



# GMAT™ Official Guide Verbal Review 2022

Add over 340 verbal practice questions to your prep.



**Book +**



**Online +**



**Mobile**

## What's included

### Book:

- ✓ Over 340 practice questions not included in the main Official Guide
- ✓ Answer explanations
- ✓ New! Review chapter with 25 practice questions

### Online tools:

- ✓ Question Bank
- ✓ Flash cards
- ✓ Mobile app

The **ONLY**  
source of real  
GMAT™ questions  
from past exams



**mba.com**

GMAT™ Official **Prep**



## 5.0 Critical Reasoning

### 5.0 Critical Reasoning

GMAT™ Critical Reasoning questions test the reasoning skills involved in:

- constructing an argument
- evaluating an argument, and
- formulating or evaluating a plan of action.

The questions are based on materials drawn from a variety of sources. Answering the questions does not require any familiarity with these materials' subject matter beyond what is generally known.

Critical Reasoning questions are based on passages typically less than 100 words in length. Unlike Reading Comprehension passages, each Critical Reasoning passage is associated with just one question. On the actual exam, you will see only one passage and question at a time.

While answering Critical Reasoning questions requires no specialized knowledge, you do need to be familiar with such basic logical terms as “premise,” “conclusion,” and “assumption.” The practice Critical Reasoning questions in this chapter illustrate the variety of topics the test may cover, the kinds of questions it may ask, and the level of analysis it requires.

### 5.1 What Is Measured

Critical Reasoning questions provide one measure of your ability to deal with reasoning.

For purposes of the GMAT exam, any series of statements of which at least one is given as logical support for another can be considered an example of reasoning. Some examples include reasoning for the purpose of justifying belief in a statement, justifying some plan of action, or explaining why a certain phenomenon occurs.

Many Critical Reasoning passages contain or report reasoning. Others display no reasoning and simply present information. Every Critical Reasoning question, however, will require you to engage in reasoning based on its passage. You may, for example, be asked to draw a conclusion from the given information; i.e., to identify, among the answer choices, the one statement the information logically supports. Or you may be asked to identify the one statement that most plausibly explains why a phenomenon described in the passage occurred, or to evaluate whether a particular plan of action is likely to achieve its intended goal.

Many different skills are involved in analyzing and evaluating reasoning. In the GMAT™ Enhanced Score Report, these skills are divided into four fundamental categories: **Analysis**, **Construction**, **Critique**, and **Plan**.

- **Analysis** questions primarily test your skill in understanding a piece of logical reasoning as a whole and identifying the relationships among its constituent parts.
- **Construction** questions mainly test your skill in forming cogent arguments—for example, in determining what additional information can be inferred from given information, or what additional information would be needed for an argument to work.
- **Critique** questions test your skill in challenging the cogency of arguments, identifying their strengths and weaknesses, and determining how they could be improved.
- **Plan** questions overlap with both **Construction** and **Critique**. Unlike other Critical Reasoning questions, **Plan** questions are designed to test your skill in constructing and

critiquing arguments about proposed courses of action.

The following table lists, in greater detail, the major skills that Critical Reasoning questions measure:

Question type	Skill	Examples
<b>Analyzing reasoning structure</b>	Identifying premises, conclusion, explanations, plan rationales, or background information in a passage containing reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ming uses which of the following techniques in responding to Wei?</i></li> <li>• <i>Which of the following most accurately describes the functions of each boldfaced part of the passage?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Drawing conclusions (inference)</b>	Drawing a conclusion from given information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information provided?</i></li> <li>• <i>Which of the following follows logically from the information provided?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Identifying sufficient or required assumptions</b>	Recognizing an assumption that can help fill a logical gap in a piece of reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Which of the following is an assumption that Fang's reasoning requires?</i></li> <li>• <i>The conclusion follows logically if which of the following is assumed?</i></li> <li>• <i>The plan will fail unless which of the following occurs?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Evaluating hypotheses</b>	Identifying a hypothesis that most plausibly explains a phenomenon or event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Which of the following, if true, most helps explain the failure to achieve the plan's objective?</i></li> <li>• <i>Which of the following is most likely to contribute to the occurrence of the phenomenon observed?</i></li> <li>• <i>In order to evaluate the force of the archaeologists' evidence, it would be most useful to determine which of the following?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Resolving apparent inconsistency</b>	Reconciling two apparently conflicting assertions or states of affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Which of the following most helps to resolve the discrepancy between the reported level of rainfall and the occurrence of flooding in City X?</i></li> </ul>

Question type	Skill	Examples
<b>Identifying information that strengthens or weakens reasoning</b>	Identifying information that either provides additional support or undermines reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the following, if discovered, would cast the most doubt on the engineer's reasoning?</li> <li>• Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the support for the physician's diagnosis?</li> </ul>
<b>Recognizing and describing logical flaws</b>	Identifying reasoning errors such as confusing correlation with causation or confusing a sufficient condition with a necessary one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the following, if true, most strongly indicates a flaw in the reasoning?</li> <li>• The reasoning attributed to the executive is most vulnerable to which of the following criticisms?</li> </ul>
<b>Identifying a point of disagreement</b>	Precisely identifying the key issue on which two parties disagree, based on the statements they have made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the following is the main point of disagreement between Mandeep and Saumya?</li> </ul>
<b>Finding a solution to a practical problem</b>	Recognizing an effective strategy for solving a practical problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the following would most help the polling specialists overcome the difficulty they encountered in surveying a sample of likely voters?</li> </ul>

## 5.2 Test-Taking Strategies

To answer Critical Reasoning questions, you must analyze and logically evaluate the passage on which each question is based, then select the answer choice that most appropriately answers the question. Carefully read the passage and the question asked about the passage, then read the five answer choices. If the correct answer is not immediately obvious to you, see whether you can eliminate some of the wrong answers. Reading the passage a second time may illuminate subtleties not evident on first reading.

### 1. Decide whether you benefit most from reading the passage or the question first.

Some test-takers may want to read the passage very carefully first and then read the question. But it can be advantageous to read the question first. Doing so can orient you toward noticing the content or structural features of the passage that are relevant to answering the question. Working through the practice questions in this guide should help you get a good feel for the approach that suits you best.

Be careful to respond to the precise question asked. For example, here are two questions that, in a hurried reading, could easily be confused:

- i) Which of the following is valued by **the most citizens** of Nation X?
- ii) Which of the following is **most valued** by the citizens of Nation X?

Something valued by the most citizens of Nation X may not be the same as what is generally most valued by the citizens of Nation X. The most justified answer to i) could be **wealth** even if the most justified answer to ii) is **good community relations**.

## 2. Determine whether the passage contains reasoning or merely provides information.

To determine whether the passage contains reasoning, consider whether one or more of the statements are intended to support the truth of any other statement provided, or to justify a plan of action, or to explain some phenomenon. To help determine this, look for certain sorts of words or phrases, sometimes called “inference indicators,” that authors may provide when they are presenting a piece of reasoning. For instance, the word **therefore** is frequently used to indicate a conclusion, and the word **because** is frequently used to indicate a premise or reason. Here are other examples (the list is not exhaustive):

- Conclusion indicators: **consequently, it follows that, so, hence**
- Premise indicators: **since, as, for, as is shown by, follows from**

Some of these words have other uses; for example, **since** can signify time or can signify causation. Also, keep in mind that a passage may contain reasoning even if no such indicators are present. Ask yourself whether any of the statements support the truth of another statement, help explain a phenomenon described in the passage, or help support a plan proposed in the passage. [Section 3.2](#) in the Verbal Review Chapter provides more information on how to identify reasoning in a passage.

## 3. Identify the purpose and structure of any reasoning in a passage.

A good first step in analyzing passages that contain reasoning is to determine the purpose of the reasoning. Does the reasoning aim to provide logical support for a conclusion? If so, then identifying that conclusion will help. Or perhaps the reasoning aims to explain a phenomenon; i.e., to indicate what has caused the phenomenon to occur. If so, identifying the statement that predicts or hypothesizes the occurrence of the phenomenon will help. A third possibility is that the reasoning provides a rationale for a plan or policy. If so, identifying a statement that indicates the goal of the plan or policy will help.

Once you have identified the reasoning’s purpose, then you can identify the reasoning’s structure (i.e., **how** the author makes the argument). [Section 3.2.1](#) in the Verbal Review Chapter provides more information on how to analyze a passage’s reasoning structure.

## 4. To evaluate reasoning, try to imagine scenarios where the premises are true and the conclusion false.

Many Critical Reasoning questions will require you to evaluate the soundness of a passage’s reasoning. To evaluate reasoning, you do not need to decide whether premises or conclusions are actually true. Determining actual truth is beyond the scope of the test: no test-taker could determine the truth or falsity of every assertion present in Critical Reasoning passages. Moreover, many Critical Reasoning passages refer to fictional scenarios. One technique often helpful in evaluating a piece of reasoning is to try to **imagine** a situation in which the premises would all be true but the conclusion false. If the conclusion would almost certainly be true provided the premises were all true, then the reasoning is typically strong. On the other hand, if the conclusion could likely be false, even provided that the premises were all true, then the reasoning is typically weak.

This does not mean that considerations about the real world will not, at times, be helpful in evaluating reasoning. Consider the following:

Medical procedure A is as effective and cost-efficient as medical procedure B, but has fewer unwanted side-effects than B. Therefore, medical procedure A should be preferred over medical procedure B.

In evaluating this reasoning, you can rely on the obvious consideration that, all else being equal, a procedure with fewer unwanted side-effects is preferable.

Please refer to [Sections 3.3](#) and [3.4](#) of [Chapter 3](#) for more detailed information on how to evaluate the reasoning in various types of arguments.

## 5.3 Section Instructions

Go to [www.mba.com/tutorial](http://www.mba.com/tutorial) to view instructions for the section and get a feel for what the test center screens will look like on the actual GMAT exam.

To register for the GMAT™ exam go to [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com)

## 5.4 Practice Questions

**Each of the Critical Reasoning questions is based on a short argument, a set of statements, or a plan of action. For each question, select the best answer of the choices given.**

### Questions 113 to 154 - Difficulty: Easy

\*CR14249

113. PhishCo runs a number of farms in the arid province of Nufa, depending largely on irrigation. Now, as part of a plan to efficiently increase the farms' total production, it plans to drill down to an aquifer containing warm, slightly salty water that will be used to raise fish in ponds. The water from the ponds will later be used to supplement piped-in irrigation water for PhishCo's vegetable fields, and the ponds and accompanying vegetation should help reduce the heat in the area of the farms.

Which of the following would, if true, most strongly suggest that the plan, if implemented, would increase the overall efficiency of PhishCo's farms?

- A. Most of the vegetation to be placed around the ponds is native to Nufa.
- B. Fish raised on PhishCo's farms are likely to be saleable in the nearest urban areas.
- C. Organic waste from fish in the pond water will help to fertilize fields where it is used for irrigation.
- D. The government of Nufa will help to arrange loan financing to partially cover the costs of drilling.
- E. Ponds will be located on low-lying land now partially occupied by grain crops.

CR12701.02

114. Stockholders have been critical of the Flyna Company, a major furniture retailer, because most of Flyna's furniture is manufactured in Country X from local wood, and illegal logging is widespread there. However, Flyna has set up a certification scheme for lumber mills. It has hired a staff of auditors and forestry professionals who review documentation of the wood supply of Country X's lumber mills to ensure its legal origin, make surprise visits to mills to verify documents, and certify mills as approved sources of legally obtained lumber. Flyna uses only lumber from certified mills. Thus, Flyna's claim that its Country X wood supply is obtained legally is justified.

Which of the following, if true, would most undermine the justification provided for Flyna's claim?

- A. Only about one-third of Flyna's inspectors were hired from outside the company.
- B. Country X's government recently reduced its subsidies for lumber production.
- C. Flyna has had to pay higher than expected salaries to attract qualified inspectors.



- D. The proportion of Country X's lumber mills inspected each year by Flynna's staff is about 10 percent, randomly selected.
- E. Illegal logging costs Country X's government a significant amount in lost revenue each year.

CR12721.02

115. The *XCT* automobile is considered less valuable than the *ZNK* automobile, because insurance companies pay less, on average, to replace a stolen *XCT* than a stolen *ZNK*. Surprisingly, the average amount insurance companies will pay to repair a car involved in a collision is typically higher for the *XCT* than for the *ZNK*. One insurance expert explained that repairs to *XCT* automobiles are especially labor-intensive, and labor is a significant factor in collision repair costs.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the insurance expert's explanation?

- A. *ZNK* automobiles are involved in accidents more frequently than *XCT* automobiles.
- B. The cost of routine maintenance for the *ZNK* is about the same as for the *XCT*.
- C. There are more automobile mechanics who specialize in *XCT* repairs than in *ZNK* repairs.
- D. The ease of repair of *ZNK* automobiles is one factor that adds to their value.
- E. *XCT* automobiles are more likely to be stolen than *ZNK* automobiles.

CR07612

116. The sustained massive use of pesticides in farming has two effects that are especially pernicious. First, it often kills off the pests' natural enemies in the area. Second, it often unintentionally gives rise to insecticide-resistant pests, since those insects that survive a particular insecticide will be the ones most resistant to it, and they are the ones left to breed.

From the passage above, it can be properly inferred that the effectiveness of the sustained massive use of pesticides can be extended by doing which of the following, assuming that each is a realistic possibility?

- A. Using only chemically stable insecticides
- B. Periodically switching the type of insecticide used
- C. Gradually increasing the quantities of pesticides used
- D. Leaving a few fields fallow every year
- E. Breeding higher-yielding varieties of crop plants

CR00701

117. Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the argument below?

Manufacturers are now required to make all cigarette lighters child-resistant by equipping them with safety levers. But this change is unlikely to result in a significant reduction in the number of fires caused by children playing with lighters, because children given the opportunity can figure out how to work the safety levers and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the addition of the safety levers has made lighters more expensive than they were before the requirement was instituted
- B. adults are more likely to leave child-resistant lighters than non-child-resistant lighters in places that are accessible to children
- C. many of the fires started by young children are quickly detected and extinguished by their parents

- D. unlike child-resistant lighters, lighters that are not child-resistant can be operated by children as young as two years old
- E. approximately 5,000 fires per year have been attributed to children playing with lighters before the safety levers were required

CR04192

118. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

A business analysis of the Appenian railroad system divided its long-distance passenger routes into two categories: rural routes and interurban routes. The analysis found that, unlike the interurban routes, few rural routes carried a high enough passenger volume to be profitable. Closing unprofitable rural routes, however, will not necessarily enhance the profitability of the whole system, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a large part of the passenger volume on interurban routes is accounted for by passengers who begin or end their journeys on rural routes
- B. within the last two decades several of the least used rural routes have been closed and their passenger services have been replaced by buses
- C. the rural routes were all originally constructed at least one hundred years ago, whereas some of the interurban routes were constructed recently for new high-speed express trains
- D. not all of Appenia's large cities are equally well served by interurban railroad services
- E. the greatest passenger volume, relative to the routes' capacity, is not on either category of long-distance routes but is on suburban commuter routes

CR52441.01

119. In its search for new technologies for solar energy that can produce lower-cost electricity, Smith-Diatom is developing a new way to make dye-sensitive solar cells, in which photons strike light-sensitive dyes. The process uses diatoms, which are unicellular algae that have silicon shells with a complex structure. First, the organic material is removed, and then the shells are coated with a titanium dioxide film that acts as a semiconductor. The diatoms' structure results in more photon activity and thus more efficient production of electricity than with current dye-sensitized solar cells, which in turn lowers the cost.

Which of the following considerations would, if true, most strongly support the hypothesis that the plan, if implemented, will produce low-cost electricity from dye-sensitive solar cells?

- A. Diatoms are an important link in oceanic food chains and help cycle carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- B. The current cost of electricity produced by dye-sensitive solar cells is roughly three times that of non-solar electricity.
- C. Because diatoms occur naturally, no special engineering processes are needed to produce the basic dye-sensitive solar cell structures.
- D. Dye-sensitive solar cells work somewhat more efficiently in lower light than previous solar cell technologies.
- E. The production of dye-sensitive solar cells primarily uses materials that do not harm the environment.

CR03129

120. Although Ackerburg's subway system is currently operating at a deficit, the transit authority will lower subway fares next year. The authority projects that the lower fares will result in a



ten percent increase in the number of subway riders. Since the additional income from the larger ridership will more than offset the decrease due to lower fares, the transit authority actually expects the fare reduction to reduce or eliminate the subway system's operating deficit for next year.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the transit authority's expectation of reducing the subway system's operating deficit?

- A. Throughout the years that the subway system has operated, fares have never before been reduced.
- B. The planned fare reduction will not apply to students, who can already ride the subway for a reduced fare.
- C. Next year, the transit authority will have to undertake several large-scale track maintenance projects.
- D. The subway system can accommodate a ten percent increase in ridership without increasing the number of trains it runs each day.
- E. The current subway fares in Ackerburg are higher than subway fares in other cities in the region.

CR59590.02

121. At several locations on the northwest coast of North America are formations known as chevrons—wedge-shaped formations of mounded sediment—pointing toward the ocean. Most geologists take them to have been formed by erosion, but recently other scientists have proposed that they were thrown up from the ocean by massive waves triggered by meteor impacts in the Pacific Ocean.

Which of the following, if discovered, would most help in deciding which hypothesis is correct?

- A. Chevron-like structures which are not currently near glaciers, large rivers, or other bodies of water
- B. The presence, in chevrons, of deposits of ocean microfossils containing metals typically formed by meteor impacts
- C. Oral-history evidence for flooding that could have been caused by ocean waves
- D. The fact that exact data about the location and depth of any meteor impact craters on the Pacific seabed is lacking
- E. The fact that certain changes in the shape and location of maritime sand dunes have been produced by the action of wind and waves

CR20531.01

122. Sparrow Airlines is planning to reduce its costs by cleaning its planes' engines once a month, rather than the industry standard of every six months. With cleaner engines, Sparrow can postpone engine overhauls, which take planes out of service for up to 18 months. Furthermore, cleaning an engine reduces its fuel consumption by roughly 1.2 percent.

The airline's plan assumes that

- A. fuel prices are likely to rise in the near future and therefore cutting fuel consumption is an important goal
- B. the cost of monthly cleaning of an airplane's engines is not significantly greater in the long run than is the cost of an engine overhaul
- C. engine cleaning does not remove an airplane from service

- D. Sparrow Airlines has had greater problems with engine overhauls and fuel consumption than other airlines have
- E. cleaning engines once a month will give Sparrow Airlines a competitive advantage over other airlines

CR00828

123. Patrick usually provides child care for six children. Parents leave their children at Patrick's house in the morning and pick them up after work. At the end of each workweek, the parents pay Patrick at an hourly rate for the child care provided that week. The weekly income Patrick receives is usually adequate but not always uniform, particularly in the winter, when children are likely to get sick and be unpredictably absent.

Which of the following plans, if put into effect, has the best prospect of making Patrick's weekly income both uniform and adequate?

- A. Pool resources with a neighbor who provides child care under similar arrangements, so that the two of them cooperate in caring for twice as many children as Patrick currently does.
- B. Replace payment by actual hours of child care provided with a fixed weekly fee based upon the number of hours of child care that Patrick would typically be expected to provide.
- C. Hire a full-time helper and invest in facilities for providing child care to sick children.
- D. Increase the hourly rate to a level that would provide adequate income even in a week when half of the children Patrick usually cares for are absent.
- E. Increase the number of hours made available for child care each day, so that parents can leave their children in Patrick's care for a longer period each day at the current hourly rate.

CR10639

124. Editorial: Consumers in North America think that by drinking frozen concentrated orange juice, they are saving energy, because it takes fewer truckloads to transport it than it takes to transport an equivalent amount of not-from-concentrate juice. But they are mistaken, for the amount of energy required to concentrate the juice is far greater than the energy difference in the juices' transport.

Which of the following, if true, would provide the greatest additional support for the editorial's conclusion?

- A. Freezer trucks use substantially more energy per mile driven than do any other types of trucks.
- B. Frozen juice can be stored for several years, while not-from-concentrate juice lasts a much shorter time.
- C. Oranges grown in Brazil make up an increasing percentage of the fruit used in not-from-concentrate juice production.
- D. A serving of not-from-concentrate juice takes up to six times more space than a serving of frozen concentrated juice.
- E. Though frozen concentrated juice must be kept at a lower temperature, not-from-concentrate juice is far more sensitive to small temperature fluctuations.

CR07618

125. A computer equipped with signature-recognition software, which restricts access to a computer to those people whose signatures are on file, identifies a person's signature by analyzing not only the form of the signature but also such characteristics as pen pressure and signing speed. Even the most adept forgers cannot duplicate all of the characteristics the program analyzes.

Which of the following can be logically concluded from the passage above?

- A. The time it takes to record and analyze a signature makes the software impractical for everyday use.
- B. Computers equipped with the software will soon be installed in most banks.
- C. Nobody can gain access to a computer equipped with the software solely by virtue of skill at forging signatures.
- D. Signature-recognition software has taken many years to develop and perfect.
- E. In many cases even authorized users are denied legitimate access to computers equipped with the software.

CR02958

126. The rate at which a road wears depends on various factors, including climate, amount of traffic, and the size and weight of the vehicles using it. The only land transportation to Rittland's seaport is via a divided highway, one side carrying traffic to the seaport and one carrying traffic away from it. The side leading to the seaport has worn faster, even though each side has carried virtually the same amount of traffic, consisting mainly of large trucks.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the difference in the rate of wear?

- A. The volume of traffic to and from Rittland's seaport has increased beyond the intended capacity of the highway that serves it.
- B. Wear on the highway that serves Rittland's seaport is considerably greater during the cold winter months.
- C. Wear on the side of the highway that leads to Rittland's seaport has encouraged people to take buses to the seaport rather than driving there in their own automobiles.
- D. A greater tonnage of goods is exported from Rittland's seaport than is imported through it.
- E. All of Rittland's automobiles are imported by ship.

CR75231.01

127. Ythex has developed a small diesel engine that produces 30 percent less particulate pollution than the engine made by its main rival, Onez, now widely used in Marania; Ythex's engine is well-suited for use in the thriving warehousing businesses in Marania, though it costs more than the Onez engine. The Maranian government plans to ban within the next two years the use of diesel engines with more than 80 percent of current diesel engine particulate emissions in Marania, and Onez will probably not be able to retool its engine to reduce emissions to reach this target. So if the ban is passed, the Ythex engine ought to sell well in Marania after that time.

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

- A. Marania's warehousing and transshipment business buys more diesel engines of any size than other types of engines.
- B. Ythex is likely to be able to reduce the cost of its small diesel engine within the next two years.

- C. The Maranian government is generally favorable to anti-pollution regulations.
- D. The government's ban on high levels of pollution caused by diesel engines, if passed, will not be difficult to enforce.
- E. The other manufacturers of small diesel engines in Marania, if there are any, have not produced an engine as popular and clean running as Ythex's new engine.

CR04073

128. In parts of South America, vitamin-A deficiency is a serious health problem, especially among children. In one region, agriculturists are attempting to improve nutrition by encouraging farmers to plant a new variety of sweet potato called SPK004 that is rich in beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. The plan has good chances of success, since sweet potato is a staple of the region's diet and agriculture, and the varieties currently grown contain little beta-carotene.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the prediction that the plan will succeed?

- A. The growing conditions required by the varieties of sweet potato currently cultivated in the region are conditions in which SPK004 can flourish.
- B. The flesh of SPK004 differs from that of the currently cultivated sweet potatoes in color and texture, so traditional foods would look somewhat different when prepared from SPK004.
- C. There are no other varieties of sweet potato that are significantly richer in beta-carotene than SPK004 is.
- D. The varieties of sweet potato currently cultivated in the region contain some important nutrients that are lacking in SPK004.
- E. There are other vegetables currently grown in the region that contain more beta-carotene than the currently cultivated varieties of sweet potato do.

CR06018

129. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

The last members of a now-extinct species of a European wild deer called the giant deer lived in Ireland about 16,000 years ago. Prehistoric cave paintings in France depict this animal as having a large hump on its back. Fossils of this animal, however, do not show any hump. Nevertheless, there is no reason to conclude that the cave paintings are therefore inaccurate in this regard, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. some prehistoric cave paintings in France also depict other animals as having a hump
- B. fossils of the giant deer are much more common in Ireland than in France
- C. animal humps are composed of fatty tissue, which does not fossilize
- D. the cave paintings of the giant deer were painted well before 16,000 years ago
- E. only one currently existing species of deer has any anatomical feature that even remotely resembles a hump

CR28931.01

130. Super Express Shipping Company has implemented a new distribution system that can get almost every package to its destination the day after it is sent. The company worries that this

more efficient system will result in lower sales of its premium next-day delivery service, because its two-day service will usually arrive the following day anyway. The company plans to encourage sales of its next-day service by intentionally delaying delivery of its two-day packages so that they will not be delivered the following day, even if the package arrives at its destination city in time for next-day delivery.

The company's plan assumes that

- A. deliberate delay of packages will not affect the company's image in a way that significantly reduces its ability to attract and retain customers
- B. most people do not have a preference for either two-day or next-day delivery
- C. if the plan is not implemented, the company would lose more money in lost sales of overnight deliveries than it would save with its new efficient distribution system
- D. the overnight service is too expensive to be attractive to most customers currently
- E. competing companies' delivery services rarely deliver packages to their destination earlier than their promised time

CR04738

131. Cocoa grown organically on trees within the shade of the rain forest canopy commands a premium price. However, acquiring and maintaining the certification that allows the crop to be sold as organically grown is very time-consuming and laborious. Meanwhile, the price premium for the grower is about 30 percent, whereas cocoa trees grown in full sun using standard techniques can have twice the yield of organic, shade-grown trees. Financially, therefore, standard techniques are the better choice for the farmer.

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

- A. Cocoa can be grown only in a climate that has the temperature and moisture characteristics of a tropical rain forest.
- B. Cocoa trees grown using standard techniques require costly applications of fertilizer and pesticides, unlike shade-grown trees.
- C. Although organically grown cocoa has long commanded a price premium over cocoa grown using standard techniques, its price has fluctuated considerably during that period.
- D. Cocoa is not the only cash crop that can be raised on plots that leave the rain forest canopy overhead essentially intact.
- E. Governments and international conservation organizations are working to streamline organic certification so as to relieve farmers of unnecessary work.

CR91131.02

132. Psychologists conducted an experiment in which half of the volunteers were asked to describe an unethical action they had performed, while the other half were asked to describe an ethical action they had performed. Some of the volunteers, chosen at random from each of the two groups, were encouraged to wash their hands afterward. Among those who described unethical actions, those who washed their hands were significantly less likely to volunteer for another, similar experiment than those who did not wash their hands. The researchers concluded that some of the subjects failed to volunteer again in part because of their having described an unethical action.

Which of the following would, if true, most help to support the researchers' conclusion?

- A. Among the volunteers who described ethical actions, those who washed their hands were significantly less likely to volunteer for another, similar experiment than those who did

not wash their hands.

- B. The average likelihood of volunteering for another, similar experiment was higher among those who described ethical actions than among those who described unethical actions.
- C. Most of the volunteers who were encouraged to wash their hands did so.
- D. The volunteers in the study were not more disposed to washing their hands under normal circumstances than the general population was.
- E. Equal numbers of volunteers from both groups were encouraged to wash their hands.

CR07547

133. High levels of fertilizer and pesticides, needed when farmers try to produce high yields of the same crop year after year, pollute water supplies. Experts therefore urge farmers to diversify their crops and to rotate their plantings yearly.

To receive governmental price-support benefits for a crop, farmers must have produced that same crop for the past several years.

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

- A. The rules for governmental support of farm prices work against efforts to reduce water pollution.
- B. The only solution to the problem of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides is to take farmland out of production.
- C. Farmers can continue to make a profit by rotating diverse crops, thus reducing costs for chemicals, but not by planting the same crop each year.
- D. New farming techniques will be developed to make it possible for farmers to reduce the application of fertilizers and pesticides.
- E. Governmental price supports for farm products are set at levels that are not high enough to allow farmers to get out of debt.

CR02270

134. Ten years ago the number of taxpayers in Greenspace County was slightly greater than the number of registered voters. The number of taxpayers has doubled over the last ten years, while the number of registered voters has increased, but at a lower rate than has the number of taxpayers.

Which of the following must be true in Greenspace County if the statements above are true?

- A. The number of taxpayers is now smaller than the number of registered voters.
- B. Everyone who is a registered voter is also a taxpayer.
- C. The proportion of registered voters to taxpayers has increased over the last ten years.
- D. The proportion of registered voters to taxpayers has decreased over the last ten years.
- E. The proportion of registered voters to taxpayers has remained unchanged over the last ten years.

CR01298

135. From 1900 until the 1930s, pellagra, a disease later discovered to result from a deficiency of the vitamin niacin, was common among poor cotton farmers in the United States whose diet consisted mostly of corn, the least costly food they could buy. Corn does not contain niacin in usable form. Curiously, during the Depression of the early 1930s, when cotton's price



collapsed and cotton farmers' income declined, the incidence of pellagra among those farmers also declined.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the decline in the incidence of pellagra?

- A. When growing a cash crop could not generate adequate income, poor farmers in the United States responded by planting their land with vegetables and fruits for their own consumption.
- B. People whose diets consist largely of corn often suffer from protein deficiency as well as niacin deficiency.
- C. Until the discovery of pellagra's link with niacin, it was widely believed that the disease was an infection that could be transmitted from person to person.
- D. Effective treatment for pellagra became available once its link with niacin was established.
- E. In parts of Mexico, where people subsisted on corn but pellagra was uncommon, corn was typically processed with alkaline substances, which make the niacin in the corn absorbable.

CR07589

136. The interview is an essential part of a successful hiring program because, with it, job applicants who have personalities that are unsuited to the requirements of the job will be eliminated from consideration.

The argument above logically depends on which of the following assumptions?

- A. A hiring program will be successful if it includes interviews.
- B. The interview is a more important part of a successful hiring program than is the development of a job description.
- C. Interviewers can accurately identify applicants whose personalities are unsuited to the requirements of the job.
- D. The only purpose of an interview is to evaluate whether job applicants' personalities are suited to the requirements of the job.
- E. The fit of job applicants' personalities to the requirements of the job was once the most important factor in making hiring decisions.

CR07785

137. Many leadership theories have provided evidence that leaders affect group success rather than the success of particular individuals. So it is irrelevant to analyze the effects of supervisor traits on the attitudes of individuals whom they supervise. Instead, assessment of leadership effectiveness should occur only at the group level.

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

- A. Whether supervisors' documentation of individual supervisees' attitudes toward them is usually accurate
- B. Whether it is possible to assess individual supervisees' attitudes toward their supervisors without thereby changing those attitudes
- C. Whether any of the leadership theories in question hold that leaders should assess other leaders' attitudes
- D. Whether some types of groups do not need supervision in order to be successful in their endeavors
- E. Whether individuals' attitudes toward supervisors affect group success

CR03535

138. A major health insurance company in Lagolia pays for special procedures prescribed by physicians only if the procedure is first approved as “medically necessary” by a company-appointed review panel. The rule is intended to save the company the money it might otherwise spend on medically unnecessary procedures. The company has recently announced that in order to reduce its costs, it will abandon this rule.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest justification for the company’s decision?

