these conversation based question - dissect and identify conclusion and premise for both

City Controller: 63% of our residents voted to approve the developer's request to build a national chain hotel on the site of the old consignment store. The hotel will increase our revenue base and, therefore, provide more money for schools and community services.

Mayor: But our recent survey showed that the most important reason people want to live here is our small-town feel resulting from the local ownership of the vast majority of businesses.

What is the best explanation for the apparent contradiction in opinions cited by the controller and the mayor?

- (A) Most people believe having a small-town feel is more important than having quality schools.
- (B) A locally-owned business might be able to generate as much revenue as a well-known hotel chain.
- (C) The recent survey did not ask about preferences for a chain hotel versus a locally-owned bed and breakfast.
- (D) An increase in the town's revenue base may not result in additional money for the schools.
- (E) The recent survey cited by the mayor polled people who are considering moving to the town.

City Controller - Conclusion - People okay with developers. Premise - Voting data

Mayor - Conclusion - People aren't okay. Premise - Based on recent survey

Both uses users data but contradiction. What will resolve - both data refers to different people segment's opinion

OE - E

Jay: Of course there are many good reasons to support the expansion of preventive medical care, but arguments claiming that it will lead to greater societal economic gains are misguided. Some of the greatest societal expenses arise from frequent urgent-care needs for people who have attained a long life due to preventive care.

Sunil: Your argument fails because you neglect economic gains outside the health care system: society suffers an economic loss when any of its productive members suffer from preventable illness.

Sunil's response to Jay makes which of the following assumptions?

- A. Those who receive preventive care are not more likely to need urgent care than are those who do not receive preventive care
- B. Jay intends the phrase "economic gains" to refer only to gains accruing to institutions within the health care system.
- C. Productive members of society are more likely than others to suffer preventable illnesses.
- D. The economic contributions of those who receive preventive medical care may outweigh the economic losses caused by preventive care.
- E. Jay is incorrect in stating that patients who receive preventive medical care are long-lived.

Jay - Conclusion - No societal economic gains from preventive health care. Premise - Cost of preventive care for people who attain long life is huge

Sunil - Conclusion - There will economic gains outside healthcare system. Premise: More productive members to contribute.

Assumptions: These productive member's contribution will outweigh the economic losses caused by preventive healthcare.

Correlation assumed causation:

According to a recent study, employees who bring their own lunches to work take fewer sick days and are, on average, more productive per hour spent at work than those who eat at the workplace cafeteria. In order to minimize the number of sick days taken by its staff, Boltech Industries plans to eliminate its cafeteria.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most reason to believe that Boltech Industries' strategy will not accomplish its objective?

- A. Boltech's cafeteria is known for serving a diverse array of healthy lunch options.
- B. Because of Boltech's location, employees who choose to visit a nearby restaurant for lunch will seldom be able to return within an hour.
- C. Employees have expressed concern about the cost of dining at nearby restaurants compared with the affordability of the Boltech cafeteria.
- D. Employees who bring their lunch from home tend to lead generally healthier lifestyles than do employees who purchase lunch.

E. Many Boltech employees chose to work for the company in large part because of its generous benefits, such as an on-site cafeteria and fitness center.

Conclusion: Close the cafeteria

Premise: Employees who bring lunch from home take less sick leave and are more healthy

But what if only healthy employees bring lunch. Reverse relation. Always a trap.

If “Any” - broad conclusion, then “some” can weaken or strengthen

Any realtor currently looking for a location in which to start an agency would be wise to avoid locations where the economy is dependent on oil prices. When prices fall, some people connected to the oil industry will leave to invest in other markets. Office vacancies will increase and shops that served members of the oil industry may have to close their doors before their leases have expired. Currently, the oil industry is quite volatile.

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

- A. Oil prices are currently less volatile than other factors that affect realtors.
- B. Most cities whose economy is dependent on oil currently have a thriving real estate market.
- C. Falling oil prices usually have some adverse affect on realtors in locations that don't have commercial space that is directly connected to the oil industry.
- D. Realtors located in towns whose economy is oil-dependent are often among the first to recognize that the local economy has been adversely affected.
- E. Some realtors benefit from being located in an area that has sudden drops in real estate value.

Conclusion: Any realtor should avoid economy dependent on oil prices

The word “any” is critical here. It opens the door for answer starting with even “some” to be answer.

Hence E - Most direct is right answer.

A - While less volatile, but still volatile, so better avoid

D - Well even if they recognise, they can't do much. Lot of assumption required to make it correct answer.

OA - E is direct.