- A. Patients often register dissatisfaction with physicians who prescribe nothing for their ailments.
- B. Physicians often prescribe special procedures that are helpful but not altogether necessary for the health of the patient.
- C. The review process is expensive and practically always results in approval of the prescribed procedure.
- D. The company’s review process does not interfere with the prerogative of physicians, in cases where more than one effective procedure is available, to select the one they personally prefer.
- E. The number of members of the company-appointed review panel who review a given procedure depends on the cost of the procedure.

CR03826

139. Automobile ownership was rare in Sabresia as recently as 30 years ago, but with continuing growth of personal income there, automobile ownership has become steadily more common. Consequently, there are now far more automobiles on Sabresia’s roads than there were 30 years ago, and the annual number of automobile accidents has increased significantly. Yet the annual number of deaths and injuries resulting from automobile accidents has not increased significantly.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why deaths and injuries resulting from automobile accidents have not increased significantly?

- A. Virtually all of the improvements in Sabresia’s roads that were required to accommodate increased traffic were completed more than ten years ago.
- B. With more and more people owning cars, the average number of passengers in a car on the road has dropped dramatically.
- C. The increases in traffic volume have been most dramatic on Sabresia’s highways, where speeds are well above those of other roads.
- D. Because of a vigorous market in used cars, the average age of cars on the road has actually increased throughout the years of steady growth in automobile ownership.
- E. Automobile ownership is still much less common in Sabresia than it is in other countries.

CR01430

140. To evaluate a plan to save money on office-space expenditures by having its employees work at home, XYZ Company asked volunteers from its staff to try the arrangement for six months. During this period, the productivity of these employees was as high as or higher than before.

Which of the following, if true, would argue most strongly against deciding, on the basis of the trial results, to implement the company’s plan?

- A. The employees who agreed to participate in the test of the plan were among the company's most self-motivated and independent workers.
- B. The savings that would accrue from reduced office-space expenditures alone would be sufficient to justify the arrangement for the company, apart from any productivity increases.
- C. Other companies that have achieved successful results from work-at-home plans have workforces that are substantially larger than that of XYZ.
- D. The volunteers who worked at home were able to communicate with other employees as necessary for performing the work.
- E. Minor changes in the way office work is organized at XYZ would yield increases in employee productivity similar to those achieved in the trial.

CR04180

141. A child learning to play the piano will not succeed unless the child has an instrument at home on which to practice. However, good-quality pianos, whether new or secondhand, are costly. Buying one is justified only if the child has the necessary talent and perseverance, which is precisely what one cannot know in advance. Consequently, parents should buy an inexpensive secondhand instrument at first and upgrade if and when the child's ability and inclination are proven.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the course of action recommended for parents?

- A. Learners, particularly those with genuine musical talent, are apt to lose interest in the instrument if they have to play on a piano that fails to produce a pleasing sound.
- B. Reputable piano teachers do not accept children as pupils unless they know that the children can practice on a piano at home.
- C. Ideally, the piano on which a child practices at home should be located in a room away from family activities going on at the same time.
- D. Very young beginners often make remarkable progress at playing the piano at first, but then appear to stand still for a considerable period of time.
- E. In some parents, spending increasing amounts of money on having their children learn to play the piano produces increasing anxiety to hear immediate results.

CR05096

142. Nutritionists are advising people to eat more fish, since the omega-3 fatty acids in fish help combat many diseases. If everyone took this advice, however, there would not be enough fish in oceans, rivers, and lakes to supply the demand; the oceans are already being overfished. The obvious method to ease the pressure on wild fish populations is for people to increase their consumption of farmed fish.

Which of the following, if true, raises the most serious doubt concerning the prospects for success of the solution proposed above?

- A. Aquaculture, or fish farming, raises more fish in a given volume of water than are generally present in the wild.
- B. Some fish farming, particularly of shrimp and other shellfish, takes place in enclosures in the ocean.
- C. There are large expanses of ocean waters that do not contain enough nutrients to support substantial fish populations.

- D. The feed for farmed ocean fish is largely made from small wild-caught fish, including the young of many popular food species.
- E. Some of the species that are now farmed extensively were not commonly eaten when they were only available in the wild.

CR02851

143. Which of the following most logically completes the market forecaster's argument?

Market forecaster: The price of pecans is high when pecans are comparatively scarce but drops sharply when pecans are abundant. Thus, in high-yield years, growers often store part of their crop in refrigerated warehouses until after the next year's harvest, hoping for higher prices then. Because of bad weather, this year's pecan crop will be very small. Nevertheless, pecan prices this year will not be significantly higher than last year, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the last time the pecan crop was as small as it was this year, the practice of holding back part of one year's crop had not yet become widely established
- B. last year's pecan harvest was the largest in the last 40 years
- C. pecan prices have remained relatively stable in recent years
- D. pecan yields for some farmers were as high this year as they had been last year
- E. the quality of this year's pecan crop is as high as the quality of any pecan crop in the previous five years

CR06331

144. It is often said that high rates of inflation tend to diminish people's incentive to save and invest. This view must be incorrect, however, because people generally saved and invested more of their income in the 1970's when inflation rates were high than they did in the 1980's when inflation rates were low.

Of the following, the best criticism of the argument above is that it overlooks the possibility that

- A. all people do not respond in the same way to a given economic stimulus
- B. certain factors operating in the 1980's but not in the 1970's diminished people's incentive to save and invest
- C. the population was larger in the 1980's than it was in the 1970's
- D. the proponents of the view cited would stand to gain if inflation rates become lower
- E. a factor that affects people's savings behavior in a certain way could affect people's investment behavior quite differently

CR02704

145. Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

Within the earth's core, which is iron, pressure increases with depth. Because the temperature at which iron melts increases with pressure, the inner core is solid and the outer core is molten. Physicists can determine the melting temperature of iron at any given pressure and the pressure for any given depth in the earth. Therefore, the actual temperature at the boundary of the earth's outer and inner cores—the melting temperature of iron there—can be determined, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the depth beneath the earth's surface of the boundary between the outer and inner cores is known
- B. some of the heat from the earth's core flows to the surface of the earth

- C. pressures within the earth's outer core are much greater than pressures above the outer core
- D. nowhere in the earth's core can the temperature be measured directly
- E. the temperatures within the earth's inner core are higher than in the outer core

CR03659

146. Which of the following most logically completes the reasoning?

Either food scarcity or excessive hunting can threaten a population of animals. If the group faces food scarcity, individuals in the group will reach reproductive maturity later than otherwise. If the group faces excessive hunting, individuals that reach reproductive maturity earlier will come to predominate. Therefore, it should be possible to determine whether prehistoric mastodons became extinct because of food scarcity or human hunting, since there are fossilized mastodon remains from both before and after mastodon populations declined, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. there are more fossilized mastodon remains from the period before mastodon populations began to decline than from after that period
- B. the average age at which mastodons from a given period reached reproductive maturity can be established from their fossilized remains
- C. it can be accurately estimated from fossilized remains when mastodons became extinct
- D. it is not known when humans first began hunting mastodons
- E. climate changes may have gradually reduced the food available to mastodons

CR02518

147. Many office buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering have been shown to have elevated levels of various toxic substances circulating through the air inside, a phenomenon known as sick building syndrome. Yet the air in other office buildings does not have elevated levels of these substances, even though those buildings are the same age as the "sick" buildings and have similar designs and ventilation systems.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why not all office buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering have air that contains elevated levels of toxic substances?

- A. Certain adhesives and drying agents used in particular types of furniture, carpets, and paint contribute the bulk of the toxic substances that circulate in the air of office buildings.
- B. Most office buildings with sick building syndrome were built between 1950 and 1990.
- C. Among buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering, houses are no less likely than office buildings to have air that contains elevated levels of toxic substances.
- D. The toxic substances that are found in the air of "sick" office buildings are substances that are found in at least small quantities in nearly every building.
- E. Office buildings with windows that can readily be opened are unlikely to suffer from sick building syndrome.

CR08756

148. Newsletter: **A condominium generally offers more value for its cost than an individual house because of economies of scale.** The homeowners in a condominium association can collectively buy products and services that they could not afford on their own. And since a professional management company handles maintenance of common areas,

**condominium owners spend less time and money on maintenance than individual homeowners do.**

The two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles in the newsletter's argument?

- A. The first is the argument's main conclusion; the second is another conclusion supporting the first.
- B. The first is a premise, for which no evidence is provided; the second is the argument's only conclusion.
- C. The first is a conclusion supporting the second; the second is the argument's main conclusion.
- D. The first is the argument's only conclusion; the second is a premise, for which no evidence is provided.
- E. Both are premises, for which no evidence is provided, and both support the argument's only conclusion.

CR00780

149. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

When officials in Tannersburg released their plan to widen the city's main roads, environmentalists protested that widened roads would attract more traffic and lead to increased air pollution. In response, city officials pointed out that today's pollution-control devices are at their most effective in vehicles traveling at higher speeds and that widening roads would increase the average speed of traffic. However, this effect can hardly be expected to offset the effect pointed out by environmentalists, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. increases in traffic volume generally produce decreases in the average speed of traffic unless roads are widened
- B. several of the roads that are slated for widening will have to be closed temporarily while construction is underway
- C. most of the air pollution generated by urban traffic comes from vehicles that do not have functioning pollution-control devices
- D. the newly widened roads will not have increased traffic volume if the roads that must be used to reach them are inadequate
- E. a vehicle traveling on a route that goes through Tannersburg will spend less time on Tannersburg's roads once the roads are widened

CR70661.01

150. Platinum is a relatively rare metal vital to a wide variety of industries. Xagor Corporation, a major producer of platinum, has its production plant in a country that will soon begin imposing an export tax on platinum sold and shipped to customers abroad. As a consequence, the price of platinum on the world market is bound to rise.

Which of the following, if true, tends to confirm the conclusion above?

- A. An inexpensive substitute for platinum has been developed and will be available to industry for the first time this month.
- B. The largest of the industries that depend on platinum reported a drop in sales last month.
- C. The producers of platinum in other countries taken together cannot supply enough platinum to meet worldwide demand.



- D. Xagor produced more platinum last month than in any previous month.
- E. New deposits of platinum have been found in the country in which Xagor has its production plant.

CR80661.01

151. From 1973 to 1986, growth in the United States economy was over 33 percent, while the percent growth in United States energy consumption was zero. The number of barrels of oil being saved per day by energy-efficiency improvements made since 1973 is now 13 million.
- If the information above is correct, which of the following conclusions can properly be drawn on the basis of it?
- A. It is more difficult to find new sources of oil than to institute new energy-conservation measures.
  - B. Oil imports cannot be reduced unless energy consumption does not grow at all.
  - C. A reduction in the consumption of gasoline was the reason overall energy consumption remained steady.
  - D. It is possible for an economy to grow without consuming additional energy.
  - E. The development of nontraditional energy sources will make it possible for the United States economy to grow even faster.

CR01661.01

152. Although many customers do not make a sufficient effort to conserve water, water companies must also be held responsible for wasteful consumption. Their own policies, in fact, encourage excessive water use, and attempts at conservation will succeed only if the water companies change their practices.

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

- A. Most water companies reduce the cost per unit of water as the amount of water used by a customer increases.
- B. Most water companies keep detailed records of the quantity of water used by different customers.
- C. Most water companies severely curtail the use of water during periods of drought.
- D. Federal authorities limit the range of policies that can be enforced by the water companies.
- E. The price per unit of water charged by the water companies has risen steadily in the last 10 years.

CR11661.01

153. Despite legislation designed to stem the accumulation of plastic waste, the plastics industry continued to grow rapidly last year, as can be seen from the fact that sales of the resin that is the raw material for manufacturing plastics grew by 10 percent to \$28 billion.

In assessing the support provided by the evidence cited above for the statement that the plastics industry continued to grow, in addition to the information above it would be most useful to know

- A. whether the resin has other uses besides the manufacture of plastics
- B. the dollar amount of resin sales the year before last

- C. the plastics industry's attitude toward the legislation concerning plastic waste
- D. whether sales of all goods and services in the economy as a whole were increasing last year
- E. what proportion of the plastics industry's output eventually contributes to the accumulation of plastic waste

CR41661.01

154. Studies of the political orientations of 1,055 college students revealed that the plurality of students in an eastern, big-city, private university was liberal, whereas in a state-supported, southern college, the plurality was conservative. Orientations were independent of the student's region of origin, and the trends were much more pronounced in seniors than in beginning students.

Which of the following hypotheses is best supported by the observations stated above?

- A. The political orientations of college students are more similar to the political orientations of their parents when the students start college than when the students are seniors.
- B. The political orientations of college seniors depend significantly on experiences they have had while in college.
- C. A college senior originally from the South is more likely to be politically conservative than is a college senior originally from the East.
- D. Whether their college is state-supported or private is the determining factor in college students' political orientations.
- E. College students tend to become more conservative politically as they become older and are confronted with pressures for financial success.

### Questions 155 to 188 - Difficulty: Medium

CR90661.01

155. Donations of imported food will be distributed to children in famine-stricken countries in the form of free school meals. The process is efficient because the children are easy to reach at the schools and cooking facilities are often available on site.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the efficiency of the proposed process?

- A. The emphasis on food will detract from the major function of the schools, which is to educate the children.
- B. A massive influx of donated food will tend to lower the price of food in the areas near the schools.
- C. Supplies of fuel needed for cooking at the schools arrive there only intermittently and in inadequate quantities.
- D. The reduction in farm surpluses in donor countries benefits the donor countries to a greater extent than the recipient countries are benefited by the donations.
- E. The donation of food tends to strengthen the standing of the political party that happens to be in power when the donation is made.

CR21661.01

156. *John*: You told me once that no United States citizen who supports union labor should buy an imported car. Yet you are buying an Alma. Since Alma is one of the biggest makers of imports, I infer that you no longer support unions.

*Harry:* I still support labor unions. Even though Alma is a foreign car company, the car I am buying, the Alma Deluxe, is designed, engineered, and manufactured in the United States.

Harry's method of defending his purchase of an Alma is to

- A. disown the principle he formerly held
- B. show that John's argument involves a false unstated assumption
- C. contradict John's conclusion without challenging John's reasoning in drawing that conclusion
- D. point out that one of the statements John makes in support of his argument is false
- E. claim that his is a special case in which the rule need not apply

CR31661.01

157. Public-sector (government-owned) companies are often unprofitable and a drain on the taxpayer. Such enterprises should be sold to the private sector, where competition will force them either to be efficient and profitable or else to close.

Which of the following, if true, identifies a flaw in the policy proposed above?

- A. The revenue gained from the sale of public-sector companies is likely to be negligible compared to the cost of maintaining them.
- B. By buying a public-sector company and then closing the company and selling its assets, a buyer can often make a profit.
- C. The services provided by many public-sector companies must be made available to citizens, even when a price that covers costs cannot be charged.
- D. Some unprofitable private-sector companies have become profitable after being taken over by the government to prevent their closing.
- E. The costs of environmental protection, contributions to social programs, and job-safety measures are the same in the public and private sectors.

CR91661.01

158. After receiving numerous complaints from residents about loud, highly amplified music played at local clubs, Middletown is considering a law that would prohibit clubs located in residential areas from employing musical groups that consist of more than three people.

The likelihood that the law would be effective in reducing noise would be most seriously diminished if which of the following were true?

- A. Groups that consist of more than three musicians are usually more expensive for clubs to hire than are groups that consist of fewer than three musicians.
- B. In towns that have passed similar laws, many clubs in residential areas have relocated to nonresidential areas.
- C. Most of the complaints about the music have come from people who do not regularly attend the clubs.
- D. Much of the music popular at the local clubs can be played only by groups of at least four musicians.
- E. Amplified music played by fewer than three musicians generally is as loud as amplified music played by more than three musicians.

CR02661.01

159. From enlargements that are commonly found on the ulna bones of the forearms of Ice Age human skeletons, anthropologists have drawn the conclusion that the Ice Age humans

represented by those skeletons frequently hunted by throwing spears. The bone enlargements, the anthropologists believe, resulted from the stresses of habitual throwing.

Which of the following, if true, would be the LEAST appropriate to use as support for the conclusion drawn by the anthropologists?

- A. Humans typically favor one arm over the other when throwing, and most Ice Age human skeletons have enlargements on the ulna bone of only one arm.
- B. Such enlargements on the ulna bone do not appear on skeletons from other human cultures of the same time period whose diets are believed to have been mainly vegetarian.
- C. Cave paintings dating from approximately the same time period and located not far from where the skeletons were found show hunters carrying and throwing spears.
- D. Damaged bones in the skeletons show evidence of diseases that are believed to have afflicted most people living during the Ice Age.
- E. Twentieth-century athletes who use a throwing motion similar to that of a hunter throwing a spear often develop enlargements on the ulna bone similar to those detected on the Ice Age skeletons.

CR12661.01

160. The town council of North Tarrytown favored changing the name of the town to Sleepy Hollow. Council members argued that making the town's association with Washington Irving and his famous "legend" more obvious would increase tourism and result immediately in financial benefits for the town's inhabitants.

The council members' argument requires the assumption that

- A. most of the inhabitants would favor a change in the name of the town
- B. many inhabitants would be ready to supply tourists with information about Washington Irving and his "legend"
- C. the town can accomplish, at a very low cost per capita, the improvements in tourist facilities that an increase in tourism would require
- D. other towns in the region have changed their names to reflect historical associations and have, as a result, experienced a rise in tourism
- E. the immediate per capita cost to inhabitants of changing the name of the town would be less than the immediate per capita revenue they would receive from the change

CR06795

161. Premature babies who receive regular massages are more active than premature babies who do not. Even when all the babies drink the same amount of milk, the massaged babies gain more weight than do the unmassaged babies. This is puzzling because a more active person generally requires a greater food intake to maintain or gain weight.

Which of the following, if true, best reconciles the apparent discrepancy described above?

- A. Increased activity leads to increased levels of hunger, especially when food intake is not also increased.
- B. Massage increases premature babies' curiosity about their environment, and curiosity leads to increased activity.
- C. Increased activity causes the intestines of premature babies to mature more quickly, enabling the babies to digest and absorb more of the nutrients in the milk they drink.

- D. Massage does not increase the growth rate of babies over one year old, if the babies had not been previously massaged.
- E. Premature babies require a daily intake of nutrients that is significantly higher than that required by babies who were not born prematurely.

CR02865

162. In Australia, in years with below-average rainfall, less water goes into rivers and more water is extracted from rivers for drinking and irrigation. Consequently, in such years, water levels drop considerably and the rivers flow more slowly. Because algae grow better the more slowly the water in which they are growing moves, such years are generally beneficial to populations of algae. But, by contrast, populations of algae drop in periods of extreme drought.

Which of the following, if true, does most to explain the contrast?

- A. Algae grow better in ponds and lakes than in rivers.
- B. The more slowly water moves, the more conducive its temperature is to the growth of algae.
- C. Algae cannot survive in the absence of water.
- D. Algae must be filtered out of water before it can be used for drinking.
- E. The larger the population of algae in a body of water, the less sunlight reaches below the surface of the water.

CR00693

163. Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the politician's argument?

United States politician: Although the amount of United States goods shipped to Mexico doubled in the year after tariffs on trade between the two countries were reduced, it does not follow that the reduction in tariffs caused the sales of United States goods to companies and consumers in Mexico to double that year, because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. many of the United States companies that produced goods that year had competitors based in Mexico that had long produced the same kind of goods
- B. most of the increase in goods shipped by United States companies to Mexico was in parts shipped to the companies' newly relocated subsidiaries for assembly and subsequent shipment back to the United States
- C. marketing goods to a previously unavailable group of consumers is most successful when advertising specifically targets those consumers, but developing such advertising often takes longer than a year
- D. the amount of Mexican goods shipped to the United States remained the same as it had been before the tariff reductions
- E. there was no significant change in the employment rate in either of the countries that year

CR06845

164. Budget constraints have made police officials consider reassigning a considerable number of officers from traffic enforcement to work on higher-priority, serious crimes. Reducing traffic enforcement for this reason would be counterproductive, however, in light of the tendency of criminals to use cars when engaged in the commission of serious crimes. An officer stopping a car for a traffic violation can make a search that turns up evidence of serious crime.

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

- A. An officer who stops a car containing evidence of the commission of a serious crime risks a violent confrontation, even if the vehicle was stopped only for a traffic violation.
- B. When the public becomes aware that traffic enforcement has lessened, it typically becomes lax in obeying traffic rules.
- C. Those willing to break the law to commit serious crimes are often in committing such crimes unwilling to observe what they regard as the lesser constraints of traffic law.
- D. The offenders committing serious crimes who would be caught because of traffic violations are not the same group of individuals as those who would be caught if the arresting officers were reassigned from traffic enforcement.
- E. The great majority of persons who are stopped by officers for traffic violations are not guilty of any serious crimes.

CR10106

165. Conventional wisdom suggests vaccinating elderly people first in flu season, because they are at greatest risk of dying if they contract the virus. This year's flu virus poses particular risk to elderly people and almost none at all to younger people, particularly children. Nevertheless, health professionals are recommending vaccinating children first against the virus rather than elderly people.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest reason for the health professionals' recommendation?

- A. Children are vulnerable to dangerous infections when their immune systems are severely weakened by other diseases.
- B. Children are particularly unconcerned with hygiene and therefore are the group most responsible for spreading the flu virus to others.
- C. The vaccinations received last year will confer no immunity to this year's flu virus.
- D. Children who catch one strain of the flu virus and then recover are likely to develop immunity to at least some strains with which they have not yet come in contact.
- E. Children are no more likely than adults to have immunity to a particular flu virus if they have never lived through a previous epidemic of the same virus.

CR01392

166. Pro-Tect Insurance Company has recently been paying out more on car-theft claims than it expected. Cars with special antitheft devices or alarm systems are much less likely to be stolen than are other cars. Consequently Pro-Tect, as part of an effort to reduce its annual payouts, will offer a discount to holders of car-theft policies if their cars have antitheft devices or alarm systems.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest indication that the plan is likely to achieve its goal?

- A. The decrease in the risk of car theft conferred by having a car alarm is greatest when only a few cars have such alarms.
- B. The number of policyholders who have filed a claim in the past year is higher for Pro-Tect than for other insurance companies.
- C. In one or two years, the discount that Pro-Tect is offering will amount to more than the cost of buying certain highly effective antitheft devices.



- D. Currently, Pro-Tect cannot legally raise the premiums it charges for a given amount of insurance against car theft.
- E. The amount Pro-Tect has been paying out on car-theft claims has been greater for some models of car than for others.

CR00783

167. While the total enrollment of public elementary and secondary schools in Sondland is one percent higher this academic year than last academic year, the number of teachers there increased by three percent. Thus, the Sondland Education Commission's prediction of a teacher shortage as early as next academic year is unfounded.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the claim that the prediction of a teacher shortage as early as next academic year is unfounded?

- A. Funding for public elementary schools in Sondland is expected to increase over the next ten years.
- B. Average salaries for Sondland's teachers increased at the rate of inflation from last academic year to this academic year.
- C. A new law has mandated that there be ten percent more teachers per pupil in Sondland's public schools next academic year than there were this academic year.
- D. In the past, increases in enrollments in public elementary and secondary schools in Sondland have generally been smaller than increases in the number of teachers.
- E. Because of reductions in funding, the number of students enrolling in teacher-training programs in Sondland is expected to decline beginning in the next academic year.

CR05590

168. Art restorers who have been studying the factors that cause Renaissance oil paintings to deteriorate physically when subject to climatic changes have found that the oil paint used in these paintings actually adjusts to these changes well. The restorers therefore hypothesize that it is a layer of material called gesso, which is under the paint, that causes the deterioration.

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

- A. Renaissance oil paintings with a thin layer of gesso are less likely to show deterioration in response to climatic changes than those with a thicker layer.
- B. Renaissance oil paintings are often painted on wooden panels, which swell when humidity increases and contract when it declines.
- C. Oil paint expands and contracts readily in response to changes in temperature, but it absorbs little water and so is little affected by changes in humidity.
- D. An especially hard and nonabsorbent type of gesso was the raw material for moldings on the frames of Renaissance oil paintings.
- E. Gesso layers applied by Renaissance painters typically consisted of a coarse base layer onto which several increasingly fine-grained layers were applied.

CR10731

169. A newly discovered painting seems to be the work of one of two 17th-century artists, either the northern German Johannes Drechen or the Frenchman Louis Birelle, who sometimes painted in the same style as Drechen. Analysis of the carved picture frame, which has been identified as the painting's original 17th-century frame, showed that it is made of wood found

widely in northern Germany at the time, but rare in the part of France where Birelle lived. This shows that the painting is most likely the work of Drechen.

Which of the following is an assumption that the argument requires?

- A. The frame was made from wood local to the region where the picture was painted.
- B. Drechen is unlikely to have ever visited the home region of Birelle in France.
- C. Sometimes a painting so closely resembles others of its era that no expert is able to confidently decide who painted it.
- D. The painter of the picture chose the frame for the picture.
- E. The carving style of the picture frame is not typical of any specific region of Europe.

CR09120

170. Archaeologists working in the Andes Mountains recently excavated a buried 4,000-year-old temple containing structures that align with a stone carving on a distant hill to indicate the direction of the rising sun at the summer solstice. Alignments in the temple were also found to point toward the position, at the summer solstice, of a constellation known in Andean culture as the Fox. Since the local mythology represents the fox as teaching people how to cultivate and irrigate plants, the ancient Andeans may have built the temple as a religious representation of the fox.

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

- A. The constellation known as the Fox has the same position at the summer solstice as it did 4,000 years ago.
- B. In the region around the temple, the summer solstice marks the time for planting.
- C. The temple was protected from looters by dirt and debris built up over thousands of years.
- D. Other structural alignments at the temple point to further constellations with agricultural significance.
- E. The site containing the temple was occupied for a significant amount of time before abandonment.

CR05065

171. Meat from chickens contaminated with salmonella bacteria can cause serious food poisoning. Capsaicin, the chemical that gives chili peppers their hot flavor, has antibacterial properties. Chickens do not have taste receptors for capsaicin and will readily eat feed laced with capsaicin. When chickens were fed such feed and then exposed to salmonella bacteria, relatively few of them became contaminated with salmonella.

In deciding whether the feed would be useful in raising salmonella-free chicken for retail sale, it would be most helpful to determine which of the following?

- A. Whether feeding capsaicin to chickens affects the taste of their meat
- B. Whether eating capsaicin reduces the risk of salmonella poisoning for humans
- C. Whether chicken is more prone to salmonella contamination than other kinds of meat
- D. Whether appropriate cooking of chicken contaminated with salmonella can always prevent food poisoning
- E. Whether capsaicin can be obtained only from chili peppers

CR04532

172. Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

When mercury-vapor streetlights are used in areas inhabited by insect-eating bats, the bats feed almost exclusively around the lights, because the lights attract flying insects. In Greenville, the mercury-vapor streetlights are about to be replaced with energy-saving sodium streetlights, which do not attract insects. This change is likely to result in a drop in the population of insect-eating bats in Greenville, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the bats do not begin to hunt until after sundown
- B. the bats are unlikely to feed on insects that do not fly
- C. the highway department will be able to replace mercury-vapor streetlights with sodium streetlights within a relatively short time and without disrupting the continuity of lighting at the locations of the streetlights
- D. in the absence of local concentrations of the flying insects on which bats feed, the bats expend much more energy on hunting for food, requiring much larger quantities of insects to sustain each bat
- E. bats use echolocation to catch insects and therefore gain no advantage from the fact that insects flying in the vicinity of streetlights are visible at night

CR01353

173. Rats injected with morphine exhibit decreased activity of the immune system, the bodily system that fights off infections. These same rats exhibited heightened blood levels of corticosteroids, chemicals secreted by the adrenal glands. Since corticosteroids can interfere with immune-system activity, scientists hypothesized that the way morphine reduces immune responses in rats is by stimulating the adrenal glands to secrete additional corticosteroids into the bloodstream.

Which of the following experiments would yield the most useful results for evaluating the scientists' hypothesis?

- A. Injecting morphine into rats that already have heightened blood levels of corticosteroids and then observing their new blood levels of corticosteroids
- B. Testing the level of immune-system activity of rats, removing their adrenal glands, and then testing the rats' immune-system activity levels again
- C. Injecting rats with corticosteroids and then observing how many of the rats contracted infections
- D. Removing the adrenal glands of rats, injecting the rats with morphine, and then testing the level of the rats' immune-system responses
- E. Injecting rats with a drug that stimulates immune-system activity and then observing the level of corticosteroids in their bloodstreams

CR06831

174. Curator: If our museum lends *Venus* to the Hart Institute for their show this spring, they will lend us their Rembrandt etchings for our print exhibition next fall. Having those etchings will increase attendance to the exhibition and hence increase revenue from our general admission fee.

Museum Administrator: But *Venus* is our biggest attraction. Moreover the Hart's show will run for twice as long as our exhibition. So on balance the number of patrons may decrease.

The point of the administrator's response to the curator is to question

- A. whether getting the Rembrandt etchings from the Hart Institute is likely to increase attendance at the print exhibition
- B. whether the Hart Institute's Rembrandt etchings will be appreciated by those patrons of the curator's museum for whom the museum's biggest attraction is *Venus*
- C. whether the number of patrons attracted by the Hart Institute's Rembrandt etchings will be larger than the number of patrons who do not come in the spring because *Venus* is on loan
- D. whether, if *Venus* is lent, the museum's revenue from general admission fees during the print exhibition will exceed its revenue from general admission fees during the Hart Institute's exhibition
- E. whether the Hart Institute or the curator's museum will have the greater financial gain from the proposed exchange of artworks

CR03697

175. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

Leaf beetles damage willow trees by stripping away their leaves, but a combination of parasites and predators generally keeps populations of these beetles in check. Researchers have found that severe air pollution results in reduced predator populations. The parasites, by contrast, are not adversely affected by pollution; nevertheless, the researchers' discovery probably does explain why leaf beetles cause particularly severe damage to willows in areas with severe air pollution, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. neither the predators nor the parasites of leaf beetles themselves attack willow trees
- B. the parasites that attack leaf beetles actually tend to be more prevalent in areas with severe air pollution than they are elsewhere
- C. the damage caused by leaf beetles is usually not enough to kill a willow tree outright
- D. where air pollution is not especially severe, predators have much more impact on leaf-beetle populations than parasites do
- E. willows often grow in areas where air pollution is especially severe

CR05438

176. On May first, in order to reduce the number of overdue books, a children's library instituted a policy of forgiving fines and giving bookmarks to children returning all of their overdue books. On July first there were twice as many overdue books as there had been on May first, although a record number of books had been returned during the interim.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the apparent inconsistency in the results of the library's policy?

- A. The librarians did not keep accurate records of how many children took advantage of the grace period, and some of the children returning overdue books did not return all of their overdue books.
- B. Although the grace period enticed some children to return all of their overdue books, it did not convince all of the children with overdue books to return all of their books.
- C. The bookmarks became popular among the children, so in order to collect the bookmarks, many children borrowed many more books than they usually did and kept them past their due date.

- D. The children were allowed to borrow a maximum of five books for a two-week period, and hence each child could keep a maximum of fifteen books beyond their due date within a two-month period.
- E. Although the library forgave overdue fines during the grace period, the amount previously charged the children was minimal; hence, the forgiveness of the fines did not provide enough incentive for them to return their overdue books.

CR00663

177. A certain species of desert lizard digs tunnels in which to lay its eggs. The eggs must incubate inside the tunnel for several weeks before hatching, and they fail to hatch if they are disturbed at any time during this incubation period. Yet these lizards guard their tunnels for only a few days after laying their eggs.

Which of the following, if true, most helps explain why there is no need for lizards to guard their tunnels for more than a few days?

- A. The eggs are at risk of being disturbed only during the brief egg-laying season when many lizards are digging in a relatively small area.
- B. The length of the incubation period varies somewhat from one tunnel to another.
- C. Each female lizard lays from 15 to 20 eggs, only about 10 of which hatch even if the eggs are not disturbed at any time during the incubation period.
- D. The temperature and humidity within the tunnels will not be suitable for the incubating eggs unless the tunnels are plugged with sand immediately after the eggs are laid.
- E. The only way to disturb the eggs of this lizard species is by opening up one of the tunnels in which they are laid.

CR00677

178. Most banks that issue credit cards charge interest rates on credit card debt that are ten percentage points higher than the rates those banks charge for ordinary consumer loans. These banks' representatives claim the difference is fully justified, since it simply covers the difference between the costs to these banks associated with credit card debt and those associated with consumer loans.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously calls into question the reasoning offered by the banks' representatives?

- A. Some lenders that are not banks offer consumer loans at interest rates that are even higher than most banks charge on credit card debt.
- B. Most car rental companies require that their customers provide signed credit card charge slips or security deposits.
- C. Two to three percent of the selling price of every item bought with a given credit card goes to the bank that issued that credit card.
- D. Most people need not use credit cards to buy everyday necessities, but could buy those necessities with cash or pay by check.
- E. People who pay their credit card bills in full each month usually pay no interest on the amounts they charge.

CR00726

179. Often patients with ankle fractures that are stable, and thus do not require surgery, are given follow-up x-rays because their orthopedists are concerned about possibly having misjudged the stability of the fracture. When a number of follow-up x-rays were reviewed, however, all

the fractures that had initially been judged stable were found to have healed correctly. Therefore, it is a waste of money to order follow-up x-rays of ankle fractures initially judged stable.

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

- A. Doctors who are general practitioners rather than orthopedists are less likely than orthopedists to judge the stability of an ankle fracture correctly.
- B. Many ankle injuries for which an initial x-ray is ordered are revealed by the x-ray not to involve any fracture of the ankle.
- C. X-rays of patients of many different orthopedists working in several hospitals were reviewed.
- D. The healing of ankle fractures that have been surgically repaired is always checked by means of a follow-up x-ray.
- E. Orthopedists routinely order follow-up x-rays for fractures of bones other than ankle bones.

CR05431

180. In setting environmental standards for industry and others to meet, it is inadvisable to require the best results that state-of-the-art technology can achieve. Current technology is able to detect and eliminate even extremely minute amounts of contaminants, but at a cost that is exorbitant relative to the improvement achieved. So it would be reasonable instead to set standards by taking into account all of the current and future risks involved.

The argument given concerning the reasonable way to set standards presupposes that

- A. industry currently meets the standards that have been set by environmental authorities
- B. there are effective ways to take into account all of the relevant risks posed by allowing different levels of contaminants
- C. the only contaminants worth measuring are generated by industry
- D. it is not costly to prevent large amounts of contaminants from entering the environment
- E. minute amounts of some contaminants can be poisonous

CR05750

181. The chemical adenosine is released by brain cells when those cells are active. Adenosine then binds to more and more sites on cells in certain areas of the brain, as the total amount released gradually increases during wakefulness. During sleep, the number of sites to which adenosine is bound decreases. Some researchers have hypothesized that it is the cumulative binding of adenosine to a large number of sites that causes the onset of sleep.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the researchers' hypothesis?

- A. Even after long periods of sleep when adenosine is at its lowest concentration in the brain, the number of brain cells bound with adenosine remains very large.
- B. Caffeine, which has the effect of making people remain wakeful, is known to interfere with the binding of adenosine to sites on brain cells.
- C. Besides binding to sites in the brain, adenosine is known to be involved in biochemical reactions throughout the body.
- D. Some areas of the brain that are relatively inactive nonetheless release some adenosine.



- E. Stress resulting from a dangerous situation can preserve wakefulness even when brain levels of bound adenosine are high.

CR01101

182. A two-year study beginning in 1977 found that, among 85-year-old people, those whose immune systems were weakest were twice as likely to die within two years as others in the study. The cause of their deaths, however, was more often heart disease, against which the immune system does not protect, than cancer or infections, which are attacked by the immune system.

Which of the following, if true, would offer the best prospects for explaining deaths in which weakness of the immune system, though present, played no causal role?

- A. There were twice as many infections among those in the study with the weakest immune systems as among those with the strongest immune systems.
- B. The majority of those in the study with the strongest immune systems died from infection or cancer by 1987.
- C. Some of the drugs that had been used to treat the symptoms of heart disease had a side effect of weakening the immune system.
- D. Most of those in the study who survived beyond the two-year period had recovered from a serious infection sometime prior to 1978.
- E. Those in the study who survived into the 1980s had, in 1976, strengthened their immune systems through drug therapy.

CR13093

183. Most scholars agree that King Alfred (A.D. 849–899) personally translated a number of Latin texts into Old English. One historian contends that Alfred also personally penned his own law code, arguing that the numerous differences between the language of the law code and Alfred's translations of Latin texts are outweighed by the even more numerous similarities. Linguistic similarities, however, are what one expects in texts from the same language, the same time, and the same region. Apart from Alfred's surviving translations and law code, there are only two other extant works from the same dialect and milieu, so it is risky to assume here that linguistic similarities point to common authorship.

The passage above proceeds by

- A. providing examples that underscore another argument's conclusion
- B. questioning the plausibility of an assumption on which another argument depends
- C. showing that a principle if generally applied would have anomalous consequences
- D. showing that the premises of another argument are mutually inconsistent
- E. using argument by analogy to undermine a principle implicit in another argument

CR01355

184. Parland's alligator population has been declining in recent years, primarily because of hunting. Alligators prey heavily on a species of freshwater fish that is highly valued as food by Parlanders, who had hoped that the decline in the alligator population would lead to an increase in the numbers of these fish available for human consumption. Yet the population of this fish species has also declined, even though the annual number caught for human consumption has not increased.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the decline in the population of the fish species?

- A. The decline in the alligator population has meant that fishers can work in some parts of lakes and rivers that were formerly too dangerous.
- B. Over the last few years, Parland's commercial fishing enterprises have increased the number of fishing boats they use.
- C. Many Parlanders who hunt alligators do so because of the high market price of alligator skins, not because of the threat alligators pose to the fish population.
- D. During Parland's dry season, holes dug by alligators remain filled with water long enough to provide a safe place for the eggs of this fish species to hatch.
- E. In several neighboring countries through which Parland's rivers also flow, alligators are at risk of extinction as a result of extensive hunting.

CR05418

185. A company plans to develop a prototype weeding machine that uses cutting blades with optical sensors and microprocessors that distinguish weeds from crop plants by differences in shade of color. The inventor of the machine claims that it will reduce labor costs by virtually eliminating the need for manual weeding.

Which of the following is a consideration in favor of the company's implementing its plan to develop the prototype?

- A. There is a considerable degree of variation in shade of color between weeds of different species.
- B. The shade of color of some plants tends to change appreciably over the course of their growing season.
- C. When crops are weeded manually, overall size and leaf shape are taken into account in distinguishing crop plants from weeds.
- D. Selection and genetic manipulation allow plants of virtually any species to be economically bred to have a distinctive shade of color without altering their other characteristics.
- E. Farm laborers who are responsible for the manual weeding of crops carry out other agricultural duties at times in the growing season when extensive weeding is not necessary.

CR05079

186. Aroca City currently funds its public schools through taxes on property. **In place of this system, the city plans to introduce a sales tax of 3 percent on all retail sales in the city.** Critics protest that 3 percent of current retail sales falls short of the amount raised for schools by property taxes. The critics are correct on this point. **Nevertheless, implementing the plan will probably not reduce the money going to Aroca's schools.** Several large retailers have selected Aroca City as the site for huge new stores, and these are certain to draw large numbers of shoppers from neighboring municipalities, where sales are taxed at rates of 6 percent and more. In consequence, retail sales in Aroca City are bound to increase substantially.

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

- A. The first presents a plan that the argument concludes is unlikely to achieve its goal; the second expresses that conclusion.
- B. The first presents a plan that the argument concludes is unlikely to achieve its goal; the second presents evidence in support of that conclusion.

- C. The first presents a plan that the argument contends is the best available; the second is a conclusion drawn by the argument to justify that contention.
- D. The first presents a plan one of whose consequences is at issue in the argument; the second is the argument's conclusion about that consequence.
- E. The first presents a plan that the argument seeks to defend against a certain criticism; the second is that criticism.

CR06152

187. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A photograph of the night sky was taken with the camera shutter open for an extended period. The normal motion of stars across the sky caused the images of the stars in the photograph to appear as streaks. However, one bright spot was not streaked. Even if the spot were caused, as astronomers believe, by a celestial object, that object could still have been moving across the sky during the time the shutter was open, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the spot was not the brightest object in the photograph
- B. the photograph contains many streaks that astronomers can identify as caused by noncelestial objects
- C. stars in the night sky do not appear to shift position relative to each other
- D. the spot could have been caused by an object that emitted a flash that lasted for only a fraction of the time that the camera shutter was open
- E. if the camera shutter had not been open for an extended period, it would have recorded substantially fewer celestial objects

CR09046

188. Economist: Paying extra for fair-trade coffee—coffee labeled with the Fairtrade logo—is intended to help poor farmers, because they receive a higher price for the fair-trade coffee they grow. But this practice may hurt more farmers in developing nations than it helps. By raising average prices for coffee, it encourages more coffee to be produced than consumers want to buy. This lowers prices for non-fair-trade coffee and thus lowers profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers.

To evaluate the strength of the economist's argument, it would be most helpful to know which of the following?

- A. Whether there is a way of alleviating the impact of the increased average prices for coffee on non-fair-trade coffee farmers' profits
- B. What proportion of coffee farmers in developing nations produce fair-trade coffee
- C. Whether many coffee farmers in developing nations also derive income from other kinds of farming
- D. Whether consumers should pay extra for fair-trade coffee if doing so lowers profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers
- E. How fair-trade coffee farmers in developing nations could be helped without lowering profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers

### Questions 189 to 233 - Difficulty: Hard

CR66900.02

189. Twenty-five years ago, 2,000 married people were asked to rank four categories—spouses, friends, jobs, and housework—according to the amount of time each category demanded. A recent follow-up survey indicates that a majority of those same people rank housework higher

on the list now than they did twenty-five years ago. Yet most of the respondents also claim that housework has become less demanding of their time over the last twenty-five years.

Which of the following, if true, helps to explain the apparent discrepancy?

- A. Some of the people surveyed were married to other people in the survey.
- B. Many of the most time-consuming aspects of people's lives do not appear as categories on either survey.
- C. Most of those who responded to the follow-up survey have retired in the last twenty-five years.
- D. At the time of the follow-up survey, some of the people surveyed did no housework.
- E. Many of the respondents to the follow-up survey claim that they now spend much more time with their friends than they did twenty-five years ago.

CR59820.02

190. In order to achieve self-sufficiency in electricity production, **the Hasarian government proposes to construct eleven huge hydroelectric power plants**. Although this is a massive project, it is probably not massive enough to achieve the goal. It is true that **adding the projected output of the new hydroelectric plants to the output that Hasaria can achieve now would be enough to meet the forecast demand for electricity**. It will, however, take at least fifteen years to complete the project and by then the majority of Hasaria's current power plants will be too old to function at full capacity.

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

- A. The first introduces a proposed course of action for which the argument provides support; the second gives evidence in support of that course of action.
- B. The first introduces a proposed course of action for which the argument provides support; the second gives a reason for not adopting a possible alternative course of action.
- C. The first introduces a plan that the argument evaluates; the second provides evidence that is used to support that plan against possible alternatives.
- D. The first introduces a proposed plan for achieving a certain goal; the second is a claim that has been used in support of the plan but that the argument maintains is inaccurate.
- E. The first introduces a proposed plan for achieving a certain goal; the second provides evidence that is used to support the argument's evaluation of that plan.

CR89820.02

191. In Cecropia, inspections of fishing boats that estimate the number of fish they are carrying are typically conducted upon their return to port. The high numbers so obtained have led the government to conclude that the coastal waters are being overfished. To allow commercial fishing stocks to recover, the government is considering introducing annual quotas on the number of fish that each fishing boat can catch. Compliance with the quotas would be determined by the established system of inspections.

Which of the following, if true, raises the most serious doubts about whether the government's proposed plan would succeed?

- A. Some commercial fishing boats in Cecropia are large enough to catch their entire annual quota in only a few months of fishing.
- B. The quotas would have to be reduced if more boats began fishing in Cecropia's coastal waters.

- C. Because fish prices will rise if the quotas go into effect, it is unlikely that the quotas will significantly change the number of boats fishing Cecropia's coastal waters.
- D. The procedure that inspectors use to estimate the number of fish a boat is carrying often results in a slight overcount.
- E. Quotas encourage fishers to bring only the most commercially valuable fish into port and to discard less valuable fish, most of them dead or dying.

CR55030.02

192. Consultant: **A significant number of complex repair jobs carried out by Ace Repairs have to be redone under the company's warranty, but when those repairs are redone they are invariably successful.** Since we have definitely established that **there is no systematic difference between the mechanics who are assigned to do the initial repairs and those who are assigned to redo unsatisfactory jobs,** it is clear that inadequacies in the initial repairs cannot be attributed to the mechanics' lack of competence. Rather, it is likely that complex repairs require a level of focused attention that the company's mechanics apply consistently only to repair jobs that have been inadequately done on the first try.

In the consultant's reasoning, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- A. The first is a claim that the consultant rejects as false; the second is evidence that forms the basis for that rejection.
- B. The first is part of an explanation that the consultant offers for a certain finding; the second is that finding.
- C. The first presents a pattern whose explanation is at issue in the reasoning; the second provides evidence to rule out one possible explanation of that pattern.
- D. The first presents a pattern whose explanation is at issue in the reasoning; the second is evidence that has been used to challenge the explanation presented by the consultant.
- E. The first is the position the consultant seeks to establish; the second is offered as evidence for that position.

CR08540.02

193. Half of Metroburg's operating budget comes from a payroll tax of 2 percent on salaries paid to people who work in the city. Recently a financial services company, one of Metroburg's largest private-sector employers, announced that it will be relocating just outside the city. All the company's employees, amounting to 1 percent of all people now employed in Metroburg, will be employed at the new location.

From the information given, which of the following can most properly be concluded?

- A. Unless other employers add a substantial number of jobs in Metroburg, the company's relocation is likely to result in a 1 percent reduction in the revenue for the city's operating budget.
- B. Although the company's relocation will have a negative effect on the city's tax revenue, the company's departure will not lead to any increase in the unemployment rate among city residents.
- C. One of the benefits that the company will realize from its relocation is a reduction in the taxes paid by itself and its employees.
- D. Revenue from the payroll tax will decline by 1 percent if there is no increase in jobs within the city to compensate, fully or partially, for the company's departure.

- E. The company's relocation will tend to increase the proportion of jobs in Metroburg that are in the public sector, unless it results in a contraction of the public-sector payroll.

CR62740.02

194. A library currently has only coin-operated photocopier machines, which cost 10 cents per copy. Library administrators are planning to refit most of those machines with card readers. The library will sell prepaid copy cards that allow users to make 50 copies at 9 cents per copy. Administrators believe that, despite the convenience of copy cards and their lower per-copy cost, the number of copies made in the library will be essentially unchanged after the refit.

On the assumption that administrators' assessment is correct, which of the following predictions about the effect of the refit is most strongly supported by the information given?

- A. Library patrons will only purchase a copy card on days when they need to make 50 or more copies.
- B. No library patrons will increase their usage of the library's photocopier machines once the refit has been made.
- C. If most of the copy cards sold in the library are used to their full capacity, the number of people using the library's photocopier machines over a given period will fall.
- D. Revenues from photocopying will decrease unless most library patrons choose to use the remaining coin-operated machines in preference to the card-reader equipped ones.
- E. Revenues from photocopying will increase if copy cards that are purchased are, on average, used to significantly less than 90 percent of their capacity.

CR09740.02

195. Harvester-ant colonies live for fifteen to twenty years, though individual worker ants live only a year. The way a colony behaves changes steadily in a predictable pattern as the colony grows older and larger. For the first few years, the foragers behave quite aggressively, searching out and vigorously defending new food sources, but once a colony has reached a certain size, its foragers become considerably less aggressive.

If the statements above are true, which of the following can most properly be concluded on the basis of them?

- A. As a result of pressure from neighbors, some colonies do not grow larger as they become older.
- B. Unpredictable changes in a colony's environment can cause changes in the tasks that the colony must perform if it is to continue to survive.
- C. The reason a mature colony goes out of existence is that younger, more aggressive colonies successfully outcompete it for food.
- D. The pattern of changing behavior that a colony displays does not arise from a change in the behavior of any individual worker ant or group of worker ants.
- E. A new colony comes into existence when a group of young, aggressive workers leaves a mature colony and sets up on its own.

CR29940.02

196. Trucking company owner: Theft of trucks containing valuable cargo is a serious problem. A new device produces radio signals that allow police to track stolen vehicles, and the recovery rate for stolen cargo in trucks equipped with the device is impressive. The device is too expensive to install in every truck, so we plan to install it in half of our trucks. Using those trucks for the most valuable cargo should largely eliminate losses from theft.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the trucking company owner's expectation about the results of implementing the plan?

- A. For thieves, a cargo is valuable only if it is easy for them to dispose of profitably.
- B. Some insurance companies charge less to insure cargoes transported in trucks protected by the device.
- C. Most stolen trucks are eventually found, but unless a stolen truck is found very soon after it is taken, the likelihood that the trucking company will recover any of its cargo is very low.
- D. Thieves generally avoid trucks belonging to trucking companies that are known to have installed the device in a large proportion of their trucks.
- E. The manufacturer of the device offers a five-year warranty on each unit sold, a longer warranty than any that is offered on any competing antitheft device.

CR11050.02

197. To improve customer relations, several big retailers have recently launched "smile initiatives," requiring their employees to smile whenever they have contact with customers. These retailers generally have low employee morale, which is why they have to enforce smiling. However, studies show that customers can tell fake smiles from genuine smiles and that fake smiles prompt negative feelings in customers. So the smile initiatives are unlikely to achieve their goal.

The argument relies on which of the following as an assumption?

- A. The smile initiatives have achieved nearly complete success in getting employees to smile while they are around customers.
- B. Customers' feelings about fake smiles are no better than their feelings about the other facial expressions employees with low morale are likely to have.
- C. The feelings that employees generate in retail customers are a principal determinant of the amount of money customers will spend at a retailer.
- D. At the retailers who have launched the smile initiatives, none of the employees gave genuine smiles to customers before the initiatives were launched.
- E. Customers rarely, if ever, have a negative reaction to a genuine smile from a retail employee.

CR55190.02

198. Many economists hold that keeping taxes low helps to spur economic growth, and that low taxes thus lead to greater national prosperity. But Country X, which has unusually high taxes, has greater per-capita income than the neighboring Country Y, which has much lower taxes. Some politicians have concluded from this that high taxes do not hinder national prosperity.

The politicians' reasoning is most vulnerable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

- A. It overlooks the possibility that even if Country X reduced its taxes, it would not experience greater national prosperity in the long term.
- B. It confuses a claim that a factor does not hinder a given development with the claim that the same factor promotes that development.
- C. It fails to adequately address the possibility that Country X and Country Y differ in relevant respects other than taxation.
- D. It fails to take into account that the per-capita income of a country does not determine its rate of economic growth.

- E. It assumes that the economists' thesis must be correct despite a clear counterexample to that thesis.

CR11080.02

199. Urban rail systems have been proposed to alleviate traffic congestion, but results in many cities have been cited as evidence that this approach to traffic management is ineffective. For example, a U.S. city that opened three urban rail branches experienced a net decline of 3,100 urban rail commuters during a period when employment increased by 96,000. Officials who favor urban rail systems as a solution to traffic congestion have attempted to counter this argument by noting that commuting trips in that city represent just 20 percent of urban travel.

The response of the officials to the claim that urban rail systems are ineffective is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it

- A. presents no evidence to show that the statistics are incorrect
- B. relies solely on general data about U.S. cities rather than data about the city in question
- C. fails to consider that commuting trips may cause significantly more than 20 percent of the traffic congestion
- D. fails to show that the decline in the number of urban rail commuters in one U.S. city is typical of U.S. cities generally
- E. provides no statistics on the use of urban rail systems by passengers other than commuters

CR63780.02

200. Mayor: The financial livelihood of our downtown businesses is in jeopardy. There are few available parking spaces close to the downtown shopping area, so if we are to spur economic growth in our city, we must build a large parking ramp no more than two blocks from downtown.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the mayor's reasoning?

- A. The city budget is not currently large enough to finance the construction of a new parking ramp.
- B. There are other more significant reasons for the financial woes of downtown businesses in addition to a lack of nearby parking spaces.
- C. Building a parking ramp as much as four blocks from downtown would be sufficient to greatly increase the number of shoppers to downtown businesses.
- D. Explosive growth is most often associated with large suburban shopping malls, not small businesses.
- E. Some additional parking spaces could be added to the downtown area without the construction of a parking ramp.

CR28001.02

201. Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs are growing in market share as a replacement for the standard incandescent light bulb. However, an even newer technology is emerging: the light-emitting diode (LED) bulb. Like CFL bulbs, LED bulbs are energy efficient, and they can last around fifty thousand hours, about five times as long as most CFL bulbs. Yet, a single LED bulb costs much more than five CFL bulbs.

The information in the passage above most supports which of the following conclusions?



- A. LED bulbs are most likely to be used in locations where light bulbs would be difficult or costly to replace.
- B. CFL bulbs will need to come down further in price in order to compete with LED bulbs.
- C. LED bulbs are most likely to be used in locations where there is frequent accidental breakage of bulbs.
- D. CFL bulb designs are likely to advance to the point where they can last as long as LED bulbs.
- E. LED bulbs are likely to drop in price, to the point of being competitive with CFL bulbs.

CR01887

202. Tanco, a leather manufacturer, uses large quantities of common salt to preserve animal hides. New environmental regulations have significantly increased the cost of disposing of salt water that results from this use, and, in consequence, Tanco is considering a plan to use potassium chloride in place of common salt. Research has shown that Tanco could reprocess the by-product of potassium chloride use to yield a crop fertilizer, leaving a relatively small volume of waste for disposal.

In determining the impact on company profits of using potassium chloride in place of common salt, it would be important for Tanco to research all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. What difference, if any, is there between the cost of the common salt needed to preserve a given quantity of animal hides and the cost of the potassium chloride needed to preserve the same quantity of hides?
- B. To what extent is the equipment involved in preserving animal hides using common salt suitable for preserving animal hides using potassium chloride?
- C. What environmental regulations, if any, constrain the disposal of the waste generated in reprocessing the by-product of potassium chloride?
- D. How closely does leather that results when common salt is used to preserve hides resemble that which results when potassium chloride is used?
- E. Are the chemical properties that make potassium chloride an effective means for preserving animal hides the same as those that make common salt an effective means for doing so?

CR04999

203. Colorless diamonds can command high prices as gemstones. A type of less valuable diamonds can be treated to remove all color. Only sophisticated tests can distinguish such treated diamonds from naturally colorless ones. However, only 2 percent of diamonds mined are of the colored type that can be successfully treated, and many of those are of insufficient quality to make the treatment worthwhile. Surely, therefore, the vast majority of colorless diamonds sold by jewelers are naturally colorless.

A serious flaw in the reasoning of the argument is that

- A. comparisons between the price diamonds command as gemstones and their value for other uses are omitted
- B. information about the rarity of treated diamonds is not combined with information about the rarity of naturally colorless, gemstone diamonds
- C. the possibility that colored diamonds might be used as gemstones, even without having been treated, is ignored

- D. the currently available method for making colorless diamonds from colored ones is treated as though it were the only possible method for doing so
- E. the difficulty that a customer of a jeweler would have in distinguishing a naturally colorless diamond from a treated one is not taken into account

CR14448

204. 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

CR09085

205. 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 preventable illnesses.

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.

CR01766

206. Boreal owls range over a much larger area than do other owls of similar size. The reason for this behavior is probably that the small mammals on which owls feed are especially scarce in the forests where boreal owls live, and the relative scarcity of prey requires the owls to range more extensively to find sufficient food.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to confirm the explanation above?

- A. Some boreal owls range over an area eight times larger than the area over which any other owl of similar size ranges.
- B. Boreal owls range over larger areas in regions where food of the sort eaten by small mammals is sparse than they do in regions where such food is abundant.
- C. After their young hatch, boreal owls must hunt more often than before in order to feed both themselves and their newly hatched young.
- D. Sometimes individual boreal owls hunt near a single location for many weeks at a time and do not range farther than a few hundred yards.
- E. The boreal owl requires less food, relative to its weight, than is required by members of other owl species.

CR12567

207. Microbiologist: A lethal strain of salmonella recently showed up in a European country, causing an outbreak of illness that killed two people and infected twenty-seven others. Investigators blame the severity of the outbreak on the overuse of antibiotics, since the salmonella bacteria tested were shown to be drug-resistant. But this is unlikely because patients in the country where the outbreak occurred cannot obtain antibiotics to treat illness without a prescription, and the country's doctors prescribe antibiotics less readily than do doctors in any other European country.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the microbiologist's reasoning?

- A. Physicians in the country where the outbreak occurred have become hesitant to prescribe antibiotics since they are frequently in short supply.
- B. People in the country where the outbreak occurred often consume foods produced from animals that eat antibiotics-laden livestock feed.
- C. Use of antibiotics in two countries that neighbor the country where the outbreak occurred has risen over the past decade.
- D. Drug-resistant strains of salmonella have not been found in countries in which antibiotics are not generally available.
- E. Salmonella has been shown to spread easily along the distribution chains of certain vegetables, such as raw tomatoes.

CR37090.02

208. Economist: Construction moves faster in good weather than in bad, so mild winters in areas that usually experience harsh conditions can appear to create construction booms as builders complete projects that would otherwise have to wait. But forecasting one mild winter or even two for such areas generally does not lead to overall increases in construction during these periods, because construction loans are often obtained more than a year in advance, and because \_\_\_\_\_.

Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the economist's argument?

- A. construction workers often travel to warmer climates in the wintertime in search of work
- B. construction materials are often in short supply during construction booms
- C. many builders in these areas are likely to apply for construction loans at the same time
- D. it is frequently the case that forecasted weather trends do not actually occur
- E. mild winters are generally followed by spring and summer weather that promotes more rapid construction

209. Historian: Newton developed mathematical concepts and techniques that are fundamental to modern calculus. Leibniz developed closely analogous concepts and techniques. It has traditionally been thought that these discoveries were independent. Researchers have, however, recently discovered notes of Leibniz's that discuss one of Newton's books on mathematics. Several scholars have argued that since **the book includes a presentation of Newton's calculus concepts and techniques**, and since the notes were written before Leibniz's own development of calculus concepts and techniques, it is virtually certain **that the traditional view is false**. A more cautious conclusion than this is called for, however. Leibniz's notes are limited to early sections of Newton's book, sections that precede the ones in which Newton's calculus concepts and techniques are presented.

In the historian's reasoning, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- A. The first is a claim that the historian rejects; the second is a position that that claim has been used to support.
- B. The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion about which the historian expresses reservations; the second is that conclusion.
- C. The first provides evidence in support of a position that the historian defends; the second is that position.
- D. The first and the second each provide evidence in support of a position that the historian defends.
- E. The first has been used in support of a position that the historian rejects; the second is a conclusion that the historian draws from that position.

210. For over two centuries, no one had been able to make Damascus blades—blades with a distinctive serpentine surface pattern—but a contemporary sword maker may just have rediscovered how. Using iron with trace impurities that precisely matched those present in the iron used in historic Damascus blades, this contemporary sword maker seems to have finally hit on an intricate process by which he can produce a blade indistinguishable from a true Damascus blade.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest support for the hypothesis that trace impurities in the iron are essential for the production of Damascus blades?

- A. There are surface features of every Damascus blade—including the blades produced by the contemporary sword maker—that are unique to that blade.
- B. The iron with which the contemporary sword maker made Damascus blades came from a source of iron that was unknown two centuries ago.
- C. Almost all the tools used by the contemporary sword maker were updated versions of tools that were used by sword makers over two centuries ago.
- D. Production of Damascus blades by sword makers of the past ceased abruptly after those sword makers' original source of iron became exhausted.
- E. Although Damascus blades were renowned for maintaining a sharp edge, the blade made by the contemporary sword maker suggests that they may have maintained their edge less well than blades made using what is now the standard process for making blades.

211. Images from ground-based telescopes are invariably distorted by the Earth's atmosphere. Orbiting space telescopes, however, operating above Earth's atmosphere, should provide

superbly detailed images. Therefore, ground-based telescopes will soon become obsolete for advanced astronomical research purposes.

Which of the following statements, if true, would cast the most doubt on the conclusion drawn above?

- A. An orbiting space telescope due to be launched this year is far behind schedule and over budget, whereas the largest ground-based telescope was both within budget and on schedule.
- B. Ground-based telescopes located on mountain summits are not subject to the kinds of atmospheric distortion which, at low altitudes, make stars appear to twinkle.
- C. By careful choice of observatory location, it is possible for large-aperture telescopes to avoid most of the kind of wind turbulence that can distort image quality.
- D. When large-aperture telescopes are located at high altitudes near the equator, they permit the best Earth-based observations of the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, a prime target of astronomical research.
- E. Detailed spectral analyses, upon which astronomers rely for determining the chemical composition and evolutionary history of stars, require telescopes with more light-gathering capacity than space telescopes can provide.

CR07562

212. Generally scientists enter their field with the goal of doing important new research and accept as their colleagues those with similar motivation. Therefore, when any scientist wins renown as an expounder of science to general audiences, most other scientists conclude that this popularizer should no longer be regarded as a true colleague.