Delayering, in business, is the process of removing those levels of management that are seen to be unnecessary. Because delayering can improve the speed at which decisions are made, and because a business must be run as efficiently as possible in order to make profit, it would be wise for **any organization to implement delayering.**

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

- A. Once a layer of management is removed, the remaining tasks are usually assigned to other managers, increasing their workload.
- B. Delayering can help to improve client relations since there are fewer middlemen between the client-and top levels of management.
- c. On Its own, delayering does not usually result in an increase in profits; it must be accompanied by tactics designed to increase employee Involvement.
- D. In some Industries, delayering is more likely to result in decreased employee motivation, causing permanent delays in the production schedule.
- E. After delayering is implemented, additional personnel must be hired for the short-term to review and monitor performance.

OA - D

When any is present "some" assume significance

Alternate Reason - Involves Extreme Answer to remove the possibility

Studio executives carefully examine how a film performs on its opening weekend in order to determine whether - and how - to invest more in that film. Many decisions, such as increasing the number of screens that show the film and expanding the marketing campaign, are best made after reaction can be gathered from audience who actually purchased tickets. Therefore, to maximize returns on their marketing investments, studios should initially release all their films on a small number of screens and with a limited advertising campaign. The plan to maximize returns by initially releasing films on only a small number of screens and limiting advertising depends on which of the following assumptions? A. Large marketing investments made before the opening weekend never eventually yield greater profits than small initial marketing investments. B. New advertising technique such as web-based viral marketing, haven't substantially reduced the average marketing cost for films. C. A film's prior performance in noncommercial settings, such as festivals, is not well correlated with how the general public tends to react to than film. D. Across the movie industry, marketing investments do not influence the eventual financial returns of films in predictable way. E. How a film performs during its opening weekend is a strong indicator of the film's financial performance over its lifetime.

I received a PM asking me to weigh in on this one.

This is a tough one (700+). Careful about the order in which you analyze what's going on.

Execs use 1st wknd to figure out how to invest more. Decisions best made after 1st wknd (eg, # of screens, mrktng).

THUS: to max. profits, studios should release ALL films on small # screens w/ limited ads.

What assumpt used to justify conclusion? (This is key - you are trying to justify this specific conclusion - nothing else.)

In simpler terms: this author claims that a particular plan will maximize profits. What **MUST** he assume when making this claim?

I'll address A, D, and E, as those answers seem to be the debated ones above.

A) If I think that max. profits = small # of screens and limited ads, then I also think that any other way of doing this is **NOT** the way to maximize profits. So, I would believe that a large # of screens won't ever maximize profits, and I would also believe that having lots of advertising won't ever maximize profits. (Kind of bad assumptions, huh?) And that's basically what this choice says - spending a lot upfront is never going to be better than the way I claim is the best way to maximize profits: with limited spending upfront.

D) This may be true. But does it answer the question? The specific question is what the author assumes **MUST** be true in drawing the conclusion that his plan is the best way to maximize profits. If the author assumes that you can't predict anything via marketing investments, then how can he conclude that a certain way of making those investments will lead to maximum profits? Rather, he'd have to conclude that there is no "best" plan for maximizing profits via marketing investments.

E) This may also be true. The particular issue at hand is what this author believes **MUST** be true in order to validate his plan to maximize profits. We have to think from the point of view of the author's plan. Could it be the case that the author's plan results in a strong opening weekend and strong results for weeks after? Sure. Could it be the case that the author's plan results in a strong opening weekend, but weaker results over the length of the film? Sure. What about a weaker opening weekend with stronger results over the length of the film? Any of these could work - the author's plan doesn't say **WHEN** the most profits will come. Just that this plan will result in the maximum profits over the entire length of the film.

And note, by the way, that the author thinks his plan is the way things always should be done to maximize profits, no matter what. Even if E is true, that doesn't lead us to the conclusion that we must use the author's plan for any movie. Go look at A again. A does support that extreme thinking, because A says that if you make a larger marketing investment, you'll never make more than if you start small, as the author's plan advocates.

Notice something interesting by the way. Both D and E sound like they could reasonably be true in the real world. Answer A doesn't sound like it could reasonably be true. Yet A is the right answer. That's because this author doesn't make a very good argument; his argument is seriously flawed. But because he draws an extreme conclusion, some of his assumptions (including the correct answer here) demonstrate similarly extreme (and flawed) thinking.

Remember a trap with question between distribution between A and B. There might be C for largest and smallest spot.

Weaken Type

The increase in taxes on cigarettes next month will not limit the use of addictive tobacco products to the extent that health advocates hope. Many cigarette smokers will shift their spending to cigars and chewing tobacco when the law takes effect.

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

- A. Cigars and chewing tobacco can satisfy the nicotine cravings of most cigarette smokers.
- B. The taste, smell, and texture of cigars and chewing tobacco are sufficiently different from those of cigarettes to deter cigarette smokers from using them.
- C. Many health advocates themselves use tobacco products.
- D. The government might also impose significant taxes on cigars and chewing tobacco over the course of two years.
- E. Cigars and chewing tobacco are often more expensive than cigarettes.