The explanation offered above for the low esteem in which scientific popularizers are held by research scientists assumes that

- A. serious scientific research is not a solitary activity, but relies on active cooperation among a group of colleagues
- B. research scientists tend not to regard as colleagues those scientists whose renown they envy
- C. a scientist can become a famous popularizer without having completed any important research
- D. research scientists believe that those who are well known as popularizers of science are not motivated to do important new research
- E. no important new research can be accessible to or accurately assessed by those who are not themselves scientists

CR07676

213. Urban planner: When a city loses population due to migration, property taxes in that city tend to rise. This is because there are then fewer residents paying to maintain an infrastructure that was designed to support more people. Rising property taxes, in turn, drive more residents away, compounding the problem. Since the city of Stonebridge is starting to lose population, the city government should therefore refrain from raising property taxes.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the urban planner's argument?

- A. If Stonebridge does not raise taxes on its residents to maintain its infrastructure, the city will become much less attractive to live in as that infrastructure decays.

- B. Stonebridge at present benefits from grants provided by the national government to help maintain certain parts of its infrastructure.
- C. If there is a small increase in property taxes in Stonebridge and a slightly larger proportion of total revenue than at present is allocated to infrastructure maintenance, the funding will be adequate for that purpose.
- D. Demographers project that the population of a region that includes Stonebridge will start to increase substantially within the next several years.
- E. The property taxes in Stonebridge are significantly lower than those in many larger cities.

CR01338

214. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Utrania was formerly a major petroleum exporter, but in recent decades economic stagnation and restrictive regulations inhibited investment in new oil fields. In consequence, Utranian oil exports dropped steadily as old fields became depleted. Utrania's currently improving economic situation, together with less-restrictive regulations, will undoubtedly result in the rapid development of new fields. However, it would be premature to conclude that the rapid development of new fields will result in higher oil exports, because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the price of oil is expected to remain relatively stable over the next several years
- B. the improvement in the economic situation in Utrania is expected to result in a dramatic increase in the proportion of Utranians who own automobiles
- C. most of the investment in new oil fields in Utrania is expected to come from foreign sources
- D. new technology is available to recover oil from old oil fields formerly regarded as depleted
- E. many of the new oil fields in Utrania are likely to be as productive as those that were developed during the period when Utrania was a major oil exporter

CR09592

215. The use of growth-promoting antibiotics in hog farming can weaken their effectiveness in treating humans because such use can spread resistance to those antibiotics among microorganisms. But now the Smee Company, one of the largest pork marketers, may stop buying pork raised on feed containing these antibiotics. Smee has 60 percent of the pork market, and farmers who sell to Smee would certainly stop using antibiotics in order to avoid jeopardizing their sales. So if Smee makes this change, it will probably significantly slow the decline in antibiotics' effectiveness for humans.

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

- A. Other major pork marketers will probably stop buying pork raised on feed containing growth-promoting antibiotics if Smee no longer buys such pork.
- B. The decline in hog growth due to discontinuation of antibiotics can be offset by improved hygiene.
- C. Authorities are promoting the use of antibiotics to which microorganisms have not yet developed resistance.
- D. A phaseout of use of antibiotics for hogs in one country reduced usage by over 50 percent over five years.
- E. If Smee stops buying pork raised with antibiotics, the firm's costs will probably increase.

216. In an experiment, volunteers walked individually through a dark, abandoned theater. Half of the volunteers had been told that the theater was haunted and the other half that it was under renovation. The first half reported significantly more unusual experiences than the second did. The researchers concluded that reports of encounters with ghosts and other supernatural entities generally result from prior expectations of such experiences.

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

- A. None of the volunteers in the second half believed that the unusual experiences they reported were supernatural.
- B. All of the volunteers in the first half believed that the researchers' statement that the theater was haunted was a lie.
- C. Before being told about the theater, the volunteers within each group varied considerably in their prior beliefs about supernatural experiences.
- D. Each unusual experience reported by the volunteers had a cause that did not involve the supernatural.
- E. The researchers did not believe that the theater was haunted.

217. In order to reduce dependence on imported oil, the government of Jalica has imposed minimum fuel-efficiency requirements on all new cars, beginning this year. The more fuel-efficient a car, the less pollution it produces per mile driven. As Jalicans replace their old cars with cars that meet the new requirements, annual pollution from car traffic is likely to decrease in Jalica.

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

- A. In Jalica, domestically produced oil is more expensive than imported oil.
- B. The Jalican government did not intend the new fuel-efficiency requirement to be a pollution-reduction measure.
- C. Some pollution-control devices mandated in Jalica make cars less fuel-efficient than they would be without those devices.
- D. The new regulation requires no change in the chemical formulation of fuel for cars in Jalica.
- E. Jalicans who get cars that are more fuel-efficient tend to do more driving than before.

218. Plantings of cotton bioengineered to produce its own insecticide against bollworms, a major cause of crop failure, sustained little bollworm damage until this year. This year the plantings are being seriously damaged by bollworms. Bollworms, however, are not necessarily developing resistance to the cotton's insecticide. Bollworms breed on corn, and last year more corn than usual was planted throughout cotton-growing regions. So it is likely that the cotton is simply being overwhelmed by corn-bred bollworms.

In evaluating the argument, which of the following would it be most useful to establish?

- A. Whether corn could be bioengineered to produce the insecticide
- B. Whether plantings of cotton that does not produce the insecticide are suffering unusually extensive damage from bollworms this year

- C. Whether other crops that have been bioengineered to produce their own insecticide successfully resist the pests against which the insecticide was to protect them
- D. Whether plantings of bioengineered cotton are frequently damaged by insect pests other than bollworms
- E. Whether there are insecticides that can be used against bollworms that have developed resistance to the insecticide produced by the bioengineered cotton

CR03331

219. Typically during thunderstorms most lightning strikes carry a negative electric charge; only a few carry a positive charge. Thunderstorms with unusually high proportions of positive-charge strikes tend to occur in smoky areas near forest fires. The fact that smoke carries positively charged smoke particles into the air above a fire suggests the hypothesis that the extra positive strikes occur because of the presence of such particles in the storm clouds.

Which of the following, if discovered to be true, most seriously undermines the hypothesis?

- A. Other kinds of rare lightning also occur with unusually high frequency in the vicinity of forest fires.
- B. The positive-charge strikes that occur near forest fires tend to be no more powerful than positive strikes normally are.
- C. A positive-charge strike is as likely to start a forest fire as a negative-charge strike is.
- D. Thunderstorms that occur in drifting clouds of smoke have extra positive-charge strikes weeks after the charge of the smoke particles has dissipated.
- E. The total number of lightning strikes during a thunderstorm is usually within the normal range in the vicinity of a forest fire.

CR01140

220. Many gardeners believe that the variety of clematis vine that is most popular among gardeners in North America is *jackmanii*. This belief is apparently correct since, of the one million clematis plants sold per year by the largest clematis nursery in North America, ten percent are *jackmanii*.

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

- A. The nursery sells more than ten different varieties of clematis.
- B. The largest clematis nursery in North America sells nothing but clematis plants.
- C. Some of the *jackmanii* sold by the nursery are sold to gardeners outside North America.
- D. Most North American gardeners grow clematis in their gardens.
- E. For all nurseries in North America that specialize in clematis, at least ten percent of the clematis plants they sell are *jackmanii*.

CR06422

221. Since 1990 the percentage of bacterial sinus infections in Aqadestan that are resistant to the antibiotic perxicillin has increased substantially. Bacteria can quickly develop resistance to an antibiotic when it is prescribed indiscriminately or when patients fail to take it as prescribed. Since perxicillin has not been indiscriminately prescribed, health officials hypothesize that the increase in perxicillin-resistant sinus infections is largely due to patients' failure to take this medication as prescribed.

Which of the following, if true of Aqadestan, provides most support for the health officials' hypothesis?



- A. Resistance to several other commonly prescribed antibiotics has not increased since 1990 in Aqadestan.
- B. A large number of Aqadestanis never seek medical help when they have a sinus infection.
- C. When it first became available, perxicillin was much more effective in treating bacterial sinus infections than any other antibiotic used for such infections at the time.
- D. Many patients who take perxicillin experience severe side effects within the first few days of their prescribed regimen.
- E. Aqadestani health clinics provide antibiotics to their patients at cost.

CR07793

222. Psychologist: In a study, researchers gave 100 volunteers a psychological questionnaire designed to measure their self-esteem. The researchers then asked each volunteer to rate the strength of his or her own social skills. The volunteers with the highest levels of self-esteem consistently rated themselves as having much better social skills than did the volunteers with moderate levels. This suggests that attaining an exceptionally high level of self-esteem greatly improves one's social skills.

The psychologist's argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

- A. It fails to adequately address the possibility that many of the volunteers may not have understood what the psychological questionnaire was designed to measure.
- B. It takes for granted that the volunteers with the highest levels of self-esteem had better social skills than did the other volunteers, even before the former volunteers had attained their high levels of self-esteem.
- C. It overlooks the possibility that people with very high levels of self-esteem may tend to have a less accurate perception of the strength of their own social skills than do people with moderate levels of self-esteem.
- D. It relies on evidence from a group of volunteers that is too small to provide any support for any inferences regarding people in general.
- E. It overlooks the possibility that factors other than level of self-esteem may be of much greater importance in determining the strength of one's social skills.

CR06826

223. A product that represents a clear technological advance over competing products can generally command a high price. Because **technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed** and companies want to make large profits while they still can, **many companies charge the maximum possible price for such a product**. But large profits on the new product will give competitors a strong incentive to quickly match the new product's capabilities. Consequently, the strategy to maximize overall profit from a new product is to charge less than the greatest possible price.

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

- A. The first is a consideration raised to argue that a certain strategy is counterproductive; the second presents that strategy.
- B. The first is a consideration raised to support the strategy that the argument recommends; the second presents that strategy.
- C. The first is a consideration raised to help explain the popularity of a certain strategy; the second presents that strategy.

- D. The first is an assumption, rejected by the argument, that has been used to justify a course of action; the second presents that course of action.
- E. The first is a consideration that has been used to justify adopting a certain strategy; the second presents the intended outcome of that strategy.

CR05554

224. Gortland has long been narrowly self-sufficient in both grain and meat. However, as per capita income in Gortland has risen toward the world average, per capita consumption of meat has also risen toward the world average, and it takes several pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat. Therefore, since per capita income continues to rise, whereas domestic grain production will not increase, Gortland will soon have to import either grain or meat or both.

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

- A. The total acreage devoted to grain production in Gortland will not decrease substantially.
- B. The population of Gortland has remained relatively constant during the country's years of growing prosperity.
- C. The per capita consumption of meat in Gortland is roughly the same across all income levels.
- D. In Gortland, neither meat nor grain is subject to government price controls.
- E. People in Gortland who increase their consumption of meat will not radically decrease their consumption of grain.

CR05625

225. Political Advertisement:

Mayor Delmont's critics complain about the jobs that were lost in the city under Delmont's leadership. Yet the fact is that not only were more jobs created than were eliminated, but each year since Delmont took office the average pay for the new jobs created has been higher than that year's average pay for jobs citywide. So it stands to reason that throughout Delmont's tenure the average paycheck in this city has been getting steadily bigger.

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

- A. The unemployment rate in the city is higher today than it was when Mayor Delmont took office.
- B. The average pay for jobs in the city was at a ten-year low when Mayor Delmont took office.
- C. Each year during Mayor Delmont's tenure, the average pay for jobs that were eliminated has been higher than the average pay for jobs citywide.
- D. Most of the jobs eliminated during Mayor Delmont's tenure were in declining industries.
- E. The average pay for jobs in the city is currently lower than it is for jobs in the suburbs surrounding the city.

CR04930

226. To prevent a newly built dam on the Chiff River from blocking the route of fish migrating to breeding grounds upstream, the dam includes a fish pass, a mechanism designed to allow fish through the dam. Before the construction of the dam and fish pass, several thousand fish a day swam upriver during spawning season. But in the first season after the project's completion, only 300 per day made the journey. Clearly, the fish pass is defective.

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

- A. Fish that have migrated to the upstream breeding grounds do not return down the Chiff River again.
- B. On other rivers in the region, the construction of dams with fish passes has led to only small decreases in the number of fish migrating upstream.
- C. The construction of the dam stirred up potentially toxic river sediments that were carried downstream.
- D. Populations of migratory fish in the Chiff River have been declining slightly over the last 20 years.
- E. During spawning season, the dam releases sufficient water for migratory fish below the dam to swim upstream.

CR09969

227. Music critic: Fewer and fewer musicians are studying classical music, decreasing the likelihood that those with real aptitude for such music will be performing it. Audiences who hear these performances will not appreciate classical music's greatness and will thus decamp to other genres. So to maintain classical music's current meager popularity, we must encourage more young musicians to enter the field.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the music critic's reasoning?

- A. Musicians who choose to study classical music do so because they believe they have an aptitude for the music.
- B. Classical music's current meager popularity is attributable to the profusion of other genres of music available to listeners.
- C. Most people who appreciate classical music come to do so through old recordings rather than live performances.
- D. It is possible to enjoy the music in a particular genre even when it is performed by musicians who are not ideally suited for that genre.
- E. The continued popularity of a given genre of music depends in part on the audiences being able to understand why that genre attained its original popularity.

CR67850.02

228. People with a college degree are more likely than others to search for a new job while they are employed. There are proportionately more people with college degrees among managers and other professionals than among service and clerical workers. Surprisingly, however, 2009 figures indicate that people employed as managers and other professionals were no more likely than people employed as service and clerical workers to have searched for a new job.

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

- A. People generally do not take a new job that is offered to them while they are employed unless the new job pays better.
- B. Some service and clerical jobs pay more than some managerial and professional jobs.
- C. People who felt they were overqualified for their current positions were more likely than others to search for a new job.
- D. The percentage of employed people who were engaged in job searches declined from 2005 to 2009.

- E. In 2009 employees with no college degree who retired were more likely to be replaced by people with a college degree if they retired from a managerial or professional job than from a service or clerical job.

CR20190.02

229. To reduce traffic congestion, City X's transportation bureau plans to encourage people who work downtown to sign a form pledging to carpool or use public transportation for the next year. Everyone who signs the form will get a coupon for a free meal at any downtown restaurant.

For the transportation bureau's plan to succeed in reducing traffic congestion, which of the following must be true?

- A. Everyone who signs the pledge form will fully abide by the pledge for the next year.
- B. At least some people who work downtown prefer the restaurants downtown to those elsewhere.
- C. Most downtown traffic congestion in City X results from people who work downtown.
- D. The most effective way to reduce traffic congestion downtown would be to persuade more people who work there to carpool or use public transportation.
- E. At least some people who receive the coupon for a free meal will sometimes carpool or use public transportation during the next year.

CR05656

230. 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.

CR56601.02

231. When new laws imposing strict penalties for misleading corporate disclosures were passed, they were hailed as initiating an era of corporate openness. As an additional benefit, given the increased amount and accuracy of information disclosed under the new laws, it was assumed that analysts' predictions of corporate performance would become more accurate. Since the passage of the laws, however, the number of inaccurate analysts' predictions has not in fact decreased.

Which of the following would, if true, best explain the discrepancy outlined above?

- A. The new laws' definition of "misleading information" can be interpreted in more than one way.

- B. The new laws require corporations in all industries to release information at specific times of the year.
- C. Even before the new laws were passed, the information most corporations released was true.
- D. Analysts base their predictions on information they gather from many sources, not just corporate disclosures.
- E. The more pieces of information corporations release, the more difficult it becomes for anyone to organize them in a manageable way.

CR50611.02

232. Economist: Even with energy conservation efforts, current technologies cannot support both a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and an expanding global economy. Attempts to restrain emissions without new technology will stifle economic growth. Therefore, increases in governmental spending on research into energy technology will be necessary if we wish to reduce carbon dioxide emissions without stifling economic growth.

Which of the following is an assumption the economist's argument requires?

- A. If research into energy technology does not lead to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, then economic growth will be stifled.
- B. Increased governmental spending on research into energy technology will be more likely to reduce carbon dioxide emissions without stifling growth than will nongovernmental spending.
- C. An expanding global economy may require at least some governmental spending on research into energy technology.
- D. Attempts to restrain carbon dioxide emissions without new technology could ultimately cost more than the failure to reduce those emissions would cost.
- E. Restraining carbon dioxide emissions without stifling economic growth would require both new energy technology and energy conservation efforts.

CR98001.02

233. Researchers have developed a technology that uses sound as a means of converting heat into electrical energy. Converters based on this technology can be manufactured small enough to be integrated into consumer electronics, where they will absorb significant quantities of heat. A group of engineers is now designing converters to be sold to laptop computer manufacturers, who are expected to use the electrical output of the converters to conserve battery power in their computers.

Which of the following would, if true, provide the strongest evidence that the engineers' plan will be commercially successful for their group?

- A. The sound that is used by the converters is generated by the converters themselves.
- B. Most laptop computer manufacturers today receive fewer complaints than in previous years regarding shortness of operating time on a single battery charge.
- C. The overheating of microprocessors in laptop computers presents a major technological challenge that manufacturers are prepared to meet at significant expense.
- D. Although battery technology has improved significantly, the average capacity of laptop computer batteries has not.
- E. Electrical power generated by the converters can be used to power the fans installed to cool computers' components.

## 5.5 Answer Key

113. C

114. D

115. D

116. B

117. B

118. A

119. C

120. D

121. B

122. B

123. B

124. A

125. C

126. D

127. E

128. A

129. C

130. A

131. B

132. B

133. A

134. D

135. A

136. C

137. E

138. C

139. B

140. A

141. A

142. D

143. B

144. B

145. A

146. B

147. A

148. A

149. C  
150. C  
151. D  
152. A  
153. A  
154. B  
155. C  
156. B  
157. C  
158. E  
159. D  
160. E  
161. C  
162. C  
163. B  
164. C  
165. B  
166. C  
167. C  
168. A  
169. A  
170. A  
171. A  
172. D  
173. D  
174. C  
175. D  
176. C  
177. A  
178. C  
179. C  
180. B  
181. B  
182. C  
183. B  
184. D  
185. D

186. D  
187. D  
188. B  
189. C  
190. E  
191. E  
192. C  
193. E  
194. E  
195. D  
196. D  
197. B  
198. C  
199. C  
200. C  
201. A  
202. E  
203. B  
204. B  
205. D  
206. B  
207. B  
208. D  
209. B  
210. D  
211. E  
212. D  
213. A  
214. B  
215. A  
216. B  
217. E  
218. B  
219. D  
220. A  
221. D  
222. C



- 223. C
- 224. E
- 225. C
- 226. C
- 227. C
- 228. C
- 229. E
- 230. B
- 231. E
- 232. B
- 233. C

## 5.6 Answer Explanations

The following discussion is intended to familiarize you with the most efficient and effective approaches to Critical Reasoning questions. The particular questions in this chapter are generally representative of the kinds of Critical Reasoning questions you will encounter on the GMAT exam. Remember that it is the problem solving strategy that is important, not the specific details of a particular question.

### Questions 113 to 154 - Difficulty: Easy

\*CR14249

113. PhishCo runs a number of farms in the arid province of Nufa, depending largely on irrigation. Now, as part of a plan to efficiently increase the farms' total production, it plans to drill down to an aquifer containing warm, slightly salty water that will be used to raise fish in ponds. The water from the ponds will later be used to supplement piped-in irrigation water for PhishCo's vegetable fields, and the ponds and accompanying vegetation should help reduce the heat in the area of the farms.

Which of the following would, if true, most strongly suggest that the plan, if implemented, would increase the overall efficiency of PhishCo's farms?

- A. Most of the vegetation to be placed around the ponds is native to Nufa.
- B. Fish raised on PhishCo's farms are likely to be saleable in the nearest urban areas.
- C. Organic waste from fish in the pond water will help to fertilize fields where it is used for irrigation.
- D. The government of Nufa will help to arrange loan financing to partially cover the costs of drilling.
- E. Ponds will be located on low-lying land now partially occupied by grain crops.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** A company plans to increase the total efficiency of its farms in an arid region by drilling down to an aquifer whose water will be used to raise fish in ponds and to help irrigate the farms' vegetable fields. The ponds and accompanying vegetation should help reduce the heat around the farms.

**Reasoning** *What would make it most likely that implementing the plan would increase the farms' overall efficiency?* The farms will become more efficient if the plan

significantly increases their production for little or no added cost.

- A. Vegetation native to an arid region may be no more likely to thrive around ponds than non-native vegetation would be, and in any case would not clearly increase the farms' total crop production or efficiency.
- B. This makes it slightly more likely that the plan would increase the farms' profitability, not their efficiency or productivity.
- C. **Correct.** Fertilizing the fields with the waste while irrigating the crops might significantly improve crop production. But it would cost little or nothing extra, since the waste would already be in the irrigation water. Thus, this feature of the plan would likely enhance the farms' efficiency by increasing their productivity for no significant extra cost.
- D. This government assistance might slightly reduce the work the company has to do to procure a loan. But probably it would neither increase the farms' production nor reduce the overall expense of implementing the plan (including the expense incurred by the government).
- E. If anything, this suggests that the plan might reduce the farms' efficiency by eliminating productive crop land.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR12701.02

114. Stockholders have been critical of the Flyna Company, a major furniture retailer, because most of Flyna's furniture is manufactured in Country X from local wood, and illegal logging is widespread there. However, Flyna has set up a certification scheme for lumber mills. It has hired a staff of auditors and forestry professionals who review documentation of the wood supply of Country X's lumber mills to ensure its legal origin, make surprise visits to mills to verify documents, and certify mills as approved sources of legally obtained lumber. Flyna uses only lumber from certified mills. Thus, Flyna's claim that its Country X wood supply is obtained legally is justified.

Which of the following, if true, would most undermine the justification provided for Flyna's claim?

- A. Only about one-third of Flyna's inspectors were hired from outside the company.
- B. Country X's government recently reduced its subsidies for lumber production.
- C. Flyna has had to pay higher than expected salaries to attract qualified inspectors.
- D. The proportion of Country X's lumber mills inspected each year by Flyna's staff is about 10 percent, randomly selected.
- E. Illegal logging costs Country X's government a significant amount in lost revenue each year.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** The Flyna Company sells furniture mostly made in Country X from local wood. Illegal logging is widespread in Country X. Flyna has set up a certification scheme for lumber mills. Specialized staff make surprise visits to Country X mills, inspect documentation to ensure that the wood supply has a legal origin, and certify mills as approved sources for legally obtained lumber. Flyna uses only lumber from certified mills. According to the argument, Flyna's claim that its wood supply is legally obtained is justified.

**Reasoning** *What additional information would, if true, most undermine the justification*

*for Flyna's claim that its Country X wood is legally obtained?* Clearly, much depends on the thoroughness of the certification scheme. For example, the staff auditing the mills would need to be qualified for the job and meticulous in meeting their responsibilities. The auditing visits would need to be frequent enough, and not predictable by mill management. Flyna would need to be genuinely committed to ensuring legality of wood sources; it would need to monitor its staff to ensure that they were doing their jobs effectively.

- A. This suggests that Flyna could make good judgments as to the competence and trustworthiness of most of the inspectors hired to certify lumber mills.
- B. This could provide a perverse incentive to loggers to violate legal restrictions on logging. However, this would not undercut Flyna's justification for its claim that its system ensures that all its lumber is legally sourced.
- C. This has no bearing on whether Flyna's certification system will be effective in guaranteeing that Flyna's lumber is legally sourced. We are not told, for example, that Flyna has been unable to find enough qualified inspectors for the certification system to be effective.
- D. **Correct.** This means that 90 percent of Country X's certified lumber mills are not inspected in any particular year. Moreover, since the selection of the 10 percent of lumber mills to be inspected in a given year is random, some lumber mills might go for much longer than ten years without inspection; during this period, many of those mills might fall below certification standards and even use lumber illegally obtained.
- E. This indicates that a significant amount of illegal logging occurs in Country X; this suggests that it is possible that some illegally sourced wood could find its way to lumber mills that Flyna uses and has certified. But the information given here is not sufficiently specific to indicate that the Flyna certification system would fail to prevent the company's use of illegally sourced wood.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR12721.02

115. The *XCT* automobile is considered less valuable than the *ZNK* automobile, because insurance companies pay less, on average, to replace a stolen *XCT* than a stolen *ZNK*. Surprisingly, the average amount insurance companies will pay to repair a car involved in a collision is typically higher for the *XCT* than for the *ZNK*. One insurance expert explained that repairs to *XCT* automobiles are especially labor-intensive, and labor is a significant factor in collision repair costs.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the insurance expert's explanation?

- A. *ZNK* automobiles are involved in accidents more frequently than *XCT* automobiles.
- B. The cost of routine maintenance for the *ZNK* is about the same as for the *XCT*.
- C. There are more automobile mechanics who specialize in *XCT* repairs than in *ZNK* repairs.
- D. The ease of repair of *ZNK* automobiles is one factor that adds to their value.
- E. *XCT* automobiles are more likely to be stolen than *ZNK* automobiles.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Two automobile models *XCT* and *ZNK* are compared with respect to (1) what insurance companies pay on average to replace a stolen vehicle and (2) what insurance companies pay on average to repair a crashed vehicle. On (1), insurance companies pay less for *XCT*s than for *ZNK*s. On (2), insurance

companies pay more for repairing *XCTs* than *ZNKs*. An insurance expert explains that repairs to *XCTs* are especially labor-intensive; this tends to raise the cost of repairs.

**Reasoning** *Which piece of new information most strongly supports the expert's explanation for the fact that the replacement value is greater for the car that has lower repair costs?* We should look for information that supplements the explanation in a way that shows the coherence of the two facts given regarding insurance payments for the two cars.

- A. The frequency of accidents is not directly relevant to the higher cost of collision repair for those *XCTs* that are involved in collisions.
- B. This information is not directly relevant to the higher cost of collision repair for *XCTs*. It neither undermines nor supports the claim that *XCT* labor costs are higher per crashed vehicle and does not help support that claim as an explanation for the discrepancy in question.
- C. This neither supports nor undermines the expert's explanation. If we had information concerning the supply of *XCT* mechanics and *ZNK* mechanics relative to the demand for each, we would have some evidence that could throw light on differences in labor costs.
- D. **Correct.** *ZNKs* are more valuable because buyers know that total repair costs will be lower. This is reflected in the market value of *ZNKs* compared to that of *XCTs*. Replacing a stolen *XCT* costs insurance companies less than replacing a stolen *ZNK* because the lower market value of *XCTs* is related in the high cost of collision repair.
- E. This is unlikely to lower the market value of *XCTs*. The market value of *XCTs* is the factor that determines how much it costs to replace a stolen *XCT*.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR07612

116. The sustained massive use of pesticides in farming has two effects that are especially pernicious. First, it often kills off the pests' natural enemies in the area. Second, it often unintentionally gives rise to insecticide-resistant pests, since those insects that survive a particular insecticide will be the ones most resistant to it, and they are the ones left to breed.

From the passage above, it can be properly inferred that the effectiveness of the sustained massive use of pesticides can be extended by doing which of the following, assuming that each is a realistic possibility?

- A. Using only chemically stable insecticides
- B. Periodically switching the type of insecticide used
- C. Gradually increasing the quantities of pesticides used
- D. Leaving a few fields fallow every year
- E. Breeding higher-yielding varieties of crop plants

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** Continued high-level pesticide use often kills off the targeted pests' natural enemies. In addition, the pests that survive the application of the pesticide may become resistant to it, and these pesticide-resistant pests will continue breeding.

**Reasoning** *What can be done to prolong the effectiveness of pesticide use?* It can be inferred that the ongoing use of a particular pesticide will not continue to be

effective against the future generations of pests with an inherent resistance to that pesticide. What would be effective against these future generations? If farmers periodically change the particular pesticide they use, then pests resistant to one kind of pesticide might be killed by another. This would continue, with pests being killed off in cycles as the pesticides are changed. It is also possible that this rotation might allow some of the pests' natural enemies to survive, at least until the next cycle.

- A. Not enough information about chemically stable insecticides is given to make a sound inference.
- B. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies an action that could extend the effectiveness of pesticide use.
- C. Gradually increasing the amount of the pesticides being used will not help the situation since the pests are already resistant to it.
- D. Continued use of pesticides is assumed as part of the argument. Since pesticides would be unnecessary for fallow fields, this suggestion is irrelevant.
- E. Breeding higher-yielding varieties of crops does nothing to extend the effectiveness of the use of pesticides.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR00701

117. Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the argument below?

Manufacturers are now required to make all cigarette lighters child-resistant by equipping them with safety levers. But this change is unlikely to result in a significant reduction in the number of fires caused by children playing with lighters, because children given the opportunity can figure out how to work the safety levers and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the addition of the safety levers has made lighters more expensive than they were before the requirement was instituted
- B. adults are more likely to leave child-resistant lighters than non-child-resistant lighters in places that are accessible to children
- C. many of the fires started by young children are quickly detected and extinguished by their parents
- D. unlike child-resistant lighters, lighters that are not child-resistant can be operated by children as young as two years old
- E. approximately 5,000 fires per year have been attributed to children playing with lighters before the safety levers were required.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** Manufacturers must equip all cigarette lighters with child-resistant safety levers, but children can figure out how to circumvent the safety levers and thereby often start fires.

**Reasoning** *What point would most logically complete the argument? What would make it likely that the number of fires caused by children playing with lighters would remain the same? In order for children to start fires using lighters equipped with safety levers, they must be given the opportunity to figure out how the safety levers work and then to use them. They must, that is, have access to the lighters.*

- A. If safety-lever-equipped lighters are more expensive than lighters that are not so equipped, fewer lighters might be sold. This would most likely afford children less access to lighters, thus giving them less opportunity to start fires with them.
- B. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a point that logically completes the argument: it explains why children are likely to have access to lighters equipped with safety levers.
- C. The speed with which fires are extinguished does not have any bearing on the number of fires that are started.
- D. This provides a reason to believe that the number of fires started by children will most likely decrease, rather than stay the same: fewer children will be able to operate the lighters, and thus fewer fires are likely to be started.
- E. This information about how many fires were started by children before safety levers were required does not have any bearing on the question of how many fires are likely to be started by children now that the safety levers are required.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR04192

118. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

A business analysis of the Appenian railroad system divided its long-distance passenger routes into two categories: rural routes and interurban routes. The analysis found that, unlike the interurban routes, few rural routes carried a high enough passenger volume to be profitable. Closing unprofitable rural routes, however, will not necessarily enhance the profitability of the whole system, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a large part of the passenger volume on interurban routes is accounted for by passengers who begin or end their journeys on rural routes
- B. within the last two decades several of the least used rural routes have been closed and their passenger services have been replaced by buses
- C. the rural routes were all originally constructed at least one hundred years ago, whereas some of the interurban routes were constructed recently for new high-speed express trains
- D. not all of Appenia's large cities are equally well served by interurban railroad services
- E. the greatest passenger volume, relative to the routes' capacity, is not on either category of long-distance routes but is on suburban commuter routes

### Argument Construction

**Situation** In the Appenian railroad system, interurban routes generally carry enough passengers to be profitable, but few rural routes do.

**Reasoning** *What would suggest that closing unprofitable rural routes would not enhance the railroad system's profitability?* Any evidence that closing the unprofitable rural routes would indirectly reduce the profitability of other components of the railroad system would support the conclusion that closing those rural routes will not enhance the system's profitability. Thus, a statement providing such evidence would logically complete the passage.