Conclusion - Increase in price of cigarette → Shift to Tobacco and Cigars
Assumption - Increase in price is only driving factor behind consumptions
Show there are other alternate cause possible

B - Taste, smell and texture are also drivers.
Cigars and chewing tobacco are often more expensive than cigarettes.

Lots of assumptions required here. Is it more expensive even after the tax increase? B in comparison is more direct.

Learning - Alternate cause and reverse causation generally a greater weaker than trying to provide weaker on the line of argument of question. (Need to verify this with official examples)

The recent upheaval in the office-equipment retail business, in which many small firms have gone out of business, has been attributed to the advent of office equipment "superstores" whose high sales volume keeps their prices low. This analysis is flawed, however, since even today the superstores control a very small share of the retail market.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument that the analysis is flawed?

- (A) Most of the larger customers for office equipment purchase under contract directly from manufacturers and thus do not participate in the retail market.
- (B) The superstores' heavy advertising of their low prices has forced prices down throughout the retail market for office supplies.
- (C) Some of the superstores that only recently opened have themselves gone out of business.
- (D) Most of the office equipment superstores are owned by large retailing chains that also own stores selling other types of goods.

(E) The growing importance of computers in most offices has changed the kind of office equipment retailers must stock.

Stay close to the conclusion.

Premise: Super store have low market share

Conclusion: Small firm can't be struggling because of super store

Assumptions: A company with low market share can't affect the market

A- Okay, they might have larger market size. But argument is about "low market size" can't affect market.

B- Clear answer. Heavy advertising of their low prices is affecting everyone.

A study conducted by A police showed that the majority of accidents that resulted

Major airlines will purchase many of the new aircrafts capable of carrying more than 500 passengers on transcontinental and transoceanic flights. These airlines currently rely on "hub and spoke" systems of routing, in which large planes, which can seat 400 people and are capable of transoceanic flight, fly into hubs that have runways sufficiently long to handle them. From there, passengers are dispatched to local airports on connecting flights on small planes. With takeoff and landing time slots almost completely booked at most hubs, and little new runway construction expected, airlines will want to expand the volume of passengers they can fly in a given time slot.

The argument above would be most weakened if which of the following were true?

- A. The new 500 seat aircraft cost more per seat than existing aircraft
- B. Air traffic control systems at most hub airports cannot handle any more flights per hour than they currently do
- C. The new 500 seat aircraft require boarding times substantially longer than those of existing aircraft
- D. Small passenger aircraft, capable of efficient transcontinental and transoceanic flight and able to land on short runways, have come into service
- E. Transoceanic air flights are currently running at near maximum capacity

OA-D (Here as well, alternate cause is superior weaker than weakener for the current claim)

Critic: Emily Dickinson's poetry demonstrates that meaning cannot reside entirely within a poem itself, but is always the unique result of an interaction between a reader's system of beliefs and the poem; and, of course, any two readers from different cultures or eras have radically different systems of beliefs.

If the critic's statements are true, each of the following **could be true EXCEPT:**

- A. A reader's interpretation of a poem by Dickinson is affected by someone else's interpretation of it.
- B. A modern reader and a nineteenth-century reader interpret one of Shakespeare's sonnets in the same way.
- C. A reader's interpretation of a poem evolves over time.
- D. Two readers from the same era arrive at different interpretations of the same poem.
- E. A reader's enjoyment of a poem is enhanced by knowing the poet's interpretation of it.

Approach to this question

Do note the huge difference between could be true and must be true questions.

Only thing you can infer in could be true questions is **“what can't be true based on argument”**

Not the correct answer to this question will be one you can disapprove based on stimulus. Because rest could be true (may or may not be true, but we cannot verify)

In a nutshell: The critic says that the meaning of poem results from the interaction of the poem and the reader.

A. A reader's interpretation of a poem by Dickinson is affected by someone else's interpretation of it.

This one does not clearly support the critic's statement nor does it clearly disprove it. A reader's interpretation of the poem may be affected or may not be affected.

B. A modern reader and a nineteenth-century reader interpret one of Shakespeare's sonnets in the same way.

Because the reader influences a poem, presumably no two readers will interpret the poem in the same way. By no means would readers as different as a modern reader and a 19th, Century reader interpret the poem the same way. The two people are vastly different. Hence the interpretations of the poem will be very different. ANSWER.

C. A reader's interpretation of a poem evolves over time.

We change over time, and thus our interpretation of a poem changes over time.

D. Two readers from the same era arrive at different interpretations of the same poem.

This flows from the no two readers are the same observation.

E. A reader's enjoyment of a poem is enhanced by knowing the poet's interpretation of it.

Maybe, maybe not. However, nothing the critic said is incompatible with this statement.