- A. **Correct.** This suggests that closing the rural routes could discourage many passengers from traveling on the profitable interurban routes as well, thus reducing the profitability of the railroad system as a whole.



- B. Even if some of the least used rural routes have already been closed, it remains true that most of the remaining rural routes are too little used to be profitable.
- C. Closing very old routes would be at least as likely to enhance the railroad system's profitability as closing newer routes would be.
- D. Even if there is better railroad service to some large cities than others, closing unprofitable rural routes could still enhance the system's profitability.
- E. Even if suburban routes are the most heavily used and profitable, closing underused, unprofitable rural routes could still enhance the system's profitability.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR52441.01

119. In its search for new technologies for solar energy that can produce lower-cost electricity, Smith-Diatom is developing a new way to make dye-sensitive solar cells, in which photons strike light-sensitive dyes. The process uses diatoms, which are unicellular algae that have silicon shells with a complex structure. First, the organic material is removed, and then the shells are coated with a titanium dioxide film that acts as a semiconductor. The diatoms' structure results in more photon activity and thus more efficient production of electricity than with current dye-sensitized solar cells, which in turn lowers the cost.

Which of the following considerations would, if true, most strongly support the hypothesis that the plan, if implemented, will produce low-cost electricity from dye-sensitive solar cells?

- A. Diatoms are an important link in oceanic food chains and help cycle carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- B. The current cost of electricity produced by dye-sensitive solar cells is roughly three times that of non-solar electricity.
- C. Because diatoms occur naturally, no special engineering processes are needed to produce the basic dye-sensitive solar cell structures.
- D. Dye-sensitive solar cells work somewhat more efficiently in lower light than previous solar cell technologies.
- E. The production of dye-sensitive solar cells primarily uses materials that do not harm the environment.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** Smith-Diatom is trying to develop a new way to make dye-sensitive solar cells in hopes of developing a means for using solar energy to produce lower-cost electricity. Their new technology will use diatoms, single-celled algae with silicon shells that have a complex structure. This structure results in increased photon activity, which results in more efficient and lower-cost energy production than current dye-sensitive solar cells do.

**Reasoning** *What statement would provide the strongest support for the claim that Smith-Diatom's plan would result in the production of lower-cost energy than can be attained from the current dye-sensitive solar cells?* One potential problem with Smith-Diatom's plan would be if the intended use of diatoms would be costly. Any statement that ruled out a potentially costly aspects of production, e.g., costly engineering processes, would provide support for the claim in question.

- A. Nothing in Smith-Diatom's plan is related to diatom's connection to oceanic food chains or to their role in cycling carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

- B. That producing electricity by means of dye-sensitive solar cells is much more costly than other types of electricity production would help explain why Smith-Diatom wants to find a lower-cost means of producing solar energy, but it does not give us reason to think that Smith-Diatom's plan will be successful.
- C. **Correct.** If no special engineering processes are needed to carry out Smith-Diatom's plan, one potential costly aspect of solar-electricity production is ruled out, thereby providing some reason to think Smith-Diatom's goal of producing lower-cost electricity might be attainable.
- D. The fact that dye-sensitive solar cells work more efficiently in lower light than other solar cell technologies would help support the claim in question only if we knew that the cost of producing such cells is not prohibitive. Also, it could be the case that although dye-sensitive solar cells work more efficiently in lower light than other solar cell technologies, the other solar cell technologies might work much more efficiently in good lighting conditions.
- E. If the production of dye-sensitive solar cells does not harm the environment, that might be good reason to use such solar cells, but it is not relevant to determining whether Smith-Diatom's plan will be likely to attain its goal.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR03129

120. Although Ackerburg's subway system is currently operating at a deficit, the transit authority will lower subway fares next year. The authority projects that the lower fares will result in a ten percent increase in the number of subway riders. Since the additional income from the larger ridership will more than offset the decrease due to lower fares, the transit authority actually expects the fare reduction to reduce or eliminate the subway system's operating deficit for next year.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the transit authority's expectation of reducing the subway system's operating deficit?

- A. Throughout the years that the subway system has operated, fares have never before been reduced.
- B. The planned fare reduction will not apply to students, who can already ride the subway for a reduced fare.
- C. Next year, the transit authority will have to undertake several large-scale track maintenance projects.
- D. The subway system can accommodate a ten percent increase in ridership without increasing the number of trains it runs each day.
- E. The current subway fares in Ackerburg are higher than subway fares in other cities in the region.

### **Argument Evaluation**

**Situation** Ackerburg's transit authority plans to lower subway fares, projecting that this will increase ridership by 10 percent and thereby reduce or eliminate the subway system's operating deficit.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would support the expectation that lowering subway fares will reduce the operating deficit?* The passage says the additional income from the projected increase in ridership will more than offset the decrease due to the lowered fares. The claim that lowering fares will reduce the operating deficit could be supported either by additional evidence that lowering the fares will



increase ridership at least as much as projected or by evidence that the plan will not increase overall operating expenses.

- A. The fact that fares have never been reduced provides no evidence about what would happen if they were reduced.
- B. This suggests that the planned fare reduction would not affect revenue from student riders, but it does not suggest how it would affect revenue from all other riders.
- C. These maintenance projects will probably increase the operating deficit, making it less likely that the fare reduction will reduce or eliminate that deficit.
- D. **Correct.** This indicates that the plan will not involve extra operating expenses for running trains and thus increases the likelihood that the plan will reduce the operating deficit.
- E. Ackerburg may differ from other cities in the region in ways that make the higher fares optimal for Ackerburg's subway system.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR59590.02

121. At several locations on the northwest coast of North America are formations known as chevrons—wedge-shaped formations of mounded sediment—pointing toward the ocean. Most geologists take them to have been formed by erosion, but recently other scientists have proposed that they were thrown up from the ocean by massive waves triggered by meteor impacts in the Pacific Ocean.

Which of the following, if discovered, would most help in deciding which hypothesis is correct?

- A. Chevron-like structures which are not currently near glaciers, large rivers, or other bodies of water
- B. The presence, in chevrons, of deposits of ocean microfossils containing metals typically formed by meteor impacts
- C. Oral-history evidence for flooding that could have been caused by ocean waves
- D. The fact that exact data about the location and depth of any meteor impact craters on the Pacific seabed is lacking
- E. The fact that certain changes in the shape and location of maritime sand dunes have been produced by the action of wind and waves

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** The northwest coast of North America has chevrons—large wedge-shaped mounds of sediment—pointing toward the ocean. Two explanations have been offered for these phenomena: (1) they were formed by erosion, according to most geologists; and (2) meteor impacts caused massive waves that threw the formations up from the Pacific Ocean.

**Reasoning** *Which of the answer choices most helps to decide which explanation is correct?* If (2) is the true explanation, then one would expect evidence such as residues of ocean matter to be present in chevrons. If (1) is the true explanation, the chevrons would need to be analyzed to determine the sources of the eroded material, and the factors, such as wind or water, that produced the erosion.

- A. This information neither confirms nor conclusively eliminates either explanation (1) or explanation (2). The scientists hypothesize is that these chevrons, at these locations on

the coast, were caused by meteor impacts, not that geological structures with a similar shape are generally formed in that way. The scientists' reasoning is consistent with the hypothesis that different wedge-shaped geological structures are formed in many different ways.

- B. **Correct.** The ocean microfossils containing metals typically found in meteors would indicate that the metals were found in fossils that originated in the ocean. This provides strong evidence that meteors landed in the ocean; the fact that the metals are now found in the chevrons strongly supports explanation (2).
- C. The oral-history testimony concerning flooding by ocean waves provides weak evidence consistent with each of the two explanations. Erosion of rocks can deposit sediment, and ocean waves could form mounds of such sediment.
- D. This information points out that some additional bits of evidence that might help confirm explanation (2) are currently lacking, but such evidence might be discovered later, and the impacts might have occurred so long ago that all evidence of their exact locations has been obliterated. The fact that such evidence happens to be lacking now does not significantly count for or against either of the proposed explanations.
- E. This indicates that some types of sedimentary structures (such as sand dunes) can be shaped by ocean waves, but it gives no evidence of whether the chevrons might have originated as sand dunes. It also gives no indication of whether the dunes in question have a chevron shape or some other shape. So this does not provide information to significantly support either of the explanations.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR20531.01

122. Sparrow Airlines is planning to reduce its costs by cleaning its planes' engines once a month, rather than the industry standard of every six months. With cleaner engines, Sparrow can postpone engine overhauls, which take planes out of service for up to 18 months. Furthermore, cleaning an engine reduces its fuel consumption by roughly 1.2 percent.

The airline's plan assumes that

- A. fuel prices are likely to rise in the near future and therefore cutting fuel consumption is an important goal
- B. the cost of monthly cleaning of an airplane's engines is not significantly greater in the long run than is the cost of an engine overhaul
- C. engine cleaning does not remove an airplane from service
- D. Sparrow Airlines has had greater problems with engine overhauls and fuel consumption than other airlines have
- E. cleaning engines once a month will give Sparrow Airlines a competitive advantage over other airlines

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** Sparrow Airlines plans to clean the engines of its planes monthly rather than every six months. The goal is to reduce its costs.

**Reasoning** *Which statement provides an assumption underlying the plan?* The plan will enable Sparrow to postpone engine overhauls, which put a plane out of service for up to 18 months. The monthly cleaning will reduce its fuel consumption by 1.2 percent. But suppose the long-run cost of monthly cleanings were greater than the cost of an engine overhaul, then the rationale for the airline's plan would fail.

- A. Nothing in the information provided indicates that this is assumed in the plan.
- B. **Correct.** The plan makes sense only if this is assumed. If the long-run total cost of monthly cleaning significantly exceeded the total cost of engine overhaul—which would include, in the long run, more frequent downtime of 18 months if the plan were not adopted—then it seems likely that the projected benefit of postponement of engine overhauls would not be compensated for by the 1.2 percent fuel-cost savings.
- C. The plan does not have to assume this. Perhaps monthly engine cleaning requires only one day of down time.
- D. This is perhaps a good reason for Sparrow to put in place the proposed cost-saving plan, but it is not an assumption that the plan requires for it to make sense.
- E. The plan does not have to assume this, even if Sparrow’s cost saving were to result in a competitive advantage. Sparrow’s plan could equally be aimed at simply removing a competitive disadvantage. The issue of competition is not addressed in the given information.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR00828

123. Patrick usually provides child care for six children. Parents leave their children at Patrick’s house in the morning and pick them up after work. At the end of each workweek, the parents pay Patrick at an hourly rate for the child care provided that week. The weekly income Patrick receives is usually adequate but not always uniform, particularly in the winter, when children are likely to get sick and be unpredictably absent.

Which of the following plans, if put into effect, has the best prospect of making Patrick’s weekly income both uniform and adequate?

- A. Pool resources with a neighbor who provides child care under similar arrangements, so that the two of them cooperate in caring for twice as many children as Patrick currently does.
- B. Replace payment by actual hours of child care provided with a fixed weekly fee based upon the number of hours of child care that Patrick would typically be expected to provide.
- C. Hire a full-time helper and invest in facilities for providing child care to sick children.
- D. Increase the hourly rate to a level that would provide adequate income even in a week when half of the children Patrick usually cares for are absent.
- E. Increase the number of hours made available for child care each day, so that parents can leave their children in Patrick’s care for a longer period each day at the current hourly rate.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** At the end of the workweek, Patrick is paid a certain amount for each hour of child care he has provided. Patrick usually receives adequate weekly income under this arrangement, but in the winter Patrick’s income fluctuates, because children are unpredictably absent due to illness.

**Reasoning** *Which plan would be most likely to meet the two goals of uniform weekly income and adequate weekly income?* Patrick must find a way to ensure that his weekly income is both adequate—that is, not reduced significantly from current levels—and uniform—that is, not subject to seasonal or other fluctuations. A successful plan would thus most likely be one that does not increase Patrick’s costs. Further, the plan need not increase Patrick’s weekly

income; it must merely ensure that that income is more reliable. It should therefore also provide some way to mitigate the unexpected loss of income from children's absences.

- A. This plan might raise Patrick's income slightly, because he and the neighbor might pay out less in costs if they pool their resources. But this plan would have no effect on the problem that unpredictable absences pose for Patrick's weekly income.
- B. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a plan that would most likely keep Patrick's income adequate (he would probably receive approximately the same amount of money per child as he does now) and uniform (he would receive the money regardless of whether a child was present or absent).
- C. While this plan might somewhat mitigate the unpredictability in Patrick's income that results from sick children's absences—because parents would be less likely to keep sick children at home—it would increase Patrick's costs. Paying a helper and investing in different facilities would reduce Patrick's income and might thus result in that income being inadequate.
- D. Under this plan, if we assume that parents did not balk at the increase in Patrick's hourly rate and find alternative child care, Patrick's income would most likely be adequate. But this plan would not help make Patrick's weekly income uniform. His income would continue to fluctuate when children are absent. Remember, there are two goals with regard to Patrick's income: adequacy and uniformity.
- E. This plan might increase Patrick's income, in that he might be paid for more hours of child care each week. The goals here, however, are to make Patrick's weekly income both adequate and uniform, and this plan does not address the issue of uniformity.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR10639

124. Editorial: Consumers in North America think that by drinking frozen concentrated orange juice, they are saving energy, because it takes fewer truckloads to transport it than it takes to transport an equivalent amount of not-from-concentrate juice. But they are mistaken, for the amount of energy required to concentrate the juice is far greater than the energy difference in the juices' transport.

Which of the following, if true, would provide the greatest additional support for the editorial's conclusion?

- A. Freezer trucks use substantially more energy per mile driven than do any other types of trucks.
- B. Frozen juice can be stored for several years, while not-from-concentrate juice lasts a much shorter time.
- C. Oranges grown in Brazil make up an increasing percentage of the fruit used in not-from-concentrate juice production.
- D. A serving of not-from-concentrate juice takes up to six times more space than a serving of frozen concentrated juice.
- E. Though frozen concentrated juice must be kept at a lower temperature, not-from-concentrate juice is far more sensitive to small temperature fluctuations.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** North American consumers think that drinking frozen concentrated orange juice saves energy because the concentrated juice can be transported in fewer truckloads than an equivalent amount of not-from-concentrate juice. But more

energy is required to concentrate the juice than is saved by this reduction in the number of truckloads used for transportation.

**Reasoning** *What additional evidence would most help to support the conclusion that drinking frozen concentrated orange juice rather than not-from-concentrate juice does not save energy?* Factors other than the concentration process and the number of truckloads used for transportation may also affect the amounts of energy used to provide the two types of juice. Evidence of any such factor that increases the amount of energy needed to provide frozen concentrated juice more than it increases the amount needed to provide the same amount of not-from-concentrate juice would help to support the editorial's conclusion.

- A. **Correct.** This suggests that it takes much more energy per truckload to transport frozen concentrated juice than to transport not-from-concentrate juice, which is not frozen.
- B. If anything, this suggests that a higher proportion of not-from-concentrate juice goes bad and is discarded rather than being drunk. This waste would increase the amount of energy used to provide each glass of not-from-concentrate juice that is drunk.
- C. Since Brazil is far from North America, this suggests that the average amount of energy used to transport each serving of not-from-concentrate juice may be increasing.
- D. Since both types of juice must be kept cold until ready to drink, this suggests that a much larger amount of space must be refrigerated to provide each serving of not-from-concentrate juice. That may mean that more energy needs to be used to keep each serving of not-from-concentrate juice cold.
- E. It may take extra energy to keep the temperature of not-from-concentrate juice more constant. If it does, that would increase the amount of energy used to provide each serving of not-from-concentrate juice.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR07618

125. A computer equipped with signature-recognition software, which restricts access to a computer to those people whose signatures are on file, identifies a person's signature by analyzing not only the form of the signature but also such characteristics as pen pressure and signing speed. Even the most adept forgers cannot duplicate all of the characteristics the program analyzes.

Which of the following can be logically concluded from the passage above?

- A. The time it takes to record and analyze a signature makes the software impractical for everyday use.
- B. Computers equipped with the software will soon be installed in most banks.
- C. Nobody can gain access to a computer equipped with the software solely by virtue of skill at forging signatures.
- D. Signature-recognition software has taken many years to develop and perfect.
- E. In many cases even authorized users are denied legitimate access to computers equipped with the software.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Forgers cannot duplicate all the characteristics that signature-recognition software analyzes, including the form of a signature, pen pressure, and signing

speed. Computers equipped with this software restrict access to those whose signatures are on file.

**Reasoning** *What conclusion can be reached about computers equipped with this software?* The passage states that the software detects more characteristics in a signature than the most accomplished forger can possibly reproduce. Thus, skill at forging signatures is not enough to allow someone to gain access to a computer equipped with the software.

- A. No information about the speed of the analysis is given, so no such conclusion can be drawn.
- B. Although the software would likely be of benefit to banks, we cannot conclude that it will be installed in most banks because the passage doesn't rule out, e.g., that the software may be too costly or that there may be proprietary constraints.
- C. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage.
- D. Although it seems reasonable to think that the software took a long time to develop, nothing in the passage justifies the claim that it took years.
- E. Nothing in the passage rules out the possibility that the software functions so well that authorized users will never be denied legitimate access to computers equipped with the software.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR02958

126. The rate at which a road wears depends on various factors, including climate, amount of traffic, and the size and weight of the vehicles using it. The only land transportation to Rittland's seaport is via a divided highway, one side carrying traffic to the seaport and one carrying traffic away from it. The side leading to the seaport has worn faster, even though each side has carried virtually the same amount of traffic, consisting mainly of large trucks.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the difference in the rate of wear?

- A. The volume of traffic to and from Rittland's seaport has increased beyond the intended capacity of the highway that serves it.
- B. Wear on the highway that serves Rittland's seaport is considerably greater during the cold winter months.
- C. Wear on the side of the highway that leads to Rittland's seaport has encouraged people to take buses to the seaport rather than driving there in their own automobiles.
- D. A greater tonnage of goods is exported from Rittland's seaport than is imported through it.
- E. All of Rittland's automobiles are imported by ship.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** The side of a divided highway leading to a seaport has worn faster than the side leading away from the seaport. Both sides carry roughly the same amount of traffic, mainly consisting of large trucks.

**Reasoning** *What could explain why the side of the highway leading to the seaport has worn faster than the other side?* We are told that climate, amount of traffic, and the size and weight of vehicles on a road affect how quickly the road wears. We are also told that the amounts of traffic on the two sides of the highway are almost identical. Probably the climate on the two sides is also almost identical.



Thus, the most likely explanation for the different rates of wear is that the size or weight of the vehicles driving on the two sides differs significantly. So any factor that would make the vehicles' size or weight greater on the side leading to the seaport than on the other side could help explain the difference in wearing.

- A. The increased traffic volume affects both sides of the highway, so it does not help explain why one side is wearing faster than the other.
- B. The winter weather affects both sides of the highway, so it does not help explain why one side is wearing faster than the other.
- C. The buses may contribute to wear on the side of the highway leading to the seaport, but not necessarily more than the car traffic they are replacing would (though the increased use of buses instead of cars may decrease the amount of traffic, buses would be heavier than cars and thus may result in an equal or greater amount of wear). Furthermore, the buses have to come back on the other side, probably carrying the returning travelers who have not left their cars at the airport.
- D. **Correct.** This suggests that the many trucks visiting the seaport tend to be more heavily laden with goods when traveling on the side of the highway leading to the seaport than when returning on the other side. The resulting difference in the trucks' weight when traveling on the two sides could explain the different rates of wear.
- E. These automobiles would be transported along the side of the highway leading from the seaport, but not along the side leading to it. This would likely create a pattern of wear opposite to the one observed.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR75231.01

127. Ythex has developed a small diesel engine that produces 30 percent less particulate pollution than the engine made by its main rival, Onez, now widely used in Marania; Ythex's engine is well-suited for use in the thriving warehousing businesses in Marania, although it costs more than the Onez engine. The Maranian government plans to ban within the next two years the use of diesel engines with more than 80 percent of current diesel engine particulate emissions in Marania, and Onez will probably not be able to retool its engine to reduce emissions to reach this target. So if the ban is passed, the Ythex engine ought to sell well in Marania after that time.

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

- A. Marania's warehousing and transshipment business buys more diesel engines of any size than other types of engines.
- B. Ythex is likely to be able to reduce the cost of its small diesel engine within the next two years.
- C. The Maranian government is generally favorable to anti-pollution regulations.
- D. The government's ban on high levels of pollution caused by diesel engines, if passed, will not be difficult to enforce.
- E. The other manufacturers of small diesel engines in Marania, if there are any, have not produced an engine as popular and clean-running as Ythex's new engine.

### **Argument Evaluation**

**Situation** Two companies, Ythex and Onez, produce diesel engines in Marania. Ythex has developed a small engine that produces less particulate pollution than the engine made by Onez, its main rival. The Maranian government will put a new

maximum particulate-emission level in force within two years, but Onez will not be able to meet this target.

**Reasoning** *What would have to be assumed for the argument to support the prediction that Ythex's engine will sell well in two years when the new maximum particulate level is introduced?* To answer this, one might ask, for example: Will the maximum level be efficiently enforced? Will Ythex have any rivals other than Onez that will compete in the low-pollution diesel market?

- A. This tells us that there is a significant market for diesel engines, but this not an assumption that the reasoning depends on. The reasoning focuses only on the market for diesel engines and does not address the relative sizes of the market for diesel engines and that for non-diesel engines.
- B. If this is true, it provides additional support for the conclusion that Ythex's engine will sell well in two years. However, it is not an assumption on which the reasoning relies.
- C. This information is peripheral to the reasoning and not an assumption on which the reasoning relies. Adding it to the information given would not make the reasoning more logically compelling.
- D. The ban might be quite difficult to enforce, but a more important issue is whether the ban will be effectively enforced (so the reasoning does have to assume that the ban would be at least somewhat effective). No assumption about the relative difficulty of enforcing the ban needs to be made for the reasoning to be logically compelling.
- E. **Correct.** Are there one or more diesel engines from other companies that will be able to compete effectively with Ythex's engine when the ban is introduced? For the reasoning to be logically compelling, it needs to be assumed that the answer is no.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR04073

128. In parts of South America, vitamin-A deficiency is a serious health problem, especially among children. In one region, agriculturists are attempting to improve nutrition by encouraging farmers to plant a new variety of sweet potato called SPK004 that is rich in beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. The plan has good chances of success, since sweet potato is a staple of the region's diet and agriculture, and the varieties currently grown contain little beta-carotene.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the prediction that the plan will succeed?

- A. The growing conditions required by the varieties of sweet potato currently cultivated in the region are conditions in which SPK004 can flourish.
- B. The flesh of SPK004 differs from that of the currently cultivated sweet potatoes in color and texture, so traditional foods would look somewhat different when prepared from SPK004.
- C. There are no other varieties of sweet potato that are significantly richer in beta-carotene than SPK004 is.
- D. The varieties of sweet potato currently cultivated in the region contain some important nutrients that are lacking in SPK004.
- E. There are other vegetables currently grown in the region that contain more beta-carotene than the currently cultivated varieties of sweet potato do.



## Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** Agricultrists believe that if farmers in a particular South American region plant a new beta-carotene-rich variety of sweet potato, SPK004, the vitamin-A deficiency suffered in that region can be alleviated. Even though sweet potatoes are a staple of the region and the body can convert a sweet potato's beta-carotene into vitamin A, the varieties currently grown there contain little beta-carotene.

**Reasoning** *What would most support the success of the plan to improve nutrition by encouraging farmers to plant SPK004?* What, that is, would make farmers respond positively to encouragement to plant SPK004? Farmers in the region would probably be inclined to substitute SPK004 for the varieties of sweet potato they currently grow if they could be assured that SPK004 would grow as well as those other varieties do. This would in turn most likely lead to SPK004 being substituted for current varieties of sweet potato in staple dishes, and thus to an improvement in nutrition in the region.

- A. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a factor that would support a prediction of the plan's success.
- B. If dishes made with SPK004 look different than traditional sweet potato dishes in the region do, people might be less likely to eat those dishes; in such a situation, the plan's success would be less likely, rather than more likely.
- C. It is SPK004's beta-carotene content relative to the beta-carotene content of the sweet potatoes currently grown in the region that is relevant here, so it does not matter if there are other varieties of sweet potato that are richer in beta-carotene than SPK004 is.
- D. This suggests that switching from currently grown sweet potatoes to SPK004 could negatively affect nutrition in the region; this undermines, rather than supports, the prediction that the plan to improve nutrition will succeed.
- E. These other vegetables, despite their beta-carotene content being higher than that of the currently cultivated varieties of sweet potato, are clearly not sufficient to prevent a vitamin-A deficiency in the region. This information does nothing to support the prediction that encouraging farmers to plant SPK004 will help to meet those beta-carotene needs.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR06018

129. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

The last members of a now-extinct species of a European wild deer called the giant deer lived in Ireland about 16,000 years ago. Prehistoric cave paintings in France depict this animal as having a large hump on its back. Fossils of this animal, however, do not show any hump. Nevertheless, there is no reason to conclude that the cave paintings are therefore inaccurate in this regard, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. some prehistoric cave paintings in France also depict other animals as having a hump
- B. fossils of the giant deer are much more common in Ireland than in France
- C. animal humps are composed of fatty tissue, which does not fossilize
- D. the cave paintings of the giant deer were painted well before 16,000 years ago

- E. only one currently existing species of deer has any anatomical feature that even remotely resembles a hump

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Representations found in prehistoric cave paintings in France of the now-extinct giant deer species—the last members of which lived in Ireland about 16,000 years ago—depict the deer as having a hump on its back. Fossils of the deer, however, do not feature a hump.

**Reasoning** *What point would most logically complete the argument? That is, what would show that the cave paintings are not inaccurate even though fossils of the giant deer show no hump?* How could it be the case that the paintings show a hump while the fossils do not? One way in which this could be so is if the humps are not part of the fossils—that is, if there is some reason why a hump would not be preserved with the rest of an animal's remains.

- A. We do not know whether these other cave paintings accurately depict the animals as having humps, so this provides no reason to think that the depictions of giant deer are accurate.
- B. Where giant deer fossils are found has no bearing on whether cave paintings of giant deer that show a hump on the animal's back are inaccurate. It could be that this suggests that the painters responsible for the representations would not be very familiar with the species; if this were so, it would give some reason to conclude that the representations *were* inaccurate.
- C. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a point that logically completes the argument. A hump would not be found as part of a giant deer's fossilized remains if the humps were fatty tissue that would not be fossilized.
- D. That the cave paintings were painted well before 16,000 years ago shows that they were executed before the giant deer became extinct, but this does not help to explain the discrepancy between the paintings' depiction of a hump on the deer's back and the fossil record's lack of such a hump. It could be that even though the cave painters coexisted with the giant deer, they were not sufficiently familiar with them to depict them accurately.
- E. That currently existing species of deer lack humps, or even that one species does have a feature resembling a hump, has little bearing on whether cave paintings in France accurately depict the giant deer as having a hump.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR28931.01

130. Super Express Shipping Company has implemented a new distribution system that can get almost every package to its destination the day after it is sent. The company worries that this more efficient system will result in lower sales of its premium next-day delivery service, because its two-day service will usually arrive the following day anyway. The company plans to encourage sales of its next-day service by intentionally delaying delivery of its two-day packages so that they will not be delivered the following day, even if the package arrives at its destination city in time for next-day delivery.

The company's plan assumes that

- A. deliberate delay of packages will not affect the company's image in a way that significantly reduces its ability to attract and retain customers
- B. most people do not have a preference for either two-day or next-day delivery

- C. if the plan is not implemented, the company would lose more money in lost sales of overnight deliveries than it would save with its new efficient distribution system
- D. the overnight service is too expensive to be attractive to most customers currently
- E. competing companies' delivery services rarely deliver packages to their destination earlier than their promised time

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** Super Express, a shipping company, is concerned that a new level of efficiency in its delivery process, resulting in next-day delivery even with guaranteed two-day delivery, might sabotage the company's more expensive "premium" next-day delivery service. To promote the premium delivery service, the company plans to delay, for one day, two-day delivery packages that arrive one day early at a center near the customer and could be delivered that same day.

**Reasoning** *What does the company's plan assume?* The company's rationale for its plan is that without the planned delay, its next-day premium service would lose revenue if potential customers realized that the less expensive two-day delivery service usually results in next-day delivery. So the plan must assume that the planned delivery day will not damage the company's image in a way that would cause significant loss of customers.

- A. **Correct.** If it became public that the company was deliberately delaying packages, its brand and reputation would likely suffer major damage and its ability to promote its services—including its premium next-day delivery service—would probably be seriously impaired. Since presumably the company wants to retain existing customers and even attract new ones, its plan (including the rationale for it) would not make sense unless it were assumed that such catastrophic consequences would not result.
- B. The given information indicates that the company believes that a sizeable number of customers would, in certain circumstances, prefer guaranteed next-day delivery and pay more for it.
- C. Neither the plan nor its rationale is based on assuming that no other, equally good, plan could be devised to achieve the company's major objective and prevent the consequence of overall revenue loss.
- D. The given information gives no indication that the company believes this is so, and nothing related to its plan implies otherwise.
- E. Nothing is assumed in the company's plan about the frequency with which its competitors deliver packages to customers earlier than the promised delivery time.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR04738

131. Cocoa grown organically on trees within the shade of the rain forest canopy commands a premium price. However, acquiring and maintaining the certification that allows the crop to be sold as organically grown is very time-consuming and laborious. Meanwhile, the price premium for the grower is about 30 percent, whereas cocoa trees grown in full sun using standard techniques can have twice the yield of organic, shade-grown trees. Financially, therefore, standard techniques are the better choice for the farmer.

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

- A. Cocoa can be grown only in a climate that has the temperature and moisture characteristics of a tropical rain forest.

- B. Cocoa trees grown using standard techniques require costly applications of fertilizer and pesticides, unlike shade-grown trees.
- C. Although organically grown cocoa has long commanded a price premium over cocoa grown using standard techniques, its price has fluctuated considerably during that period.
- D. Cocoa is not the only cash crop that can be raised on plots that leave the rain forest canopy overhead essentially intact.
- E. Governments and international conservation organizations are working to streamline organic certification so as to relieve farmers of unnecessary work.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Cocoa grown organically under the rain forest canopy can obtain a price premium of 30 percent for the grower. But the certification needed for the cocoa to be sold as organic is time-consuming and laborious. Since cocoa grown in full sun by standard (non-organic) techniques can have twice the yield, it is concluded that standard techniques are better financially for the farmer.

**Reasoning** *Among the pieces of information presented, which one, assuming it is accurate, would most weaken the argument if added to the given information?* Specific information about the costs associated with growing cocoa using standard techniques is lacking in the given information. For example, does use of the “standard techniques” entail lower or higher costs than use of organic techniques? If we had information that the costs are much higher, such information would tend to weaken the argument—unless we also knew that the much higher yields more than compensate for the much higher costs. If we had information that consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about chemical residues in cocoa, that information would also tend to weaken the argument.

- A. If this is true, then the cocoa grown both in rain forest shade and in full sun satisfies the climate requirement.
- B. **Correct.** This tells us that use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers entails very high costs for growers; moreover, such use of chemicals risks making the cocoa less attractive to consumers, ultimately impacting the grower’s financial benefits.
- C. If this were true only of the organic cocoa described in the given information, then it would tend to reinforce the argument rather than weaken it. If it were true of both kinds of cocoa, then it would neither strengthen nor weaken the argument.
- D. This information has no obvious bearing on the question asked.
- E. This information suggests that costs associated with growing organic cocoa may eventually decrease and the profits increase. But this does not weaken the argument as given, since its conclusion concerns what growing techniques are currently best for farmers.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR91131.02

132. Psychologists conducted an experiment in which half of the volunteers were asked to describe an unethical action they had performed, while the other half were asked to describe an ethical action they had performed. Some of the volunteers, chosen at random from each of the two groups, were encouraged to wash their hands afterward. Among those who described unethical actions, those who washed their hands were significantly less likely to volunteer for

another, similar experiment than those who did not wash their hands. The researchers concluded that some of the subjects failed to volunteer again in part because of their having described an unethical action.

Which of the following would, if true, most help to support the researchers' conclusion?

- A. Among the volunteers who described ethical actions, those who washed their hands were significantly less likely to volunteer for another, similar experiment than those who did not wash their hands.
- B. The average likelihood of volunteering for another, similar experiment was higher among those who described ethical actions than among those who described unethical actions.
- C. Most of the volunteers who were encouraged to wash their hands did so.
- D. The volunteers in the study were not more disposed to washing their hands under normal circumstances than the general population was.
- E. Equal numbers of volunteers from both groups were encouraged to wash their hands.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** In an experiment, volunteers in one group were asked to describe an unethical action they had performed; volunteers in another group were asked to describe an ethical action they had performed. Some of the volunteers, randomly selected from each group, were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards. Among those who had described unethical actions, those who washed their hands were significantly less likely to volunteer for another, similar experiment than were those who did not wash their hands. The researchers concluded that some of the volunteers declined to volunteer again because of their having described an unethical action.

**Reasoning** *Which new information most strongly supports the researchers' conclusion?*

The researchers offered an answer to the following question in their conclusion: What caused some subjects not to volunteer again for another, similar experiment? The researchers concluded that one causal factor was having described an unethical action. This conclusion is based only on data about those who had described their unethical actions; the data showed that the hand washers among them were less likely to volunteer again than were those who did not wash their hands. This data, by itself, seems to provide at best weak support for the researchers' conclusion. The hypothesis could be strengthened by data comparing those who had described their ethical actions with those who had described their unethical ones.

- A. This information slightly weakens the researchers' conclusion in that it suggests that the decision not to volunteer for future experiments could have been due entirely to the hand washing rather than partly to the participants' having described unethical actions.
- B. **Correct.** This information does not refer to hand washing but provides a comparison between those who described an ethical action and those who described an unethical one, with respect to the likelihood of their volunteering for another, similar experiment. The fact that those who described ethical actions were more likely than the others to volunteer for subsequent experiments provides some evidence that describing an unethical action could have been a factor, along with the hand washing, that caused the observed difference in the volunteering rate. This additional evidence is only *prima facie*, though; it would be weakened if we also knew that among those who described ethical actions, the hand washers were just as unlikely to volunteer again as were those who washed their hands after describing unethical actions.

- C. This information about hand washing is largely irrelevant to the researchers' conclusion, which is focused on the hypothesis that having described an unethical action made some participants less likely to volunteer again. It provides only very slight, conjectural support in that it is inconsistent with a hypothesis that so few actually washed their hands that they constituted a statistically insignificant sample.
- D. The researchers' conclusion is not about the general population, so the information in this answer choice could only be relevant if such a generalization were the goal.
- E. Like answer choice C, this information about hand washing is largely irrelevant to the researchers' conclusion, which is focused on the hypothesis that having described an unethical action made some participants less likely to volunteer again. It provides only very slight, conjectural support in that it is inconsistent with a hypothesis that one or more of the groups being compared was too small to be statistically significant.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR07547

133. High levels of fertilizer and pesticides, needed when farmers try to produce high yields of the same crop year after year, pollute water supplies. Experts therefore urge farmers to diversify their crops and to rotate their plantings yearly.

To receive governmental price-support benefits for a crop, farmers must have produced that same crop for the past several years.

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

- A. The rules for governmental support of farm prices work against efforts to reduce water pollution.
- B. The only solution to the problem of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides is to take farmland out of production.
- C. Farmers can continue to make a profit by rotating diverse crops, thus reducing costs for chemicals, but not by planting the same crop each year.
- D. New farming techniques will be developed to make it possible for farmers to reduce the application of fertilizers and pesticides.
- E. Governmental price supports for farm products are set at levels that are not high enough to allow farmers to get out of debt.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Farmers are urged to rotate crops annually because the chemicals they must use when continuing to produce the same crops pollute water supplies. On the other hand, farmers may receive federal price-support benefits only if they have been producing the same crop for the past several years.

**Reasoning** *What conclusion can be drawn from this information?* Farmers wish to receive the price-support benefits offered by the government, so they grow the same crop for several years. In order to continue getting good yields, they use the high levels of chemicals necessary when the same crop is grown from year to year. The result is water pollution. The government's rules for price-support benefits work against the efforts to reduce water pollution.

- A. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the conclusion supported by the evidence.
- B. The experts cited in the passage believe that the rotation of crops is the solution, not the removal of farmland from production.



- C. The conclusion that farmers cannot make a profit by producing the same crop year after year is not justified by the information given in the premises. The information given suggests that this conclusion would actually be false, since these farmers would benefit by price-support measures for such a crop.
- D. No information in the passage supports a conclusion about farming techniques other than crop diversification and rotation, which are clearly existing farming techniques and not new or yet to be developed.
- E. This conclusion is unwarranted because there is no information in the two statements about the levels of the price supports and of the farmers' debts.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR02270

134. Ten years ago the number of taxpayers in Greenspace County was slightly greater than the number of registered voters. The number of taxpayers has doubled over the last ten years, while the number of registered voters has increased, but at a lower rate than has the number of taxpayers.

Which of the following must be true in Greenspace County if the statements above are true?

- A. The number of taxpayers is now smaller than the number of registered voters.
- B. Everyone who is a registered voter is also a taxpayer.
- C. The proportion of registered voters to taxpayers has increased over the last ten years.
- D. The proportion of registered voters to taxpayers has decreased over the last ten years.
- E. The proportion of registered voters to taxpayers has remained unchanged over the last ten years.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Ten years ago a county had slightly more taxpayers than registered voters. Since then the number of taxpayers has doubled, while the number of registered voters has increased less.

**Reasoning** *What can be deduced from the information about the changing numbers of taxpayers and registered voters?* There were already slightly more taxpayers than registered voters ten years ago, but since then the number of taxpayers has increased more than proportionately to the number of registered voters. It follows that there must still be more taxpayers than registered voters, that the absolute number of taxpayers must have increased more than the absolute number of registered voters has, and that the ratio of taxpayers to registered voters must have increased.

- A. Since there were already more taxpayers than registered voters ten years ago, and since the number of taxpayers has increased more than the number of registered voters, there must still be more taxpayers than registered voters.
- B. Although there are more taxpayers than registered voters overall, there could still be many individual registered voters who are not taxpayers.
- C. Since the number of taxpayers has doubled while the number of registered voters has less than doubled, the proportion of registered voters to taxpayers must have decreased, not increased as this answer choice claims.
- D. **Correct.** Since the number of taxpayers has doubled while the number of registered voters has less than doubled, the proportion of registered voters to taxpayers must have decreased.

- E. Since the number of taxpayers has doubled while the number of registered voters has less than doubled, the proportion of registered voters to taxpayers must have decreased, not remained unchanged.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR01298

135. From 1900 until the 1930s, pellagra, a disease later discovered to result from a deficiency of the vitamin niacin, was common among poor cotton farmers in the United States whose diet consisted mostly of corn, the least costly food they could buy. Corn does not contain niacin in usable form. Curiously, during the Depression of the early 1930s, when cotton's price collapsed and cotton farmers' income declined, the incidence of pellagra among those farmers also declined.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the decline in the incidence of pellagra?

- A. When growing a cash crop could not generate adequate income, poor farmers in the United States responded by planting their land with vegetables and fruits for their own consumption.
- B. People whose diets consist largely of corn often suffer from protein deficiency as well as niacin deficiency.
- C. Until the discovery of pellagra's link with niacin, it was widely believed that the disease was an infection that could be transmitted from person to person.
- D. Effective treatment for pellagra became available once its link with niacin was established.
- E. In parts of Mexico, where people subsisted on corn but pellagra was uncommon, corn was typically processed with alkaline substances, which make the niacin in the corn absorbable.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** The disease pellagra, which is due to a deficiency of the nutrient niacin, was common among poor cotton farmers in the United States during the early part of the 20th century, until the early 1930s. The diet of these farmers consisted mostly of the inexpensive grain corn, which lacked niacin in a form that can be absorbed by the body. However, when the cotton price collapsed during the Great Depression in the early 1930s, the incidence of pellagra decreased among these farmers.

**Reasoning** *What might explain the decline in incidence of pellagra among the cotton farmers during the Great Depression, despite the likelihood that the farmers would have experienced an increase in poverty?* It may seem "curious" that a disease associated with malnutrition and poverty would become less common during a severe economic downturn. Our task is to find something that would explain this curious fact.

- A. **Correct.** The passage suggests that the pellagra of the farmers was due to their diet of mostly corn, which they purchased. However, this answer choice indicates that, during the time that the farmers grew much of their own food during the Great Depression, the diet of the farmers changed significantly and had greater variety. This point, together with the fact that pellagra among the farmers decreased during this time, suggests that the decrease in pellagra among the farmers was due to their growing their own food.
- B. Although this answer choice mentions another aspect of nutritional deficiency due to narrowness of diet, the question to be addressed is about nutritional deficiency of niacin rather than of protein.



- C. The belief that pellagra was an infection transmitted from person to person would not explain why the incidence of pellagra decreased among the farmers during the Great Depression.
- D. This answer choice might explain the decrease in incidence of pellagra among the farmers if it was true that the link of pellagra with niacin deficiency was discovered before the decrease in incidence of pellagra among the farmers. Given the information provided, we don't know whether or not this is true.
- E. This answer choice might help to explain the decline in pellagra if it was the case that the cotton farmers started to eat corn that had been processed in the manner of the people in parts of Mexico. However, we have not been given a reason to suppose that the farmers ate corn that had been processed in this way.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR07589

136. The interview is an essential part of a successful hiring program because, with it, job applicants who have personalities that are unsuited to the requirements of the job will be eliminated from consideration.

The argument above logically depends on which of the following assumptions?

- A. A hiring program will be successful if it includes interviews.
- B. The interview is a more important part of a successful hiring program than is the development of a job description.
- C. Interviewers can accurately identify applicants whose personalities are unsuited to the requirements of the job.
- D. The only purpose of an interview is to evaluate whether job applicants' personalities are suited to the requirements of the job.
- E. The fit of job applicants' personalities to the requirements of the job was once the most important factor in making hiring decisions.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** The interview is a necessary part of hiring because candidates with unsuitable personalities are eliminated from consideration.

**Reasoning** *What is being assumed in this argument?* The argument puts forth one reason that the interview is important: it eliminates candidates with unsuitable personalities. This presupposes that interviewers can, with a fair degree of accuracy, rule out those candidates whose personalities do not fit the needs of the job.

- A. The argument does not go so far as to say that interviews guarantee a successful hiring program.
- B. The argument does not prioritize the parts of a hiring program.
- C. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the assumption underlying the argument.
- D. The argument gives one reason that the interview is important, but it does not say it is the *only* reason.
- E. This concerns past practices in hiring, and is irrelevant to the argument.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR07785

137. Many leadership theories have provided evidence that leaders affect group success rather than the success of particular individuals. So it is irrelevant to analyze the effects of supervisor traits on the attitudes of individuals whom they supervise. Instead, assessment of leadership effectiveness should occur only at the group level.

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

- A. Whether supervisors' documentation of individual supervisees' attitudes toward them is usually accurate
- B. Whether it is possible to assess individual supervisees' attitudes toward their supervisors without thereby changing those attitudes
- C. Whether any of the leadership theories in question hold that leaders should assess other leaders' attitudes
- D. Whether some types of groups do not need supervision in order to be successful in their endeavors
- E. Whether individuals' attitudes toward supervisors affect group success

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Many leadership theories have provided evidence that leaders affect the success of groups but not of individuals.

**Reasoning** *What would be most helpful to know in order to evaluate how well the stated fact supports the conclusion that leadership effectiveness should be assessed only at the group level without considering supervisors' influence on the attitudes of the individuals they supervise?* Even if leaders do not affect the success of the individuals they lead, they might still affect those individuals' attitudes. And those attitudes in turn might affect group success. If so, the argument would be weak. So any evidence about the existence or strength of these possible effects in the relationship between supervisors and their supervisees would be helpful in evaluating the argument.

- A. How accurately supervisors document their supervisees' attitudes is not clearly relevant to how much the supervisors affect those attitudes, nor to how much the attitudes affect group success.
- B. Even if assessing supervisees' attitudes would in itself change those attitudes, the person doing the assessment might be able to predict this change and take it into account. Thus, considering individual supervisees' attitudes might still be worthwhile.
- C. The argument is not about interactions among leaders, but rather about interactions between supervisors and supervisees.
- D. The argument is not about groups without supervisors, or whether certain groups might be effective without a supervisor, but rather about how to assess the effectiveness of supervisors in groups that do have them.
- E. **Correct.** As explained above, if individual supervisees' attitudes affect group success, the argument would be weak. And probably individual supervisees' attitudes toward their supervisors are influenced by those supervisors. So knowing whether individual attitudes toward supervisors affect group success would be helpful in evaluating the argument

**The correct answer is E.**

138. A major health insurance company in Lagolia pays for special procedures prescribed by physicians only if the procedure is first approved as “medically necessary” by a company-appointed review panel. The rule is intended to save the company the money it might otherwise spend on medically unnecessary procedures. The company has recently announced that in order to reduce its costs, it will abandon this rule.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest justification for the company’s decision?

- A. Patients often register dissatisfaction with physicians who prescribe nothing for their ailments.
- B. Physicians often prescribe special procedures that are helpful but not altogether necessary for the health of the patient.
- C. The review process is expensive and practically always results in approval of the prescribed procedure.
- D. The company’s review process does not interfere with the prerogative of physicians, in cases where more than one effective procedure is available, to select the one they personally prefer.
- E. The number of members of the company-appointed review panel who review a given procedure depends on the cost of the procedure.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** In order to cut costs, a major health insurance company is abandoning a rule stating that it will pay for special procedures only if the procedure is approved as medically necessary by a review panel.

**Reasoning** *What piece of information would most help to justify the company’s decision?* For the company to save money, it would need to be in some way cutting its costs by abandoning the rule. Under what circumstances might the rule cost, rather than save, the company money? The panel itself might be expensive to convene, for example. Further, the cost savings achieved by the panel might be minimal if the panel did not deny significant numbers of procedures.

- A. This suggests that patients might be pressuring their physicians to prescribe certain unnecessary procedures for their ailments, which in turn suggests that the panel is reviewing these procedures and denying them. But if so, then the panel is probably saving the insurance company money, so abandoning the panel’s review would not reduce the company’s costs.
- B. This suggests that certain procedures that are being prescribed by physicians are not medically necessary, which in turn suggests that the panel reviewing these procedures may be denying them. If this is the case, then the panel is probably saving the insurance company a significant amount of money, so abandoning the panel’s review may well increase rather than decrease the company’s costs.
- C. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies information that would help to justify the company’s decision.
- D. Even if the panel does not interfere with physicians’ choices when more than one medically effective procedure is available, the panel may still be denying pay for many procedures that are not medically necessary. In such cases the panel may be saving the insurance company money, and abandoning the review process would not reduce the company’s costs.

- E. This suggests that the more expensive the procedure under review, the more expensive the panel itself is. Even so, if the panel denies payment for very expensive procedures, it may nonetheless save the company significantly more than the company has to pay to convene the panel, so abandoning the review process would not reduce the company's costs.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR03826

139. Automobile ownership was rare in Sabresia as recently as 30 years ago, but with continuing growth of personal income there, automobile ownership has become steadily more common. Consequently, there are now far more automobiles on Sabresia's roads than there were 30 years ago, and the annual number of automobile accidents has increased significantly. Yet the annual number of deaths and injuries resulting from automobile accidents has not increased significantly.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why deaths and injuries resulting from automobile accidents have not increased significantly?

- A. Virtually all of the improvements in Sabresia's roads that were required to accommodate increased traffic were completed more than ten years ago.
- B. With more and more people owning cars, the average number of passengers in a car on the road has dropped dramatically.
- C. The increases in traffic volume have been most dramatic on Sabresia's highways, where speeds are well above those of other roads.
- D. Because of a vigorous market in used cars, the average age of cars on the road has actually increased throughout the years of steady growth in automobile ownership.
- E. Automobile ownership is still much less common in Sabresia than it is in other countries.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** Many more cars are on Sabresia's roads than 30 years ago; and there are also many more car accidents. Yet the annual number of deaths and injuries resulting from car accidents has not increased much, which is quite puzzling.

**Reasoning** *What factor could help explain the puzzling fact that the increase in car accidents was not reflected in a similar increase in deaths and injuries from car accidents?* One (but perhaps unlikely) possibility is that a significantly greater proportion of the recent annual number of car accidents consisted of merely minor accidents, unlike 30 years ago. Another possibility is that cars are currently much better engineered for driver and passenger safety than 30 years ago. Yet a third possibility is that the total number of people traveling by car—passengers and drivers—has not increased significantly despite the large increase in the number of cars. This would mean that the average occupancy of a car has greatly decreased; so, even though the number of car accidents has significantly increased, the average number of people per car involved in an accident would have decreased significantly. On average, this would mean significantly fewer deaths and injuries per accident.

- A. This throws little light on the central puzzle: why the current number of car accidents is significantly higher than 30 years ago, while the number of deaths and injuries in car accidents is not. The fact that there has been a significant increase in car accidents suggests that the roads were not made as safe as they could have been, and this just deepens the puzzle about the lack of a significant increase in deaths and injuries.

- B. **Correct.** This implies that the average number of passengers per car accident is significantly less, and this helps explain why the total number of deaths and injuries has not increased significantly.
- C. This information does not help explain the mismatch between increased accident numbers and relatively stable death-and-injury numbers. High-speed car accidents would likely have caused more fatalities, on average, than other car accidents; so, given that the increase in traffic volume has been greatest on Sabresia's high-speed roads, one would expect a significant increase in the number of accidents, and consequently in the number of deaths and injuries. But this expectation has not been fulfilled.
- D. This does not help explain the surprisingly stable death-and-injury numbers in contrast with the significantly increased number of car accidents. The increase in average age of cars on the road might contribute to the increased number of accidents if older cars are more likely to be dangerously defective than newer ones.
- E. The central puzzle already described involves no comparisons between Sabresia and other countries, so this information is irrelevant to explaining the puzzling discrepancy.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR01430

140. To evaluate a plan to save money on office-space expenditures by having its employees work at home, XYZ Company asked volunteers from its staff to try the arrangement for six months. During this period, the productivity of these employees was as high as or higher than before.

Which of the following, if true, would argue most strongly against deciding, on the basis of the trial results, to implement the company's plan?

- A. The employees who agreed to participate in the test of the plan were among the company's most self-motivated and independent workers.
- B. The savings that would accrue from reduced office-space expenditures alone would be sufficient to justify the arrangement for the company, apart from any productivity increases.
- C. Other companies that have achieved successful results from work-at-home plans have workforces that are substantially larger than that of XYZ.
- D. The volunteers who worked at home were able to communicate with other employees as necessary for performing the work.
- E. Minor changes in the way office work is organized at XYZ would yield increases in employee productivity similar to those achieved in the trial.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** To save money on office space expenditures, a company considers having employees work at home. A six-month trial with employees who have volunteered to test the plan shows their productivity to be as high as or higher than before.

**Reasoning** *Why would the trial results NOT provide a good reason to implement the plan?* Generalizing from a small sample to the group depends on having a sample that is representative. In this case, the employees who participated in the trial are not representative of all employees. The employees who volunteered for the trial may be the type of employees who would be most likely to work successfully at home. It would not be wise to base a generalization about all employees on this sample.

- A. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a flaw in the trial that is the basis for the plan.
- B. This statement supports the implementation of the plan. Moreover, it is not based on the trial results, so it does not answer the question.
- C. The passage gives no information about how company size might affect the implementation of the plan or the reliability of the trial results.
- D. If anything, this would tend to support the plan.
- E. The goal of the plan is to save money on office space, not to increase productivity, so an alternative plan to increase productivity is irrelevant.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR04180

141. A child learning to play the piano will not succeed unless the child has an instrument at home on which to practice. However, good-quality pianos, whether new or secondhand, are costly. Buying one is justified only if the child has the necessary talent and perseverance, which is precisely what one cannot know in advance. Consequently, parents should buy an inexpensive secondhand instrument at first and upgrade if and when the child's ability and inclination are proven.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the course of action recommended for parents?

- A. Learners, particularly those with genuine musical talent, are apt to lose interest in the instrument if they have to play on a piano that fails to produce a pleasing sound.
- B. Reputable piano teachers do not accept children as pupils unless they know that the children can practice on a piano at home.
- C. Ideally, the piano on which a child practices at home should be located in a room away from family activities going on at the same time.
- D. Very young beginners often make remarkable progress at playing the piano at first, but then appear to stand still for a considerable period of time.
- E. In some parents, spending increasing amounts of money on having their children learn to play the piano produces increasing anxiety to hear immediate results.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** Children learning the piano need to have a piano on which to practice at home. Purchasing a high-quality piano is costly, and justified only if the child has talent and will persevere, which is hard to predict at an early stage. Parents should make do with a secondhand piano until the child's ability and inclination are proven.

**Reasoning** *Which of the statements given would cast the most serious doubt on the recommendation given to parents?* Suppose that a child, because possessed of very high musical talent, is especially sensitive to imprecisions in tuning or imperfections of tone in a secondhand, less expensive piano (presumably Mozart would have been so!). This could, over time, make the child less interested in using the piano—especially if the child had the opportunity to hear music on far superior pianos. The result could be total loss of interest in learning to play the piano.

- A. **Correct.** This, if true, would be a good reason to provide the child with the chance to practice regularly on a superior piano.



- B. The issue is whether it would be best to provide the child with a superior piano at home, not whether it would be important to provide some piano at home.
- C. This is irrelevant to the point at issue, which concerns how high a quality of piano should parents provide at home if they desire optimal development of the child's potential for piano musicianship.
- D. Fluctuations in the pace of learning the piano are possible, but not relevant to the central question raised about the quality of the piano to be provided.
- E. Investing so much in a piano, to the extent that doing so causes financial and psychological stress, might not be beneficial overall. However, if buying a new piano and buying a used piano are equally feasible financially for a given family, the question concerns which option would most achieve the objective of optimally developing the child's potential for piano musicianship.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR05096

142. Nutritionists are advising people to eat more fish, since the omega-3 fatty acids in fish help combat many diseases. If everyone took this advice, however, there would not be enough fish in oceans, rivers, and lakes to supply the demand; the oceans are already being overfished. The obvious method to ease the pressure on wild fish populations is for people to increase their consumption of farmed fish.

Which of the following, if true, raises the most serious doubt concerning the prospects for success of the solution proposed above?

- A. Aquaculture, or fish farming, raises more fish in a given volume of water than are generally present in the wild.
- B. Some fish farming, particularly of shrimp and other shellfish, takes place in enclosures in the ocean.
- C. There are large expanses of ocean waters that do not contain enough nutrients to support substantial fish populations.
- D. The feed for farmed ocean fish is largely made from small wild-caught fish, including the young of many popular food species.
- E. Some of the species that are now farmed extensively were not commonly eaten when they were only available in the wild.

### **Argument Evaluation**

**Situation** Nutritionists advise people to eat fish for the omega-3 fatty acids, but there would not be enough fish to meet the demand if everyone followed this advice. Therefore, people should increase their consumption of farmed fish to ease pressure of wild fish populations.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would suggest that increasing consumption of farmed fish would not ease pressure on wild fish populations?* Any evidence suggesting that significantly increasing consumption of farmed fish would diminish the habitat or food available for wild fish would also suggest that increasing consumption of farmed fish would not ease pressure on wild fish populations.

- A. Probably the less space fish farming requires, the less pressure it creates on wild fish habitats and populations, other things being equal.

- B. Whether any fish farming takes place in enclosures in the ocean is not clearly relevant to whether it eases pressure on wild fish populations.
- C. Substantial fish populations may thrive in other large expanses of ocean water that contain more nutrients, and in rivers and lakes.
- D. **Correct.** This suggests that increasing consumption of farmed fish would require increased use of wild fish as feed for farmed fish and therefore would not ease pressure on wild fish populations.
- E. Even if some farmed fish are different species from the wild fish that are commonly eaten, increased consumption of the farmed fish could reduce demand for the wild fish and thereby ease pressure on wild fish populations.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR02851

143. Which of the following most logically completes the market forecaster's argument?

Market forecaster: The price of pecans is high when pecans are comparatively scarce but drops sharply when pecans are abundant. Thus, in high-yield years, growers often store part of their crop in refrigerated warehouses until after the next year's harvest, hoping for higher prices then. Because of bad weather, this year's pecan crop will be very small. Nevertheless, pecan prices this year will not be significantly higher than last year, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the last time the pecan crop was as small as it was this year, the practice of holding back part of one year's crop had not yet become widely established
- B. last year's pecan harvest was the largest in the last 40 years
- C. pecan prices have remained relatively stable in recent years
- D. pecan yields for some farmers were as high this year as they had been last year
- E. the quality of this year's pecan crop is as high as the quality of any pecan crop in the previous five years

### Argument Construction

**Situation** The price of pecans fluctuates based on the fluctuations in market supplies. When pecan farmers have a large harvest, they tend to save some of the crop in refrigerated storage until the following year, hoping to get higher prices then. This year's crop will be very small. But prices are not predicted to be significantly higher than last year.

**Reasoning** *What can most reasonably complete the argument by filling in the blank? In other words, what would be the best reason for the prediction about this year's prices? This year's prices will be determined by the total market supply of pecans; this will include not only freshly harvested pecans but also pecans that were kept in storage from last year's harvest. Information about the relative size of last year's harvest could be partial evidence for a prediction about this year's prices.*

- A. What this tells us, in effect, is that previous experience with very poor harvests provide a poor guide about this year's total market supply, since the practice of refrigerated storage of pecans had not existed then.
- B. **Correct.** This tells us that there was probably an unprecedented quantity of pecans in refrigerated storage from last year, so it is likely that the market supply of pecans this year will be relatively normal despite the poor harvest. This means that this year's prices



will not be much higher than last year's; last year, the total pecan harvest was enormous and market supply probably relatively large.

- C. This creates a general expectation of prices not being inordinately high this year, but since the harvest this year was "very small," such a general expectation could remain unfulfilled, absent countervailing factors.
- D. This information is too vague to be useful. What percentage of farmers obtained satisfactory yields? Were these yields on farms that were by far the largest or the smallest?
- E. The reasoning is silent on the issue of pecan quality, even though perceived quality could perhaps affect prices obtained. The additional information does not tell us that this year's quality is better than that found in recent harvests.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR06331

144. It is often said that high rates of inflation tend to diminish people's incentive to save and invest. This view must be incorrect, however, because people generally saved and invested more of their income in the 1970's when inflation rates were high than they did in the 1980's when inflation rates were low.

Of the following, the best criticism of the argument above is that it overlooks the possibility that

- A. all people do not respond in the same way to a given economic stimulus
- B. certain factors operating in the 1980's but not in the 1970's diminished people's incentive to save and invest
- C. the population was larger in the 1980's than it was in the 1970's
- D. the proponents of the view cited would stand to gain if inflation rates become lower
- E. a factor that affects people's savings behavior in a certain way could affect people's investment behavior quite differently

### **Argument Evaluation**

**Situation** People generally saved and invested more in the 1970's when inflation was high than in the 1980s when inflation was low, despite the fact that it is commonly believed that high inflation discourages savings and investment.

**Reasoning** *Why does the observation about savings, investment, and inflation rates in the 1970's and 1980's not justify the conclusion that high inflation does not generally diminish people's incentive to save and invest?* The argument observes that over the course of two decades there was a positive rather than a negative correlation between inflation on the one hand and savings and investment on the other. It infers from this that high rates of inflation do not tend to diminish people's incentive to save and invest. Is this inference justified? Note that the claim that this argument is trying to discredit is not that high rates of inflation always diminished people's incentive to save and invest. Rather, the claim is merely that high rates of inflation tend to do this. The argument overlooks the possibility that during the two decades in question other factors may have caused a positive correlation to briefly appear even if in general the correlation is negative.

- A. The argument is compatible with the hypothesis that some people respond to inflation by saving and investing more, while others do not.

- B. **Correct.** If these other factors, unrelated to the inflation rate, that operated in the 1980's but not the 1970's, created an even greater disincentive to savings and investment than high inflation rates provide, then those trends do not provide evidence about the general relationship among savings, investment, and inflation.
- C. The argument appears to concern savings and investment per capita, so total population size should be irrelevant. But increasing population would not explain declining total amounts of savings and investment, either.
- D. If anything, the possibility that the proponents' ulterior motives distorted their reasoning would help to support the argument's conclusion that the proponents' view is incorrect.
- E. The argument addresses this possibility by presenting evidence that inflation was positively correlated with both savings and investment during the 1970's and 1980's.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR02704

145. Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

Within the earth's core, which is iron, pressure increases with depth. Because the temperature at which iron melts increases with pressure, the inner core is solid and the outer core is molten. Physicists can determine the melting temperature of iron at any given pressure and the pressure for any given depth in the earth. Therefore, the actual temperature at the boundary of the earth's outer and inner cores—the melting temperature of iron there—can be determined, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the depth beneath the earth's surface of the boundary between the outer and inner cores is known
- B. some of the heat from the earth's core flows to the surface of the earth
- C. pressures within the earth's outer core are much greater than pressures above the outer core
- D. nowhere in the earth's core can the temperature be measured directly
- E. the temperatures within the earth's inner core are higher than in the outer core

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** Pressure within the earth's iron core increases with depth. Because the melting temperature of iron increases with pressure, the inner core is solid and the outer core molten. Physicists can determine iron's melting temperature at any pressure and the pressure it is under at any depth.

**Reasoning** *What further premise, combined with the information provided, would support the conclusion that physicists can determine the temperature at the boundary between the outer and inner cores?* Since physicists can determine iron's melting temperature at any pressure and the pressure it is under at any depth, they must be able to determine its melting temperature at any depth. The temperature at the boundary between the inner and outer cores must exactly equal the melting temperature there, since that is the boundary between the molten and solid parts of the core. To determine the temperature at the boundary, therefore, it would suffice to know the depth of the boundary.