Example of Conclusion in the initial part of argument

There is no mystery as to why figurative painting revived in the late 1970s. People want to look at recognizable images. Sorting out art theories reflected in abstract paintings is no substitute for the sense of empathy that comes from looking at a realistic painting of a figure in a landscape. **Perhaps** members of the art felt that its lack of realistic subject matter was a rejection of the viewers and their world. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?

- (A) Abstract paintings often include or forms that are suggestive of real objects or emotions.
- (B) The art-viewing public wished to see traditional subjects treated in a nontraditional manner.
- (C) Paintings that depict a recognizable physical world rather than the emotional world of the artist's life require more artistic talent to create.
- (D) The general public is unable to understand the theories on which abstract painting is based.
- (E) The artistic preferences of the art-viewing public stimulated the revival.

Note- Conclusion anyways has less chances of starting with word "perhaps".

"The stimulus begins by claiming that the reason for the revival in the 1970's is no mystery, and you should expect the stimulus to supply that reason. Since the stimulus immediately states "People want to look at recognizable images," you should realize that this answer to the claim's implied question is the conclusion. The remainder of the argument philosophizes about why people might like to look at recognizable images, but makes no clear conclusion. "

E-trap - where reverse of relevant option presented

A greater number of newspapers are sold in Town S than in Town T. Therefore, the citizens of Town S are better informed about major world events than are the citizens of Town T.
Each of the following, if true, weakens the conclusion above EXCEPT:

- (A) Town S has a larger population than Town T.
- (B) Most citizens of Town T work in Town S and buy their newspapers there.
- (C) The average citizen of Town S spends less time reading newspapers than does the average citizen of Town T.
- (D) A weekly newspaper restricted to the coverage of local events is published in Town S.
- (E) The average newsstand price of newspapers sold in Town S is lower than the average price of newspapers sold in Town T.

Here D is already a weak “weaker”. S when you see E, you just read half and tick.

E is reverse of relevant answer. This answer choice currently strengthen. Always know and remember - what are you looking. Don't get confuse between strengthener and weaker, just because the words are similar to the relevant answer.

Strengthening and Weakening premise - a trap

Numerous Ancient Mayan cities have been discovered in the Yucatan peninsula in recent decades. The ruins lack any evidence of destruction by invading forces, internal revolts, or disease and appear simply to have been abandoned. Some archaeologists have theorized that the cities were abandoned due to a severe drought known to have occurred in the region between 800 and 1000 AD

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

A. Ample archaeological evidence of Mayan Peasant revolts and city-state warfare exists, but such events could never result in the permanent abandonment of cities.

B. No monumental inscriptions created after 900 AD have been found in these cities, but inscriptions dating before that time have been found in abundance.

C. studies of Yucatan Lake sediment cores provide conclusive evidence that a prolonged drought occurred in the region from 800 to 1000 AD

D. climatic studies have documented cycles of intermittent drought in the Yucatan peninsula dating from the present to at least 7000 years ago.

E. The Mayan City, Uxmal, was continuously inhabited from 500-1500 AD

Conclusion - Draught ---> Abandonment

Premise - Draught known to have occurred in 800-100 AD

B - confirms that abandonment too occurred

C - Provides addition proof for already known premise - strengthening and weakening premise never helps.

Scope Shift Examples

- Graduates of medical schools are interested in practical work as practicing physicians. However, research laboratories mainly deal with theoretical work, and therefore, they are reluctant to hire personnel who are not interested in research. Consequently, research laboratories rarely hire graduates of medical schools. The conclusion drawn above depends on which of the following assumptions?

- Graduates of medical schools are interested in working for research laboratories.
- The only people not interested in research work are those who are interested in practical work.
- Most employees of research laboratories are not graduates of medical schools.
- Research laboratories would hire graduates of medical schools if such graduates were interested in research work.
- Few medical school graduates who are interested in practical work are also interested in research.

Premise - Graduate student → Practical works

No Interest in Research → No hire at research lab

Conclusion: No Graduate student → Research hire

Scope shift - Love for practical work to “no interest in research” → Student don’t like both fields.

OA -E

For years, scientists have proposed the idea that Mars was once covered by two huge oceans. However, ridges of rock in the northern hemisphere that seem to resemble a shoreline are too hilly to be the edges of an ocean. If it could be shown that something caused an imbalanced portion of the planet’s mass to shift from these ridges of rock toward the equator, where the mass now lies, it is possible that the ridges were once actually smooth.

Which of the following can be inferred from the statements above?

- If it is determined that the ridges of rock in the northern hemisphere of Mars were never smoother than they now are, oceans did not exist on the planet.
- The discovery that some of Mars’ equatorial mass was once part of northern-hemisphere rock ridges would support the idea that the planet was once covered by oceans.
- If the rock ridges in the northern hemisphere of Mars were smooth at one time, some the planet’s mass was once closer to the equator
- In order for a planet to have oceans, a portion of the planet’s mass must have been shifted towards the equator.
- There is general agreement in the scientific community that Mars does not have the right atmospheric conditions to support an ocean.

OA - B

Note the scope ship from talking about Ocean in Northern Hemisphere to answers talking about hemisphere on planet.

Following a review of the findings of a recent study by the Ministry of Education, the ministry's conclusion is that children who do not have television sets in their bedrooms are more likely to have greater success in college programs later on than children who do. The study determined that children who have television sets in their bedrooms

achieve, on average, school grades much lower than those without television sets in their bedrooms. In response to the report, some parents claimed that it was not the fact that their children had television sets in their rooms that affected their grades, but that the programs that were shown contained little or no educational value.

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

- Parents often feel the need to defend the choices they make in regards to the raising of their children.
- When children have television sets in their bedrooms, parents find it difficult to supervise the amount of viewing children may partake in.
- The success of a student in a college program depends on that student's determination.
- The skills needed to achieve good grades at school and at college are the same, and the effects of having a television in the bedroom are prolonged
- The Ministry of Education is interested in educating parents about the effects of providing children with television sets in their bedrooms.

Tricks of this question - 1) Conclusion is in first line 2) Scope Shift - School grades → probability of success in college

OA - D

A recent national study of the trash discarded in several representative areas confirmed that plastics constitute a smaller proportion of all trash than paper products do, whether the trash is measured by weight or volume. The damage that a given weight or volume of trash does to the environment is roughly the same whether the trash consists of plastics or paper products. Contrary to popular opinion, therefore, the current use of plastics actually does less harm to the environment nationwide than that of paper products.

The main conclusion of the argument is

- A) plastics constitute a smaller proportion of the nation's total trash than do paper products
- B) the ratio of weight to volume is the same for plastic trash as it is for paper trash
- C) popular opinion regards the use of paper products as less harmful to the environment than the use of products made from plastic
- D) contrary to popular opinion, a shift away from the use of paper products to the use of plastics would benefit the environment nationwide.
- E) at this time more harm is being done to the environment nationwide by the use of paper than by the use of plastics

The evidence was all about plastic vs. paper TRASH. The conclusion is about the current USE of plastic vs. paper.

That's the big leap. Just because the trash impact of plastic is smaller, that doesn't mean we

can conclude that the environmental impact of the USE of plastic is smaller.

The USE of plastic is a much wider topic: it involves how its produced (both the impact of the raw materials and the industrial manufacturing process) ... it involves how consumers behave with plastic it involves the likelihood that plastic actually gets discarded as trash.

Most and Often

- "Often" and "most" are not synonymous. If I told you that mystery stories do this 50% of the time, that would be "often," but it would be just very slightly under "most."
- "Some" and "Often" are not synonyms. If something happens "often," it MUST happen "some" of the time. If something happens "some" of the time, it does not necessarily happen "often." This is the same relationship as a square to a rectangle, where "some" of the time is the rectangle and "often" is the square.

"All we know that mystery stories "often" feature a brilliant detective - but that doesn't have to be more than 50% of the time, as the word "most" would imply. "

Mystery stories often feature a brilliant detective and the detective's dull companion. Clues are presented in the story, and the companion wrongly infers an inaccurate solution to the mystery using the same clues that the detective uses to deduce the correct solution. Thus, the author's strategy of including the dull companion gives readers a chance to solve the mystery while also diverting them from the correct solution.

Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?

- Most mystery stories feature a brilliant detective who solves the mystery presented in the story.
- Mystery readers often solve the mystery in a story simply by spotting the mistakes in the reasoning of the detective's dull companion in that story.
- Some mystery stories give readers enough clues to infer the correct solution to the mystery.
- The actions of the brilliant detective in a mystery story rarely divert readers from the actions of the detective's dull companion.
- The detective's dull companion in a mystery story generally uncovers the misleading clues that divert readers from the mystery's correct solution

Don't Assume from Your Side

For years, doctors have been trying to find a cause for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). The devastating illness tends to strike healthy and fairly active individuals with no other history of medical problems or conditions. Recently, doctors in California have found that over 70% of those individuals diagnosed with CFS are infected with a rare enterovirus that is almost never found in the healthy population. As a result, they believe that this enterovirus is the primary cause of many cases of CFS.

Which if the following is an assumption upon which the doctors' theory depends?

- A) There are not other viruses that may cause Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.
- B) The rare enterovirus was present at the onset of these patients' Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

C) The laboratory technicians analyzing the presence of the enterovirus in the patients' blood and tissues did not make some mistakes in their analysis.

D) The severity of the symptoms among the patients diagnosed with CFS does not vary widely.