- A. **Correct.** If physicists know the depth of the boundary between the inner and outer cores, they can determine the temperature at the boundary.

- B. The fact that *some heat* flows from the core to the surface is too vague to help in determining exact temperatures anywhere.
- C. The difference in pressures between the outer core and the region above it is only vaguely described here and is not clearly relevant to the temperature at the boundary between the outer core and the inner core below it.
- D. An absence of information would not be helpful in determining the temperature at the boundary between the outer and inner cores.
- E. This information is not sufficiently specific to show that the temperature at the boundary between the outer and inner cores can be determined.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR03659

146. Which of the following most logically completes the reasoning?

Either food scarcity or excessive hunting can threaten a population of animals. If the group faces food scarcity, individuals in the group will reach reproductive maturity later than otherwise. If the group faces excessive hunting, individuals that reach reproductive maturity earlier will come to predominate. Therefore, it should be possible to determine whether prehistoric mastodons became extinct because of food scarcity or human hunting, since there are fossilized mastodon remains from both before and after mastodon populations declined, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. there are more fossilized mastodon remains from the period before mastodon populations began to decline than from after that period
- B. the average age at which mastodons from a given period reached reproductive maturity can be established from their fossilized remains
- C. it can be accurately estimated from fossilized remains when mastodons became extinct
- D. it is not known when humans first began hunting mastodons
- E. climate changes may have gradually reduced the food available to mastodons

### Argument Construction

**Situation** In a population of animals, food scarcity causes later reproductive maturity; if that population is hunted excessively, earlier-maturing animals will be more numerous in the population.

**Reasoning** *What point would most logically complete the argument?* For the information given to be of use in determining what caused mastodons' extinction, mastodon fossils would need to indicate the age at which mastodons reached reproductive maturity, since that is what the argument suggests can indicate cause of extinction. If fossilized remains exist from before and after mastodon populations began to decline, and if the age at which those fossilized mastodons reached reproductive maturity can be determined, then we will have a good idea of what caused their extinction: if they reached reproductive maturity late, it was probably food scarcity, but if they matured earlier, it was most likely hunting.

- A. This fact only helps indicate that there was a decline; it tells us nothing about what caused the decline.
- B. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a point that logically completes the argument: it explains how the fossilized mastodon remains could be used to help determine what caused mastodons' extinction.

- C. The point at which mastodons became extinct is not part of this argument, which is concerned with the cause of their extinction. The only way in which this could be relevant to the issue at hand is if mastodons became extinct before humans took up hunting mastodons—but the argument includes no information on whether this was so.
- D. Not knowing when humans began hunting mastodons would have no effect on the argument, which is concerned with how mastodon fossils, combined with knowledge about how food scarcity and hunting affect mastodon reproductive maturity, can help determine how mastodons became extinct.
- E. This fact only shows that food scarcity *may* have led to mastodon's decline. It tells us nothing about whether fossilized remains can help determine whether it was food scarcity or human hunting that actually led to the decline.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR02518

147. Many office buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering have been shown to have elevated levels of various toxic substances circulating through the air inside, a phenomenon known as sick building syndrome. Yet the air in other office buildings does not have elevated levels of these substances, even though those buildings are the same age as the “sick” buildings and have similar designs and ventilation systems.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why not all office buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering have air that contains elevated levels of toxic substances?

- A. Certain adhesives and drying agents used in particular types of furniture, carpets, and paint contribute the bulk of the toxic substances that circulate in the air of office buildings.
- B. Most office buildings with sick building syndrome were built between 1950 and 1990.
- C. Among buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering, houses are no less likely than office buildings to have air that contains elevated levels of toxic substances.
- D. The toxic substances that are found in the air of “sick” office buildings are substances that are found in at least small quantities in nearly every building.
- E. Office buildings with windows that can readily be opened are unlikely to suffer from sick building syndrome.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Many office buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering have elevated levels of toxic substances in their interior air, but other such buildings similar in age, design, and ventilation do not.

**Reasoning** *What would help to explain the difference in air quality among buildings similar in age, design, and ventilation?* If office buildings are designed to prevent outside air from entering, toxic substances emitted into the interior air might not be ventilated out quickly, and thus might become more concentrated inside the building. But if such toxic substances are not emitted into a building's interior air in the first place, they will not become concentrated there, even if the building is poorly ventilated. So any factor that suggests why toxic substances are emitted into the interior air of some buildings but not others of similar age and design would help to explain the difference in the buildings' air quality.

- A. **Correct.** Some buildings may have these types of furniture, carpets, and paint, while other buildings similar in age, design, and ventilation do not.

- B. Since all these buildings were built during the same period, this does not help to explain the difference in air quality among buildings similar in age.
- C. The passage concerns air quality in office buildings only, not in houses.
- D. This does not help to explain why these toxic substances are more concentrated in some office buildings than in others.
- E. The passage concerns the differences in air quality only among office buildings that were designed to prevent outside air from entering.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR08756

148. Newsletter: **A condominium generally offers more value for its cost than an individual house because of economies of scale.** The homeowners in a condominium association can collectively buy products and services that they could not afford on their own. And since a professional management company handles maintenance of common areas, **condominium owners spend less time and money on maintenance than individual homeowners do.**

The two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles in the newsletter's argument?

- A. The first is the argument's main conclusion; the second is another conclusion supporting the first.
- B. The first is a premise, for which no evidence is provided; the second is the argument's only conclusion.
- C. The first is a conclusion supporting the second; the second is the argument's main conclusion.
- D. The first is the argument's only conclusion; the second is a premise, for which no evidence is provided.
- E. Both are premises, for which no evidence is provided, and both support the argument's only conclusion.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** Homeowners in a condominium association can buy products and services collectively. A management company handles maintenance of condominium common areas.

**Reasoning** *What roles are played in the argument by the statement that a condominium generally offers more value for its cost than a house because of economies of scale and by the statement that condominium owners spend less time and money on maintenance than owners of individual homes do?* In the passage, the first sentence (the first boldface statement) is a generalization. The second sentence provides an example of the economies of scale mentioned in the first sentence, so it helps support the first sentence as a conclusion. In the third sentence, the word *since* indicates that the first clause is a premise supporting the second clause (the second boldface statement) as a conclusion. That conclusion itself provides another example of the economies of scale mentioned in the first sentence, so it also helps support that first sentence as a conclusion.

- A. **Correct.** As explained above, the first boldface statement is supported by the rest of the statements in the argument, so it is the main conclusion. The second boldface statement supports the first, but is itself a conclusion supported by the *since* clause preceding it.

- B. The second and third sentences in the argument provide examples of economies of scale. These examples are evidence supporting the first boldface statement as a conclusion.
- C. Since the second boldface statement provides evidence of the economies of scale described by the first, it supports the first as a conclusion.
- D. The *since* clause immediately preceding the second boldface statement provides evidence that supports it, so the second boldface statement is a conclusion.
- E. Both the second and the third sentences of the argument support the first boldface statement as a conclusion. And the *since* clause immediately preceding the second boldface statement supports it as a conclusion.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR00780

149. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

When officials in Tannersburg released their plan to widen the city's main roads, environmentalists protested that widened roads would attract more traffic and lead to increased air pollution. In response, city officials pointed out that today's pollution-control devices are at their most effective in vehicles traveling at higher speeds and that widening roads would increase the average speed of traffic. However, this effect can hardly be expected to offset the effect pointed out by environmentalists, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. increases in traffic volume generally produce decreases in the average speed of traffic unless roads are widened
- B. several of the roads that are slated for widening will have to be closed temporarily while construction is underway
- C. most of the air pollution generated by urban traffic comes from vehicles that do not have functioning pollution-control devices
- D. the newly widened roads will not have increased traffic volume if the roads that must be used to reach them are inadequate
- E. a vehicle traveling on a route that goes through Tannersburg will spend less time on Tannersburg's roads once the roads are widened

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Environmentalists protested a plan to widen a city's main roads on the grounds that it would increase traffic and air pollution. City officials replied that widening the roads would increase average traffic speeds, which would improve the effectiveness of vehicles' pollution-control devices.

**Reasoning** *What would most support the conclusion that the improved effectiveness of the pollution-control devices would be insufficient to prevent the increased traffic from increasing air pollution?* The word *since* preceding the blank space at the end of the argument indicates that the space should be filled with a premise supporting the conclusion stated immediately before the *since*. To support this conclusion, we would need evidence that widening the roads and increasing traffic speeds would not improve the pollution-control devices' effectiveness enough to compensate for the amount of added air pollution generated by the additional traffic on the widened roads.

- A. It is unclear whether traffic volume would increase if the roads were not widened. But if it did, this would cast doubt on the conclusion by suggesting that a combination of



higher traffic volume and lower speeds could make air pollution worse if the roads were not widened than if they were widened.

- B. The argument is about the long-term effects of widening the roads, not about the temporary effects of closing them during construction.
- C. **Correct.** If most vehicles in the area lack air-pollution devices altogether or have ones that do not work, then it is highly questionable whether the greater efficiency of the few functioning devices would be sufficient to compensate for the increase in air pollution that would result from increased traffic.
- D. If anything, this casts doubt on the conclusion by suggesting that widening the roads may not increase traffic volume or air pollution at all.
- E. If anything, this casts doubt on the conclusion by suggesting that widening the roads will decrease the amount of time each vehicle spends generating air pollution on those roads.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR70661.01

150. Platinum is a relatively rare metal vital to a wide variety of industries. Xagor Corporation, a major producer of platinum, has its production plant in a country that will soon begin imposing an export tax on platinum sold and shipped to customers abroad. As a consequence, the price of platinum on the world market is bound to rise.

Which of the following, if true, tends to confirm the conclusion above?

- A. An inexpensive substitute for platinum has been developed and will be available to industry for the first time this month.
- B. The largest of the industries that depend on platinum reported a drop in sales last month.
- C. The producers of platinum in other countries taken together cannot supply enough platinum to meet worldwide demand.
- D. Xagor produced more platinum last month than in any previous month.
- E. New deposits of platinum have been found in the country in which Xagor has its production plant.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Xagor Corporation produces platinum, a rare metal vital to many industries. Xagor's plant is in a country that will soon impose an export tax on platinum. The world market price of platinum is predicted to rise.

**Reasoning** *Which of the pieces of information given, if true, would most tend to confirm the prediction given?* The conclusion of the argument is a causal prediction: the world market price of platinum will increase because of the export tax on platinum. The argument tells us that a wide range of industries need platinum, so the introduction of taxes on exported platinum would likely make that platinum more expensive for the importing industries. This, in turn, would likely raise the world market price of platinum. But what if those industries could get all their platinum from countries that did not tax platinum exports? Then the world market price might not rise if exports from those countries could adequately fulfill market demand.

- A. This information tends to undermine the reasoning and does not confirm the conclusion. If a less expensive platinum-substitute were to be developed, the world market price of platinum would tend to decline.

- B. This information somewhat weakens support for the conclusion. It suggests that overall demand for platinum might decline, at least temporarily, which would tend to lower the world market price of platinum.
- C. **Correct.** This information strengthens the support for the conclusion. It indicates that some platinum subject to the export tax will almost certainly be exported and will cost importers more than before. This would tend to cause the world market price of platinum to rise, especially since platinum producers in other countries could remain competitive and still raise their prices.
- D. This information could indicate a possible upswing in platinum production, which could increase the total world supply of platinum. If the supply increased relative to world demand, the world market price of platinum could decrease, not increase as the argument's conclusion predicts.
- E. This information suggests a possible increase in the world market supply of platinum, which would tend to reduce the world market price, provided world demand for platinum did not also increase at least proportionately.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR80661.01

151. From 1973 to 1986, growth in the United States economy was over 33 percent, while the percent growth in United States energy consumption was zero. The number of barrels of oil being saved per day by energy-efficiency improvements made since 1973 is now 13 million.
- If the information above is correct, which of the following conclusions can properly be drawn on the basis of it?
- A. It is more difficult to find new sources of oil than to institute new energy-conservation measures.
  - B. Oil imports cannot be reduced unless energy consumption does not grow at all.
  - C. A reduction in the consumption of gasoline was the reason overall energy consumption remained steady.
  - D. It is possible for an economy to grow without consuming additional energy.
  - E. The development of nontraditional energy sources will make it possible for the United States economy to grow even faster.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** From 1973 to 1986, the United States economy grew over 33 percent while energy consumption did not grow. Energy improvements have made dramatic savings in annual oil consumption since 1973.

**Reasoning** *If the given information in the passage is true, which answer choice must be true based on that information?* To find that statement, look for the one that has the closest relevance to the information given. All of the answer choices refer to topics at least loosely associated with the topics discussed in the given information. But four of them introduce extraneous information, while just one relies solely on the given information, simply making explicit something implicit in that information.

- A. Nothing in the given information even implicitly depends on contrasting the relative difficulty of finding new oil with the difficulty of instituting new energy-conservation measures.



- B. Nothing in the given information refers, even implicitly, to oil imports, so this statement does not follow logically from the given information.
- C. This is new information that, if true, would help explain why there was zero percent growth in energy consumption in the period under discussion. But this new information could easily be false even if the given information is true. For instance, gasoline consumption could have held steady but the consumption of petroleum diesel or heating oil could have been reduced significantly.
- D. **Correct.** This statement must be true if the given information is accurate. If something of a given kind has occurred, then it must be possible for that kind of thing to occur. The given information cites an example of an economy that had 33 percent economic growth along with zero percent growth in energy consumption.
- E. The given information may be entirely accurate even if this claim is false. Even if this claim is true, the given information does not address, even implicitly, the development of nontraditional sources.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR01661.01

152. Although many customers do not make a sufficient effort to conserve water, water companies must also be held responsible for wasteful consumption. Their own policies, in fact, encourage excessive water use, and attempts at conservation will succeed only if the water companies change their practices.

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

- A. Most water companies reduce the cost per unit of water as the amount of water used by a customer increases.
- B. Most water companies keep detailed records of the quantity of water used by different customers.
- C. Most water companies severely curtail the use of water during periods of drought.
- D. Federal authorities limit the range of policies that can be enforced by the water companies.
- E. The price per unit of water charged by the water companies has risen steadily in the last 10 years.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Water companies have policies that encourage excessive water use. Water conservation cannot succeed unless water companies change their practices.

**Reasoning** *Which answer choice would indicate that water companies' policies and practices lead to wasteful water use?* If the companies have policies or practices that reduce customers' incentive to consume less water, then wasteful water consumption would be more likely to occur. Water companies would be contributing to wasteful water use and should be held accountable for that waste if water conservation is to succeed.

- A. **Correct.** Water companies' charging customers less per additional unit of water consumed is likely to reduce customers' incentive to avoid wasteful water use. So water companies bear some responsibility for wasteful water use.
- B. This shows that water companies have adequate data to indicate trends in customers' water consumption. But this does not, by itself, indicate that water companies incentivize wasteful consumption.

- C. This indicates that water companies likely curtail wasteful water use during droughts, which somewhat weakens the argument.
- D. This information is too nonspecific to allow us to judge whether the federal authorities' regulatory regime directly or indirectly contributes to wasteful water use.
- E. If anything, this information tends to weaken the argument. Over a 10-year period, because most economies experience inflation, increases in the price per unit of water would naturally occur, absent special countervailing factors. But if the increases were large, they would, if anything, tend to reduce wasteful water use.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR11661.01

153. Despite legislation designed to stem the accumulation of plastic waste, the plastics industry continued to grow rapidly last year, as can be seen from the fact that sales of the resin that is the raw material for manufacturing plastics grew by 10 percent to \$28 billion.

In assessing the support provided by the evidence cited above for the statement that the plastics industry continued to grow, in addition to the information above it would be most useful to know

- A. whether the resin has other uses besides the manufacture of plastics
- B. the dollar amount of resin sales the year before last
- C. the plastics industry's attitude toward the legislation concerning plastic waste
- D. whether sales of all goods and services in the economy as a whole were increasing last year
- E. what proportion of the plastics industry's output eventually contributes to the accumulation of plastic waste

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** There is legislation meant to slow the accumulation of plastic waste. Last year, however, the plastics industry continued to grow rapidly. Sales of the resin that is the raw material for plastics grew in monetary terms by 10 percent.

**Reasoning** *What additional information should we seek in order to evaluate the evidence offered for the conclusion that the plastics industry continued to grow rapidly last year?* The evidence offered is that sales of resin from which plastics can be made increased 10 percent over the preceding year. For example, we could inquire whether the resin is used exclusively for plastics manufacture. If this were found NOT to be so, then the evidence presented would be of little use in showing that the plastics industry grew rapidly last year.

- A. **Correct.** Knowing whether this is so is crucial for judging the evidential value of last year's growth in sales of resin.
- B. This information is implicit in the given information and is therefore not additional information.
- C. The central issue is whether the information about last year's resin sales is good evidence of the plastics industry growth. The question as to whether that industry favors curtailment of plastics pollution has little if any relevance to that issue.
- D. If the answer to this *whether*-question is yes, there was presumably some inflation in the currency, so the increase in nominal monetary value of resin sales may or may not reflect very strong evidence of growth in the plastics industry. If the answer to the question is no, the increase in resin sales could be evidence of growth but is not necessarily so. In

either case, we would need further information, so either answer to the question would not be useful for assessing the evidence.

- E. Knowing the answer to this could be important, but it is irrelevant in determining the evidential value of the information about growth in resin sales last year.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR41661.01

154. Studies of the political orientations of 1,055 college students revealed that the plurality of students in an eastern, big-city, private university was liberal, whereas in a state-supported, southern college, the plurality was conservative. Orientations were independent of the student's region of origin, and the trends were much more pronounced in seniors than in beginning students.

Which of the following hypotheses is best supported by the observations stated above?

- A. The political orientations of college students are more similar to the political orientations of their parents when the students start college than when the students are seniors.
- B. The political orientations of college seniors depend significantly on experiences they have had while in college.
- C. A college senior originally from the South is more likely to be politically conservative than is a college senior originally from the East.
- D. Whether their college is state-supported or private is the determining factor in college students' political orientations.
- E. College students tend to become more conservative politically as they become older and are confronted with pressures for financial success.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Studies of a total of 1,055 college students in an eastern big-city private university and in a state-supported southern college found that, in the sample, the political orientation of most students in the private college was liberal and that of most students in the southern college was conservative. Among the liberal students identified in the private college and among the conservative students identified in the state-supported college, significantly more were seniors than beginning students.

**Reasoning** *What would best explain the trends observed in the college students' political orientations?* Five hypotheses to explain the trends are offered, and we are asked to identify the hypothesis that is most supported by the information already given about the studies. It should be noted that the information given is very limited, whereas the hypotheses offered involve quite broad generalizations, so whatever support is provided by the given information for any of these will at best be quite weak from a statistician's perspective. We should look for the hypothesis that makes the least ambitious claim and draws most closely on the given information.

- A. The given information, without unjustified introduction of unstated assumptions, provides no insight into the political orientations of the students' parents.
- B. **Correct.** Among the five hypotheses offered, this makes the least ambitious claim. Although its scope extends to college seniors in general (and in a statistical sense goes far beyond the evidence provided in the given information), it is the best supported of the five because it deviates least from the information we have. It is a good inference that the students' political re-orientation occurred as a result of the "experiences they have had

while in college”—even if some of the truly mind-changing experiences were obtained in activities unrelated to their college life (e.g., speaking with fellow workers in a part-time restaurant job).

- C. We are given no information about the students’ places of origin. The passage states: “orientations were independent of the student’s region of origin.”
- D. The given information provides no information regarding which among a multiplicity of conceivable influences contributed most strongly to the students’ political orientations.
- E. We are not told in the given information that the students were “confronted with pressures for financial success”—although it is a truism that they were becoming older in their progress toward graduation.

**The correct answer is B.**

### Questions 155 to 188 - Difficulty: Medium

CR90661.01

155. Donations of imported food will be distributed to children in famine-stricken countries in the form of free school meals. The process is efficient because the children are easy to reach at the schools and cooking facilities are often available on site.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the efficiency of the proposed process?

- A. The emphasis on food will detract from the major function of the schools, which is to educate the children.
- B. A massive influx of donated food will tend to lower the price of food in the areas near the schools.
- C. Supplies of fuel needed for cooking at the schools arrive there only intermittently and in inadequate quantities.
- D. The reduction in farm surpluses in donor countries benefits the donor countries to a greater extent than the recipient countries are benefited by the donations.
- E. The donation of food tends to strengthen the standing of the political party that happens to be in power when the donation is made.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** On grounds of efficiency, it has been proposed that food donated to famine-stricken countries be distributed free to children through the schools. Many of the country’s children attend school. Many schools have cooking facilities. Distributing the food through the schools is thus an efficient way of providing nutrition, at least to the children.

**Reasoning** *What would most cast doubt on the efficiency of the proposed distribution method?* The rationale offered for the method is twofold. First, many of the country’s children attend school. Secondly, many schools have cooking facilities. Any additional information that weakens the significance of either of these two parts of the rationale would cast doubt on the efficiency of the proposed distribution process.

- A. This information does not cast significant doubt on the rationale. Of course, providing nutrition might take some time that could otherwise be devoted to teaching and would in that sense perhaps “detract” from the schools’ main mission. However, the focus of the given information is on the efficiency of food distribution through the schools, presumably as compared with other methods of distribution that would provide children

with adequate nutrition. The trade-off involving some loss of teaching time may be rendered less significant by the fact that children lacking adequate nutrition cannot learn well.

- B. This effect, if it occurred, could damage local markets but could also in the short term make locally grown food more available to those who need it. However, the point at issue is whether the rationale for distributing donated food through the schools to improve children's nutrition sufficiently indicates that this distribution method is efficient for that purpose.
- C. **Correct.** This information indicates that one part of the rationale given for the efficiency of the distribution method should carry less weight. If the "cooking facilities" at the schools are often inoperable due to lack of fuel, then some of the food to be distributed (for example, staples such as corn, millet, rice, or sorghum) may not be consumable.
- D. This information fails to address the central issue, which is the relative efficiency of the proposed distribution method for donated food, to improve children's nutrition.
- E. This addresses a possible effect of any food donation and fails to focus on the central issue identified in the foregoing discussion.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR21661.01

156. *John:* You told me once that no United States citizen who supports union labor should buy an imported car. Yet you are buying an Alma. Since Alma is one of the biggest makers of imports, I infer that you no longer support unions.

*Harry:* I still support labor unions. Even though Alma is a foreign car company, the car I am buying, the Alma Deluxe, is designed, engineered, and manufactured in the United States.

Harry's method of defending his purchase of an Alma is to

- A. disown the principle he formerly held
- B. show that John's argument involves a false unstated assumption
- C. contradict John's conclusion without challenging John's reasoning in drawing that conclusion
- D. point out that one of the statements John makes in support of his argument is false
- E. claim that this is a special case in which the rule need not apply

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** Harry has bought a car manufactured by Alma, a company among the largest makers of cars imported to the United States. From that fact John infers that Harry no longer holds a principle he formerly professed: that nobody who supports U.S. union labor should buy an imported car. Harry responds by clarifying that the Alma Deluxe he is buying is entirely a U.S. product.

**Reasoning** *What method has Harry used to show that his purchasing an Alma is not inconsistent with his principles?* Harry does this by showing that John is incorrectly assuming that the car Harry is purchasing has been imported.

- A. Harry does not disown the principle he formerly held; rather, he tries to show that his purchase is consistent with it.
- B. **Correct.** John mistakenly assumes—without asserting—that the Alma that Harry is buying must be an imported car, and Harry indicates that this assumption is false.

- C. Harry challenges John's conclusion but he also challenges John's reasoning, by indicating that it relies on a false unstated assumption.
- D. John does not state the assumption that Harry indicates is false, but Harry recognizes that the assumption in question is unstated.
- E. Harry does not claim this; he claims, rather, that the new Alma he is purchasing is not imported and so his purchase does not violate his principle concerning union labor.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR31661.01

157. Public-sector (government-owned) companies are often unprofitable and a drain on the taxpayer. Such enterprises should be sold to the private sector, where competition will force them either to be efficient and profitable or else to close.

Which of the following, if true, identifies a flaw in the policy proposed above?

- A. The revenue gained from the sale of public-sector companies is likely to be negligible compared to the cost of maintaining them.
- B. By buying a public-sector company and then closing the company and selling its assets, a buyer can often make a profit.
- C. The services provided by many public-sector companies must be made available to citizens, even when a price that covers costs cannot be charged.
- D. Some unprofitable private-sector companies have become profitable after being taken over by the government to prevent their closing.
- E. The costs of environmental protection, contributions to social programs, and job-safety measures are the same in the public and private sectors.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** A policy position is advocated, i.e., that unprofitable public-sector companies that burden taxpayers should be sold to the private sector. As private-sector companies, they would either become efficient and profitable or go out of business.

**Reasoning** *In what way is the policy position flawed?* The rationale given for the policy is that unprofitable public-sector companies burden taxpayers and privatizing them would subject them to competition—which would force them either to become efficient and profitable or to go out of business. But one of the characteristics of some public-sector companies is that they must provide certain services in market segments where provision of the services cannot become profitable. For example, provision of transportation services in sparsely populated rural areas is likely to be unprofitable because utilization of the services is insufficient to cover the cost of those services at a price that the market can bear.

- A. This information does not clearly indicate a flaw, since elimination of an exorbitant recurring cost by selling off, even at a very low price, an inefficient public company could be financially rational, even if not rational in other ways.
- B. This scenario could result in the non-provision of services that should be provided in the public interest, but it represents an aberration relative to the privatization policy described and does not indicate an essential flaw in that policy.
- C. **Correct.** This information indicates an essential flaw in the privatization policy described, since private companies are unlikely to provide services, even those needed by



the public, in situations where provision of those services is unprofitable.

- D. This information indicates that some government-controlled companies can be profitable even when those companies were not profitable when in the private sector. But this does not indicate a flaw in the reasoning concerning privatization.
- E. This information offers no help in identifying a flaw in the argument. The types of costs listed are only some of the costs that companies incur and may not be the most significant cost factors in determining whether a company is profitable or not.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR91661.01

158. After receiving numerous complaints from residents about loud, highly amplified music played at local clubs, Middletown is considering a law that would prohibit clubs located in residential areas from employing musical groups that consist of more than three people.

The likelihood that the law would be effective in reducing noise would be most seriously diminished if which of the following were true?

- A. Groups that consist of more than three musicians are usually more expensive for clubs to hire than are groups that consist of fewer than three musicians.
- B. In towns that have passed similar laws, many clubs in residential areas have relocated to nonresidential areas.
- C. Most of the complaints about the music have come from people who do not regularly attend the clubs.
- D. Much of the music popular at the local clubs can be played only by groups of at least four musicians.
- E. Amplified music played by fewer than three musicians generally is as loud as amplified music played by more than three musicians.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** Middletown is considering a law to eliminate a nuisance that residents have complained about: loud, highly amplified music at local clubs. The proposed law would address this by prohibiting the clubs to have groups of more than three musicians playing at the club.

**Reasoning** *Which statement, if true, would be the strongest indication that the proposed law would fail to reduce the noise that residents complained of?* The proposed limit on group size depends on the assumption that the music played by a group of three musicians or fewer would not be loud enough to bother Middletown's residents. If this assumption is false, for example if some of the smaller groups felt a need to use powerful amplification, the proposed law would be unlikely to eliminate the nuisance by reducing the noise sufficiently.

- A. We are given no information about whether Middletown, in framing its proposal, gave any consideration to the costs the clubs incur in hiring groups of various sizes. If the clubs' costs but not their revenues were to decrease by hiring smaller groups, they would likely obey the new law. However, this by itself would not indicate success for the noise abatement program.
- B. If the Middletown clubs were to relocate to nonresidential areas as a result of the law, this would contribute to the law's effectiveness in alleviating the noise disturbance.

- C. The proposal for the law is motivated by Middletown's need to respond to "numerous" resident complaints. If relatively few complaints come from residents who regularly attend the clubs, it may be because most of those residents either like loud music or are insensitive to it. But this has no bearing on whether the proposed law would be effective in addressing the noise level that bothers numerous other residents.
- D. This could make the law less acceptable to the clubs or their patrons. If the law proved unacceptable, an unacceptable frequency of violation might result unless the law is well designed for effective enforcement. But perhaps the law will be well designed for effective enforcement. Nothing in the passage suggests otherwise.
- E. **Correct.** This indicates that the size of a musical group generally has little impact on the volume of sound that the group produces. The proposed law is therefore likely to be ineffective in reducing the noise residents complained about.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR02661.01

159. From enlargements that are commonly found on the ulna bones of the forearms of Ice Age human skeletons, anthropologists have drawn the conclusion that the Ice Age humans represented by those skeletons frequently hunted by throwing spears. The bone enlargements, the anthropologists believe, resulted from the stresses of habitual throwing.

Which of the following, if true, would be the LEAST appropriate to use as support for the conclusion drawn by the anthropologists?

- A. Humans typically favor one arm over the other when throwing, and most Ice Age human skeletons have enlargements on the ulna bone of only one arm.
- B. Such enlargements on the ulna bone do not appear on skeletons from other human cultures of the same time period whose diets are believed to have been mainly vegetarian.
- C. Cave paintings dating from approximately the same time period and located not far from where the skeletons were found show hunters carrying and throwing spears.
- D. Damaged bones in the skeletons show evidence of diseases that are believed to have afflicted most people living during the Ice Age.
- E. Twentieth-century athletes who use a throwing motion similar to that of a hunter throwing a spear often develop enlargements on the ulna bone similar to those detected on the Ice Age skeletons.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** The ulna-bone enlargements often found on forearms of skeletons of Ice Age humans have led anthropologists to conclude that those humans frequently hunted by throwing spears and that this practice caused the bone enlargement.

**Reasoning** *Which of the additional pieces of information offered provide the weakest (if any) support for the anthropologists' conclusion?* A premise of the anthropologists' reasoning is that many Ice Age humans developed enlarged ulna bones. Another premise is that the bone enlargements resulted from the stresses of habitual [spear] throwing. The anthropologists' conclusion is that those Ice Age humans frequently hunted by throwing spears. Several of the five additional pieces of information provide additional support for the anthropologists' conclusion.

- A. The information, if true, that the bone enlargement found on Ice Age skeletons is typically found on just one arm provides significant additional support for the



argument's conclusion. Ice Age spear-throwing hunters would likely have been left-handed or right-handed and would have habitually used just one of their arms—either left or right—to throw spears.