E) The rare enterovirus is commonly seen in patients that are severely ill.

Premise - CFS and Enterovirus found together.

Conclusion - Ent → CFS

OA - B

C- Not an assumption because we don't know whether mistake was big or small. Whether he underestimated or overestimated. It's hard to make judgement. While negating B definitely destroys the argument.

Personal bias based: Some scientists, who today are recognized for their brilliance, were once vilified for their work and considered insane during their lifetimes. It therefore follows that what is considered insane or not insane has changed over time.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- Works of science that are that are considered insane change the way in which the general public defines 'insanity.'
- The number of things that are considered insane has decreased with the passage of time.
- Public opinion does not determine the validity of scientific research.
- Not all scientists who were once considered insane are still considered insane today.
- Some scientists who are considered insane today were also considered insane in the past

It is an assumption question. It means you are looking for a gap between premises and conclusion. The premises are not enough to take you to the conclusion. You NEED the answer option to reach the conclusion. So the first thing we need to do is chalk out our premises and conclusion.

Premises:

Some scientists are recognized for their brilliance today.

They were once vilified for their work and considered insane during their lifetimes.

Conclusion:

What is considered insane or not insane has changed over time.

Now here is the catch. the premises say that some scientists were considered insane during their lifetime. They are being recognised as brilliant now. The premises do not say that they are not considered insane now - only that they are considered brilliant now. Note that we cannot assume that brilliance and insanity are mutually exclusive traits. Brilliant people can be considered insane too aka "mad scientists".

To say that what is considered insane has changed over time, we are assuming that some of those scientists who were thought to be insane are not considered insane anymore.

Option (D) tells you this: Not all scientists who were once considered insane are still considered insane today.

So this is the correct answer.

To counter the escalating violence of inner cities, I propose that we pass new legislation banning the sell of handguns to anyone with criminal record. Such a law would require gun retailers to perform background checks on potential customers thereby lengthening the time needed to purchase a firearm while also keeping guns out of the hands of known ex-criminals. This proposal will result in fewer violent crimes and produce safer inner-city communities.

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

- (A) the goal of gun control legislation is to reduce the number of easily accessible firearms
- (B) ex-criminals who commit violent crimes generally do so with a firearm
- (C) a rise in violent crime and violence can be the result of the availability of firearms to ex-criminals
- (D) most ex-criminals who purchase guns do so illegally
- (E) any legislation restricting gun sells to ex-criminals would result in a reduction of the number of firearms available in most inner cities

OA - C

B - ex-criminals who commit violent crimes generally do so with a firearm >> They already have arms then. So law might not reduce the violent crimes then.

C - Establishes the elastic relationship - More guns → more crime. So restriction on guns might helps.

Boldface question strategy

While reading it's not just important to identify different conclusion and premise, but also determine the subtle relationship. Always categorise the two part of argument (two conclusions) in:

- Supporting each other
- Adding extra information and while considering the other conclusion to be valid
- Against each other

Recently, some economists have concluded that the major impediment to job growth in the U.S. is the enormous national debt. While many politicians would like to stimulate job growth by increasing government spending, these economists believe it will have the opposite effect and thus want to cut spending immediately. Historically, when total debt levels exceed 90% of domestic GDP, economic growth falls significantly causing job losses and overall economic malaise. The current U.S. debt is

over 96% of GDP, so it is hard to argue the importance of decreasing this percentage and **the economists are correct on this point**. However, what these economists fail to understand is that cutting spending at this critical juncture would put too much pressure on a fragile economy. In the short term, spending should be left at current levels and revenue should be increased by increasing taxes on wealthy individuals and some corporations. As the economy strengthens, then spending can be decreased with the goal of reducing the debt percentage of GDP to a figure below 90%.

- A. The first boldfaced portion is an opinion that the author of this argument believes is incorrect; the second boldfaced portion is support for that opinion.
- B. The first boldfaced portion is an opinion that the author of this argument believes is incorrect; the second boldfaced portion is support for the author's conclusion.
- C. The first boldfaced portion is an opinion that the author believes is correct; the second boldfaced portion is support for that opinion.
- D. The first boldfaced portion is an opinion upon which the author's conclusion is based; the second boldfaced portion is evidence that contradicts that conclusion.
- E. The first boldfaced portion is the author's conclusion; the second boldfaced portion is support for that conclusion.

Here, Economist Conclusion (major impediment to job growth in the U.S. is the enormous national debt) and Main conclusion (At present this shouldn't done) are not antagonistic to each other. In fact author conceded that economists are correct on this point.

OA - C

Changing Evaluation Criteria in Experimental Setup Question Rarely helps

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.

D- It's generally a trap answer

Premise - Control Plot had more seeding than plot with just larkspur

Conclusion: Dandelion facilitates pollination in control plot

OA - E - Only Larkspur is not representative sample due to soil disturbance

D- pollination is not reliable criteria. While it may not be a reliable parameter, but argument deals with this criteria only. So D isn't relevant to conclusion.

Inference with conclusion

For a local government to outlaw all strikes by its workers is a costly mistake, because all its labor disputes must then be settled by binding arbitration, without any negotiated public-sector labor settlements guiding the arbitrators. Strikes should be outlawed only for categories of public-sector workers for whose services no acceptable substitute exists. The statements above best support which of the following conclusions?

- Where public-service workers are permitted to strike, contract negotiations with those workers are typically settled without a strike.
- Where strikes by all categories of public-sector workers are outlawed, no acceptable substitutes for the services provided by any of those workers are available.
- Binding arbitration tends to be more advantageous for public-service workers where it is the only available means of settling labor disputes with such workers.
- Most categories of public-sector workers have no counterparts in the private sector.
- A strike by workers in a local government is unlikely to be settled without help from an arbitrator

Conclusion - Strike outlawed except for services with no acceptable substitute

Premise - Strike → Binding Arbitration → Costs extra

A - Don't know

B - Don't know

C- Yes, because it costs more

D - Don't know

E - Don't know

This is an inference question, but it is a bit unusual because it already has a conclusion. We can still apply the same techniques that we normally would for an inference question -- namely process of elimination - and, because we have a conclusion here we can point to the "hidden truth" on this inference question. A "hidden truth" is like an assumption answer and it can usually be found on an inference question that has a conclusion.

So what is the hidden truth? Start with the conclusion, which states "Strikes should be outlawed **only** for categories of public-sector workers for whose services **no acceptable substitute exists**" and should not be outlawed for other categories of public service workers.

So why not outlaw strikes for all workers? The premise is that to outlaw strikes for all workers is costly because it would result in disputes being "settled by binding arbitration, without any negotiated public-sector labor settlements guiding the arbitrators." In other words, if there are no strikes that end with a negotiated agreement - like when the auto workers negotiate a new contract with Ford or GM - then there is no guidance for the arbitrator to go by and this means that the arbitrator might give too much to the workers and THAT is costly for the local government.

If, on the other hand, the **only** workers prohibited from striking are those that are irreplaceable, like police and firefighters, then the other categories - like bus drivers or office workers, can negotiate a settlement and this can then serve to guide arbitrators when they make their decisions in the cases of the police, firefighters, etc. who are not allowed to go on strike. So by allowing the bus drivers and office workers to strike the government saves on those contracts as compared to arbitration and then saves on the contracts that have to go to arbitration - the police, firefighters, etc.

Anyway, now that we fully understand the question we can see that in order for both the premise and conclusion to be true there is a "hidden truth" that the workers would be overpaid if arbitration is the means used for all public sector employees. This is the only way that the local government would be making a "costly mistake." Choice C lines up exactly with our hidden truth.

Tricky Play of Words

At a local health club, almost 80% of the revenue from gym entrance fees comes from **annual membership dues**. At the café within the health club, it is surprising that less than 40% of the revenue of the café comes **from health club members**.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the surprising finding regarding the café's revenues?

- Only people who pay to use the health club are allowed access to the café.
- **Members with 3 and 6 month memberships use the café much more than annual members do.**
- The café is most appealing to people who have never been to the club before.
- The café only offers a small variety of food items when compared to nearby restaurants.
- Members get a 10% discount on food at the café.

The trap answer B hinges on misreading health club member as annual health club member. While the questionable starts with "annual membership dues" the question is really about paradox related to "all health club member".

Always check when the same words or phrase used twice in the passage, there is often a catch.

This is similar to GMAT prep - "blue bird migration and local trying to poison" problem.

OA - C

Use of “if” to reduce the scope of conclusion

A developer wants to build a shopping mall in a mostly rural area of a mid-sized city. In the letter to the city council requesting a building permit, the developer argues that the permit should be granted because the shopping mall, **if successful, will ultimately benefit the city by creating jobs** in a place where the unemployment rate is slightly higher than the national average.

Which of the following, if true, will be most helpful in strengthening the developer’s petition before the city council?

- A. A citizens’ group has circulated a petition collecting signatures in support of the developer’s plan.
- B. The city code requires that proposals for all new structures be voted upon and approved by the city council.
- C. The developer has already obtained verbal agreements from several retailers who plan to open stores in the future shopping mall.
- D. The city’s largest percentage of unemployed people lives in the rural area where the proposed shopping mall would be built.
- E. The city will benefit financially from the new shopping mall, because all sales tax revenues will go to the city.

To strengthen here we don’t have to worry about the success of plan, as it has already been taken care of - “If successful”

Only linkage that can be strengthened here is:

Success of hotel → Unemployment in particular place

OA - D

Make Sure You Know How to Weaken and Strengthen

Between 1980 and 2000 the sea otter population of the Aleutian Island 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 Island 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 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 fish use for food.

Conclusion: ***Orcas were most likely the immediate cause of the otter population decline.***

In a causal argument, the conclusion is that A CAUSES B.

One way to strengthen a causal argument is to show the following:

If A does not happen, then B does not happen, STRENGTHENING the conclusion that A CAUSES B.

Answer choice **C**: *Most of the surviving sea otters live in a bay that is inaccessible to orcas.*

Implication:

If A does not happen (if orcas are unable to access sea otters), then B does not happen (the otters are not eaten), STRENGTHENING the conclusion that orcas CAUSED the decline in the otter population.

Two more ways to strengthen a cause-and-effect argument:

- provide additional information that supports the causal effect
- eliminate the possibility that something else causes the event.

Multiple Conclusion

This is a big time trap - make sure that you answer for right conclusion.

Various goods brought into America have been taxed over the years, but the art tariff of 1883 forced policy-makers to examine the status of art in society and the idea of art as a commodity. The tariff, which was vehemently opposed by both European and American artists, increased levies on all artworks imported to America, which, for all practical purposes, lumped them into the category of luxury items. Opposition to the tariff rested largely on the idea that a work of art could not be classified as a luxury item and thus should not be subject to tax. Instead, opponents considered art an instrument of culture and an essential element of public education.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the justification for the art tariff?

- A) Art imports were taxed to help pay for the Civil War.
- B) Most art collectors donated their works to museums.
- C) Most artworks imported to America were purchased by private collectors.
- D) The status of art as a material object distinguishes it from music.
- E) Works by contemporary artists were excluded from the tax.

OA - B

This adds some sort of support to the opponent's view that artworks were an instrument of culture and an essential element of public education. The art collectors donated their works to museums to support the cause of public education. So works of art are not luxury items and must not be taxed. This undermines the justification for art tariff.

For nearly a century, physiologists believed that **a buildup of lactic acid in muscle tissue was the primary cause of the soreness that many people experience after strenuous exercise**. The acid is the waste produced by metabolic activity in the muscle and, the researchers claimed, reaches "threshold" levels that cause soreness several days later. **Researchers have recently discovered, however, that the lactic acid byproduct is also used as a source of energy during intense exercise**. The acid is thus consumed before it can accumulate sufficiently to cause muscle fatigue, leading researchers to conclude that something else must cause the typical muscle soreness.

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

- A) The first is an assertion that the author argues against; the second is evidence presented as contrary to the author's argument.
- B) The first is an assertion that the author accepts as true; the second is a consideration in support of that assertion.
- C) The first is scientific evidence that the author acknowledges may be valid; the second contradicts that evidence.
- D) The first is evidence that the author believes is no longer valid; the second is evidence that the author uses to support his main point.
- E) The first is a claim that the author believes to be invalid; the second is the author's main point.

OA - D

This is interesting Why D is true, as exact words are - "evidence that the author believes is no longer valid". So at one point of time, it was evidence that's no longer considered true.

The phenomenon mentioned may have been considered as "evidence" at one time, but since the phenomenon is no longer believed to be valid it is not actually evidence. Obviously real, hard evidence does not decrease in validity, so the original characterization of this as "evidence" does not actually hold, as indicated by the rest of the answer.

Strengthening Through Indirect Evidence

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 this recommendation?

- (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.

- Advertising has become ineffective, as lots of junk emails
- Targeted emails → Improve conversion

What's evidence that targeted email will improve conversion?

Only E provides an evidence that targeted emails perform better than other channels, so definitely better than non-targeted emails.

Commemorative plaques cast from brass are a characteristic art form of the Benin culture of West Africa. Some scholars, noting that the oldest surviving plaques date to the 1400s, hypothesize that brass-casting techniques were introduced by the Portuguese, who came to Benin in 1485 A.D. But Portuguese records of that expedition mention cast-brass jewelry sent to Benin's king from neighboring Ife. So it is unlikely that Benin's knowledge of brass casting derived from the Portuguese.

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

(A) The Portuguese records do not indicate whether their expedition of 1485 included metalworkers.

(B) The Portuguese had no contact with Ife until the 1500s.

(C) In the 1400s the Portuguese did not use cast brass for commemorative plaques.

(D) As early as 1500 A.D., Benin artists were making brass plaques incorporating depictions of Europeans.

(E) Copper, which is required for making brass, can be found throughout Benin territory.

Premise - Ife sent jewelry to Benin before Portuguese first visited Benin so Portuguese didn't transfer the knowledge.

Two assumption -

- Passing jewelry is passing knowledge
- Portuguese didn't transfer knowledge to Ife

Any evidence to support these will help. (B) - supports second assumption