- B. This information, if true, provides significant additional support for the anthropologists' conclusion. Ice Age humans with mainly vegetarian diets would have hunted, if at all, only infrequently—and so would not have been habitual spear-throwing hunters. We would expect, then, that if the anthropologists' conclusion is correct, enlarged ulna bones would not be found among the remains of such populations—and that is what the archaeological evidence indicates.
- C. This information, if true, provides compelling evidence that some Ice Age human populations hunted using spears, and so it provides significant additional support for the anthropologists' conclusion.
- D. **Correct.** This information, if true, tends to weaken the support for the anthropologists' conclusion. It vaguely suggests that diseases that were endemic in the Ice Age and caused bone damage might adequately explain the enlargement of ulna bones found in the archaeological evidence. If this were correct, then that bone enlargement could no longer be regarded as compelling evidence of spear-throwing.
- E. This information, if true, provides additional support for the anthropologists' conclusion. Twentieth-century athletes (perhaps javelin throwers, for example) use a throwing motion like that of spear throwers, and they often develop enlarged ulna bones like those found in the archaeological evidence.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR12661.01

160. The town council of North Tarrytown favored changing the name of the town to Sleepy Hollow. Council members argued that making the town's association with Washington Irving and his famous "legend" more obvious would increase tourism and result immediately in financial benefits for the town's inhabitants.

The council members' argument requires the assumption that

- A. most of the inhabitants would favor a change in the name of the town
- B. many inhabitants would be ready to supply tourists with information about Washington Irving and his "legend"
- C. the town can accomplish, at a very low cost per capita, the improvements in tourist facilities that an increase in tourism would require
- D. other towns in the region have changed their names to reflect historical associations and have, as a result, experienced a rise in tourism
- E. the immediate per capita cost to inhabitants of changing the name of the town would be less than the immediate per capita revenue they would receive from the change

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** Members of the North Tarrytown town council argued for changing the town's name to Sleepy Hollow (the name of a fictitious place in stories by early nineteenth-century author Washington Irving). The goal was to increase tourism.

**Reasoning** *What unstated assumption is required for the council members' argument to be logically compelling?* Their argument was that people who associate the name Sleepy Hollow with the author Washington Irving would come to visit the town because of that association. The resulting influx of tourists would provide

additional spending that would “immediately” result in financial benefits for the town’s inhabitants. There would not be such immediate benefits if the additional spending did not outweigh the costs of the name change.

- A. This information about the popular acceptability of the name-change strategy could provide additional logical support for the proposal, but the information is not strictly required for the council members’ reasoning to logically succeed.
- B. If this occurred, it could benefit tourists and help enhance the town’s reputation as a tourist venue, thus helping the name-change plan attain its goals. But an assumption that this would occur is not necessary for the logical success of the council members’ reasoning.
- C. This could make it more likely that the proposed name-change strategy would attain its financial goals. But the council members’ reasoning does not have to assume that the relevant costs would be “very low.”
- D. This information, if true, would help dispel any doubts as to whether the proposed name change would attain its goals. But it is not information that is necessary for the council members’ reasoning to logically succeed.
- E. **Correct.** To be logically successful, the council members’ reasoning requires that this be assumed. Part of the council members’ reasoning is that the proposed name change would “result immediately in financial benefits for the town’s inhabitants.” This result will not occur unless the immediate costs associated with implementing the change are less than the revenue accruing to the town’s inhabitants as a result. In the medium and long term, the name change could provide increased financial benefits to the town’s inhabitants, but the council members’ reasoning requires that those benefits flow immediately.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR06795

161. Premature babies who receive regular massages are more active than premature babies who do not. Even when all the babies drink the same amount of milk, the massaged babies gain more weight than do the unmassaged babies. This is puzzling because a more active person generally requires a greater food intake to maintain or gain weight.

Which of the following, if true, best reconciles the apparent discrepancy described above?

- A. Increased activity leads to increased levels of hunger, especially when food intake is not also increased.
- B. Massage increases premature babies’ curiosity about their environment, and curiosity leads to increased activity.
- C. Increased activity causes the intestines of premature babies to mature more quickly, enabling the babies to digest and absorb more of the nutrients in the milk they drink.
- D. Massage does not increase the growth rate of babies over one year old, if the babies had not been previously massaged.
- E. Premature babies require a daily intake of nutrients that is significantly higher than that required by babies who were not born prematurely.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** Premature babies who receive regular massages are more active and gain more weight than unmassaged premature babies do, even when they drink the same amount of milk.

**Reasoning** *What would help to explain how the massaged babies could be more active than the unmassaged babies and yet still gain more weight without consuming more milk?* If the massaged babies are burning more calories than unmassaged babies through their extra activity, but are not consuming more calories in the form of milk, then how are they gaining more weight than the unmassaged babies? Possible explanations could cite factors suggesting how the massaged babies might not actually burn more calories despite their greater activity; how they might consume or absorb more calories even without consuming more milk; or how they might gain more weight without extra calorie intake.

- A. Increased hunger without increased food intake would not help to explain why the massaged babies are gaining more weight.
- B. This only helps to explain why the massaged babies are more active, not why they are gaining more weight without consuming more milk.
- C. **Correct.** This suggests that the increased activity of the massaged babies could increase their calorie and nutrient intake from a given amount of milk, thereby explaining how they could gain extra weight without drinking more milk.
- D. This suggests that the apparent discrepancy is only present in premature babies under one year old, but it does not explain why that discrepancy exists.
- E. The passage does not compare premature babies to babies that were not born prematurely, but rather only compares premature babies that are massaged to premature babies that are not massaged.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR02865

162. In Australia, in years with below-average rainfall, less water goes into rivers and more water is extracted from rivers for drinking and irrigation. Consequently, in such years, water levels drop considerably and the rivers flow more slowly. Because algae grow better the more slowly the water in which they are growing moves, such years are generally beneficial to populations of algae. But, by contrast, populations of algae drop in periods of extreme drought.

Which of the following, if true, does most to explain the contrast?

- A. Algae grow better in ponds and lakes than in rivers.
- B. The more slowly water moves, the more conducive its temperature is to the growth of algae.
- C. Algae cannot survive in the absence of water.
- D. Algae must be filtered out of water before it can be used for drinking.
- E. The larger the population of algae in a body of water, the less sunlight reaches below the surface of the water.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** The quantity of water in Australian rivers greatly diminishes in years of below-average rainfall. When river levels become very low, the rivers flow more slowly. The low flow favors rapid algae growth. However, in periods of extreme drought, algae populations drop.

**Reasoning** *What information would most help to explain the two contrasting trends in algae growth?* The information given indicates that algae proliferate when rivers flow slowly. When the water levels become extremely low, algae

populations decrease. In periods of extreme drought, presumably some rivers retain little or no water.

- A. This has no obvious relevance to explaining the contrast in the algae growth trends.
- B. Nothing in the given information is explicit about the effects of water temperature and how that changes in rivers with changes in rainfall rates.
- C. **Correct.** This information could help explain the decrease in algae populations during periods of extreme drought. It seems quite probable that during such periods, at least parts of some riverbeds would dry out.
- D. This information does not help explain the contrasting trends in algae growth. Algae filtered out of river water to be used for drinking might not be returned to rivers, and this conceivably could affect algae populations. But it seems likely, based on the given information, that this would occur mainly during low-rainfall non-drought periods, when proliferation of algae has increased, so the impact on algae populations would probably be minimal.
- E. This information is clearly irrelevant to the contrast that needs to be explained.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR00693

163. Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the politician's argument?

United States politician: Although the amount of United States goods shipped to Mexico doubled in the year after tariffs on trade between the two countries were reduced, it does not follow that the reduction in tariffs caused the sales of United States goods to companies and consumers in Mexico to double that year, because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. many of the United States companies that produced goods that year had competitors based in Mexico that had long produced the same kind of goods
- B. most of the increase in goods shipped by United States companies to Mexico was in parts shipped to the companies' newly relocated subsidiaries for assembly and subsequent shipment back to the United States
- C. marketing goods to a previously unavailable group of consumers is most successful when advertising specifically targets those consumers, but developing such advertising often takes longer than a year
- D. the amount of Mexican goods shipped to the United States remained the same as it had been before the tariff reductions
- E. there was no significant change in the employment rate in either of the countries that year

### Argument Construction

**Situation** The politician suggests that tariffs on trade between Mexico and the United States were reduced during a certain year and notes that, in the year after that year, the amount of United States goods shipped to Mexico doubled. It may seem from this that the decrease in tariffs, because they may have reduced the prices of United States goods to Mexican companies and consumers, caused Mexican companies and consumers to double their purchases of United States goods in the year after the reduction in tariffs. This might explain the doubling of shipments of goods to Mexico. However, the politician argues that the decrease in tariffs did *not* cause the purchase of United States goods by Mexican companies and consumers to double.

**Reasoning** *What possible facts would indicate that the decrease in tariffs may not have caused Mexican companies and consumers to double their purchases of United States goods?* The task in this question is to complete an argument that purports to show that a certain inference—that sales of United States goods to companies and consumers in Mexico increased as a result of the tariff decrease—does not follow logically from the fact that shipments of United States goods to Mexico doubled after the decrease in tariffs. Although it is not necessary to show that sales of United States goods to companies and consumers in Mexico did not double, any statement that would significantly decrease the strength of this inference may provide a reasonable answer to our question.

- A. The argument that the politician is criticizing concerns a change in a certain year that purportedly caused another purported change in the next year. This answer choice, about longstanding relationships between United States and Mexican companies, does not address these changes.
- B. **Correct.** If the statement in this answer choice is true, then we cannot, on the basis of an increase in shipments of goods to Mexico, infer that these goods were purchased by Mexican companies and consumers. The statement thus directly supports the politician's argument.
- C. The argument that the politician is criticizing has to do with purported changes in purchasing behavior by Mexican companies and consumers, due to an increase in tariffs. This answer choice, being entirely concerned with the effectiveness of marketing and advertising, does not address the argument.
- D. Although this answer choice may suggest that the change in tariffs did not cause a significant change in shipments of Mexican goods to the United States, it does not address the matter of shipments of United States goods to Mexico.
- E. This answer choice addresses an aspect that would be of interest when examining the effects of the change in tariffs. But it does not address the purported change that is addressed by the politician's argument.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR06845

164. Budget constraints have made police officials consider reassigning a considerable number of officers from traffic enforcement to work on higher-priority, serious crimes. Reducing traffic enforcement for this reason would be counterproductive, however, in light of the tendency of criminals to use cars when engaged in the commission of serious crimes. An officer stopping a car for a traffic violation can make a search that turns up evidence of serious crime.

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

- A. An officer who stops a car containing evidence of the commission of a serious crime risks a violent confrontation, even if the vehicle was stopped only for a traffic violation.
- B. When the public becomes aware that traffic enforcement has lessened, it typically becomes lax in obeying traffic rules.
- C. Those willing to break the law to commit serious crimes are often in committing such crimes unwilling to observe what they regard as the lesser constraints of traffic law.
- D. The offenders committing serious crimes who would be caught because of traffic violations are not the same group of individuals as those who would be caught if the arresting officers were reassigned from traffic enforcement.

- E. The great majority of persons who are stopped by officers for traffic violations are not guilty of any serious crimes.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Budget constraints have made police officials consider reassigning many officers from traffic enforcement to work on serious crimes. But criminals often drive when committing serious crimes, and police who stop cars for traffic violations can find evidence of those crimes.

**Reasoning** *What additional information, when combined with the argument provided, would suggest that it would be counterproductive to reassign officers from traffic enforcement to work on serious crimes?* The argument implicitly reasons that because officers working on traffic enforcement can turn up evidence of serious crimes by searching cars that commit traffic violations, reassigning those officers would hinder police efforts to prevent serious crime, even if the officers were reassigned to work directly on serious crime. The argument could be strengthened by information suggesting that traffic enforcement may increase the probability that evidence relating to serious crimes will be discovered.

- A. If anything, this risk of violence might discourage traffic enforcement officers from stopping and searching as many cars, thus reducing their effectiveness at preventing serious crimes.
- B. This suggests that reassigning officers from traffic enforcement to work on serious crimes would increase the number of unpunished minor traffic violations, not the number of unpunished serious crimes.
- C. **Correct.** This suggests that people committing serious crimes often commit traffic violations as well, increasing the likelihood that traffic enforcement officers will stop and search their cars and find evidence of those crimes.
- D. The question at issue is not whether the same offenders would be caught if the officers were reassigned, but rather whether more or fewer offenders would be caught.
- E. This weakens the argument by suggesting that most work by traffic enforcement officers is unrelated to preventing serious crimes.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR10106

165. Conventional wisdom suggests vaccinating elderly people first in flu season, because they are at greatest risk of dying if they contract the virus. This year's flu virus poses particular risk to elderly people and almost none at all to younger people, particularly children. Nevertheless, health professionals are recommending vaccinating children first against the virus rather than elderly people.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest reason for the health professionals' recommendation?

- A. Children are vulnerable to dangerous infections when their immune systems are severely weakened by other diseases.
- B. Children are particularly unconcerned with hygiene and therefore are the group most responsible for spreading the flu virus to others.
- C. The vaccinations received last year will confer no immunity to this year's flu virus.
- D. Children who catch one strain of the flu virus and then recover are likely to develop immunity to at least some strains with which they have not yet come in contact.



- E. Children are no more likely than adults to have immunity to a particular flu virus if they have never lived through a previous epidemic of the same virus.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Although this year's flu virus poses particular risk to elderly people and almost no risk to children, health professionals are recommending vaccinating children before elderly people, contrary to what conventional wisdom recommends.

**Reasoning** *What would help justify the health professionals' recommendation?* Since children will experience almost no risk from the virus, vaccinating them first for their own sake appears unnecessary. However, individuals at no personal risk from a virus can still transmit it to more-vulnerable individuals. If children are especially likely to transmit the virus, it could be reasonable to vaccinate them first in order to protect others, including elderly people, by preventing the virus from spreading.

- A. This might be a reason to vaccinate certain children with severely weakened immune systems, if their weak immune systems would even respond effectively to the vaccine. However, it is not clearly a reason to vaccinate the vast majority of children.
- B. **Correct.** This suggests that children are especially likely to transmit the virus even if it does not endanger them. So as explained above, it provides a good reason for the health professionals' recommendation.
- C. This might be a good reason to vaccinate everyone, but it is not clearly a reason to vaccinate children before vaccinating elderly people.
- D. If anything, this would suggest that there might be a reason not to vaccinate children against this year's strain at all: unvaccinated children who catch this year's strain, which the argument claims is relatively harmless to children, may develop immunity to more dangerous strains that might arise in the future.
- E. The argument claims that this year's virus poses almost no risk to children. So even if they are not technically immune to it, it does not affect them significantly enough to justify vaccinating them before vaccinating elderly people.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR01392

166. Pro-Tect Insurance Company has recently been paying out more on car-theft claims than it expected. Cars with special antitheft devices or alarm systems are much less likely to be stolen than are other cars. Consequently Pro-Tect, as part of an effort to reduce its annual payouts, will offer a discount to holders of car-theft policies if their cars have antitheft devices or alarm systems.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest indication that the plan is likely to achieve its goal?

- A. The decrease in the risk of car theft conferred by having a car alarm is greatest when only a few cars have such alarms.
- B. The number of policyholders who have filed a claim in the past year is higher for Pro-Tect than for other insurance companies.
- C. In one or two years, the discount that Pro-Tect is offering will amount to more than the cost of buying certain highly effective antitheft devices.

- D. Currently, Pro-Tect cannot legally raise the premiums it charges for a given amount of insurance against car theft.
- E. The amount Pro-Tect has been paying out on car-theft claims has been greater for some models of car than for others.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** An insurance company is paying more money on car-theft claims than anticipated. To reduce these payments, the company is planning to offer discounts to customers whose cars have antitheft devices or alarm systems, because such cars are less likely to be stolen.

**Reasoning** *What piece of information would indicate that the plan is likely to succeed?* Pro-Tect wishes to reduce its annual payouts, and one way for that to happen is for fewer cars insured by Pro-Tect to be stolen. To help accomplish this, Pro-Tect is offering discounts to policyholders whose cars are so equipped, because cars equipped with antitheft devices or alarm systems are less likely to be stolen than are cars without such devices. What would interfere with the success of Pro-Tect's plan? Car owners would probably resist investing in antitheft devices or alarm systems if the cost of such systems is higher than the discount they will receive. So if Pro-Tect sets the discount at a level that makes installing antitheft devices seem like a bargain to car owners, the plan will most likely succeed.

- A. Pro-Tect's plan is designed to increase the number of cars equipped with car alarms. If having more cars equipped with car alarms reduces those alarms' effectivity in preventing thefts, then Pro-Tect's plan is unlikely to achieve its goal.
- B. Pro-Tect's claims in relation to those of other insurance companies are not relevant to whether Pro-Tect's plan to reduce its own car-theft claims will achieve its goal.
- C. **Correct.** This statement suggests that Pro-Tect's plan will provide an effective incentive for car owners to install antitheft devices; this statement therefore properly identifies information that indicates the plan is likely to achieve its goal.
- D. Because Pro-Tect's plan does not involve raising the premiums it charges, restrictions on its ability to do so are irrelevant to whether that plan will achieve its goal.
- E. Pro-Tect's plan does not distinguish among different models of car, so this statement indicates nothing about whether the proposed plan will succeed.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR00783

167. While the total enrollment of public elementary and secondary schools in Sondland is one percent higher this academic year than last academic year, the number of teachers there increased by three percent. Thus, the Sondland Education Commission's prediction of a teacher shortage as early as next academic year is unfounded.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the claim that the prediction of a teacher shortage as early as next academic year is unfounded?

- A. Funding for public elementary schools in Sondland is expected to increase over the next ten years.



- B. Average salaries for Sondland's teachers increased at the rate of inflation from last academic year to this academic year.
- C. A new law has mandated that there be 10 percent more teachers per pupil in Sondland's public schools next academic year than there were this academic year.
- D. In the past, increases in enrollments in public elementary and secondary schools in Sondland have generally been smaller than increases in the number of teachers.
- E. Because of reductions in funding, the number of students enrolling in teacher-training programs in Sondland is expected to decline beginning in the next academic year.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** In Sondland's public schools this academic year, the number of students is one percent higher and the number of teachers three percent higher than they were last academic year. For this reason, the Sondland Education Commission's prediction of a teacher shortage as early as next academic year is questionable.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would most weaken support for the claim that there will be no teacher shortage next academic year?* A teacher shortage will arise next academic year if the number of teachers needed will exceed the number of teachers employed. This will happen if the number of teachers needed increases without a sufficient increase in the number employed, or if the number employed decreases without a sufficient decrease in the number needed. Evidence that either or both of these changes will occur next academic year is evidence that the predicted shortage will occur, so any such evidence will weaken support for the claim that the prediction is unfounded.

- A. Increased funding will likely allow more teachers to be hired but will not necessarily increase the need for teachers, so it does not support the prediction of a teacher shortage (and indeed it very slightly undermines the prediction). Also, the funding is expected to increase over ten years, not necessarily next year. Furthermore, we are not told who expects this increase or why. Their expectation may be unjustifiable.
- B. A salary increase at the rate of inflation is equivalent to no change in the salary's actual value. The absence of a change in real salary in the past academic year does not by itself support any prediction of a change in the number of teachers needed or employed next academic year.
- C. **Correct.** The schools will need a lot more teachers next academic year to satisfy this mandate. It may be difficult for the schools to hire enough teachers in time. This provides at least some reason to predict that a teacher shortage will result.
- D. This means the number of students per teacher has been generally declining. It does not suggest that next academic year the number of teachers needed will increase, nor that the number employed will decrease.
- E. This does support the prediction that a shortage of trained teachers will arise eventually. But the declining number of students in teacher-training programs next academic year probably will not reduce the number of teachers available to teach during that same year.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR05590

168. Art restorers who have been studying the factors that cause Renaissance oil paintings to deteriorate physically when subject to climatic changes have found that the oil paint used in these paintings actually adjusts to these changes well. The restorers therefore hypothesize that it is a layer of material called gesso, which is under the paint, that causes the deterioration.

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

- A. Renaissance oil paintings with a thin layer of gesso are less likely to show deterioration in response to climatic changes than those with a thicker layer.
- B. Renaissance oil paintings are often painted on wooden panels, which swell when humidity increases and contract when it declines.
- C. Oil paint expands and contracts readily in response to changes in temperature, but it absorbs little water and so is little affected by changes in humidity.
- D. An especially hard and nonabsorbent type of gesso was the raw material for moldings on the frames of Renaissance oil paintings.
- E. Gesso layers applied by Renaissance painters typically consisted of a coarse base layer onto which several increasingly fine-grained layers were applied.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Renaissance paintings are subject to deterioration due to changes in climate, but their actual paint is not a factor in this deterioration. Instead, restorers hypothesize, it is gesso, the material under the paint, that causes problems for the paintings.

**Reasoning** *What would most strongly support the hypothesis that gesso is causing the deterioration?* An indication that gesso is affected by climatic changes would be most helpful in supporting the hypothesis. What could show that gesso is affected in this way? If the extent of a painting's deterioration is directly related to the amount of gesso used under that painting, then the gesso clearly plays some part in that deterioration.

- A. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a point supporting the hypothesis.
- B. This suggests that another factor—the wood of the panels—has a role in the paintings' deterioration. Thus it weakens the hypothesis that gesso causes the deterioration.
- C. This merely reinforces given information, that the paint itself is not responsible for the paintings' deterioration.
- D. Because this gives no information about any connection between this especially hard and nonabsorbent type of gesso and the type of gesso used under the paint in Renaissance paintings, the properties and usage of the former type of gesso are irrelevant to the question of whether gesso is responsible for the paintings' deterioration.
- E. Because we are told nothing about whether this technique of gesso application increases or decreases the likelihood that gesso will be affected by climatic change, it does not support the restorers' hypothesis.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR10731

169. A newly discovered painting seems to be the work of one of two 17th-century artists, either the northern German Johannes Drechen or the Frenchman Louis Birelle, who sometimes painted in the same style as Drechen. Analysis of the carved picture frame, which has been identified as the painting's original 17th-century frame, showed that it is made of wood found widely in northern Germany at the time, but rare in the part of France where Birelle lived. This shows that the painting is most likely the work of Drechen.

Which of the following is an assumption that the argument requires?

- A. The frame was made from wood local to the region where the picture was painted.

- B. Drechen is unlikely to have ever visited the home region of Birelle in France.
- C. Sometimes a painting so closely resembles others of its era that no expert is able to confidently decide who painted it.
- D. The painter of the picture chose the frame for the picture.
- E. The carving style of the picture frame is not typical of any specific region of Europe.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** A 17th-century painting has been discovered that was either by Johannes Drechen from northern Germany or by French artist Louis Birelle. The painting's original picture frame is made of wood widely found in 17th-century northern Germany but rare in the French region where Birelle lived. So the painting was probably the work of Drechen.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice is an assumption required by the argument? If the painting is correctly attributed to Drechen, then the wood that the frame was made from probably came from the region where Drechen lived and did his painting. The argument assumes that the specific wood used in the frame came from northern Germany rather than from some other place where that wood might have been found, and where (for all we know) Birelle might have visited.

- A. **Correct.** Without an assumption equivalent to this, the argument would fail.
- B. This is not a required assumption (unlike, for example, the following: Drechen did not give the picture frame to Birelle as a gift).
- C. This is a truism but is not required to make the argument's conclusion well supported.
- D. This does not need to be assumed; Drechen could, for example, have simply asked a local frame-maker to make a frame for his picture.
- E. Neither the affirmation nor the denial of this statement is needed to underpin the argument.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR09120

170. Archaeologists working in the Andes Mountains recently excavated a buried 4,000-year-old temple containing structures that align with a stone carving on a distant hill to indicate the direction of the rising sun at the summer solstice. Alignments in the temple were also found to point toward the position, at the summer solstice, of a constellation known in Andean culture as the Fox. Since the local mythology represents the fox as teaching people how to cultivate and irrigate plants, the ancient Andeans may have built the temple as a religious representation of the fox.

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

- A. The constellation known as the Fox has the same position at the summer solstice as it did 4,000 years ago.
- B. In the region around the temple, the summer solstice marks the time for planting.
- C. The temple was protected from looters by dirt and debris built up over thousands of years.
- D. Other structural alignments at the temple point to further constellations with agricultural significance.
- E. The site containing the temple was occupied for a significant amount of time before abandonment.

## Argument Construction

**Situation** A recently excavated 4,000-year-old temple contains structures that point toward the positions at the summer solstice of both the rising sun and a constellation known in local culture as the Fox. Local mythology represents the fox as teaching people how to cultivate and irrigate plants.

**Reasoning** *What must be true in order for the argument's premises to suggest that the temple was built to religiously represent the fox?* The argument's premises are all observations about current conditions: the current alignment at the summer solstice of the temple relative to the sunrise and to the constellation known as the Fox, the current local name for a constellation, and current local mythology. To support the conclusion about the temple's original purpose, the argument has to assume that all these conditions may still be essentially the same as they were 4,000 years ago when the temple was built.

- A. **Correct.** If the constellation's position at the summer solstice relative to the temple is different from what it was 4,000 years ago, the temple must not have been aligned to point toward it when it was built. In that case, the argument's justification for associating the temple with that constellation and with the fox is undermined.
- B. This does not have to be assumed for the argument to succeed, though if true, it might strengthen the argument by providing additional evidence associating the temple with the mythological fox as a teacher of agriculture. But the argument could be just as strong if the solstice were instead associated with agricultural activities other than planting.
- C. Even if the temple was not protected from looters, the conditions described in the argument's premises may still be the same as they were 4,000 years ago.
- D. This is not assumed. Additional structural alignments pointing to different constellations associated with mythological beings other than the fox might weaken or even undermine the argument's justification for associating the temple with the fox specifically.
- E. The argument makes no assumption regarding how long the temple was occupied, or even regarding whether the temple was ever occupied.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR05065

171. Meat from chickens contaminated with salmonella bacteria can cause serious food poisoning. Capsaicin, the chemical that gives chili peppers their hot flavor, has antibacterial properties. Chickens do not have taste receptors for capsaicin and will readily eat feed laced with capsaicin. When chickens were fed such feed and then exposed to salmonella bacteria, relatively few of them became contaminated with salmonella.

In deciding whether the feed would be useful in raising salmonella-free chicken for retail sale, it would be most helpful to determine which of the following?

- A. Whether feeding capsaicin to chickens affects the taste of their meat
- B. Whether eating capsaicin reduces the risk of salmonella poisoning for humans
- C. Whether chicken is more prone to salmonella contamination than other kinds of meat
- D. Whether appropriate cooking of chicken contaminated with salmonella can always prevent food poisoning
- E. Whether capsaicin can be obtained only from chili peppers

## Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Chickens will readily eat feed laced with capsaicin, which appears to protect

them from contamination with salmonella bacteria that can cause food poisoning.

**Reasoning** *What information would help determine whether using the feed would be an effective strategy for raising salmonella-free chicken for retail sale?* In order for the strategy to be effective, it must be economically feasible for farmers to raise chickens using the feed, and there must be enough consumer demand for chickens raised this way. So any information about factors likely to affect either the economic feasibility of raising the chickens or consumer demand for them could be helpful in determining how useful the feed would be.

- A. **Correct.** If chicken producers tried to market meat from capsaicin-fed chickens without knowing whether the taste is affected, they would risk alienating consumers. Of course, if they found that the taste is affected, they would then need to do further investigations to determine how consumers would likely respond to the difference. If consumers did not like the taste, this could negatively affect demand for the chickens. In that case, using the feed would not be an effective way to raise chickens for retail sale.
- B. There are two ways this might be considered relevant. First, it might be thought that because capsaicin reduces the risk of salmonella poisoning in humans, it will also do so in chickens; but we already have good evidence of that in the argument. Second, it might be thought that, if the capsaicin does not produce chickens that are totally salmonella free, then if any capsaicin remains in the chickens, it will help prevent any humans who consume the chicken from getting salmonella poisoning. But the relevant issue is whether the capsaicin will make the chickens salmonella free, not whether humans will be protected whether the chickens are salmonella free or not.
- C. The susceptibility of other types of meat to salmonella contamination would not affect the usefulness of the feed for preventing such contamination in chicken.
- D. Presumably many people do not cook contaminated chicken appropriately, so consumers could still benefit from salmonella-free chicken whether or not appropriate cooking methods could prevent food poisoning.
- E. Regardless of whether capsaicin can be obtained from other sources, chili peppers may be a perfectly viable source.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR04532

172. Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

When mercury-vapor streetlights are used in areas inhabited by insect-eating bats, the bats feed almost exclusively around the lights, because the lights attract flying insects. In Greenville, the mercury-vapor streetlights are about to be replaced with energy-saving sodium streetlights, which do not attract insects. This change is likely to result in a drop in the population of insect-eating bats in Greenville, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the bats do not begin to hunt until after sundown
- B. the bats are unlikely to feed on insects that do not fly
- C. the highway department will be able to replace mercury-vapor streetlights with sodium streetlights within a relatively short time and without disrupting the continuity of lighting at the locations of the streetlights
- D. in the absence of local concentrations of the flying insects on which bats feed, the bats expend much more energy on hunting for food, requiring much larger quantities of

insects to sustain each bat

- E. bats use echolocation to catch insects and therefore gain no advantage from the fact that insects flying in the vicinity of streetlights are visible at night

### Argument Construction

**Situation** In areas with mercury-vapor streetlights, any insect-eating bats feed almost exclusively around the lights, which attract flying insects. In Greenville, mercury-vapor streetlights will soon be replaced with sodium streetlights that do not attract insects.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would suggest that the change in streetlights will reduce Greenville's population of insect-eating bats?* Since the sodium streetlights will not attract flying insects, the bats will probably stop focusing their feeding around Greenville's streetlights after the lights are changed. A statement providing evidence that this will make it harder for the bats to get enough food to sustain themselves would support the conclusion that the change is likely to reduce Greenville's bat population and thus would logically complete the argument.

- A. Insect-eating bats existed long before streetlights did, so they can probably find insects away from streetlights even if they hunt only after sundown.
- B. Greenville will almost certainly still have flying insects for the bats to eat after the change, even if those insects no longer gather around the streetlights.
- C. If anything, such a smooth transition would be less likely to disturb the bats and therefore less likely to reduce their population.
- D. **Correct.** Since there will be no local concentrations of flying insects around Greenville streetlights after the change, the bats will most likely have more trouble getting enough to eat, and that their local population will therefore fall.
- E. The advantage that the bats gain from mercury-vapor streetlights comes from the high concentration of insects. The fact that the bats get no additional advantage from the insects' visibility tells us nothing about what affect the change to a different type of light might have.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR01353

173. Rats injected with morphine exhibit decreased activity of the immune system, the bodily system that fights off infections. These same rats exhibited heightened blood levels of corticosteroids, chemicals secreted by the adrenal glands. Since corticosteroids can interfere with immune-system activity, scientists hypothesized that the way morphine reduces immune responses in rats is by stimulating the adrenal glands to secrete additional corticosteroids into the bloodstream.

Which of the following experiments would yield the most useful results for evaluating the scientists' hypothesis?

- A. Injecting morphine into rats that already have heightened blood levels of corticosteroids and then observing their new blood levels of corticosteroids
- B. Testing the level of immune-system activity of rats, removing their adrenal glands, and then testing the rats' immune-system activity levels again



- C. Injecting rats with corticosteroids and then observing how many of the rats contracted infections
- D. Removing the adrenal glands of rats, injecting the rats with morphine, and then testing the level of the rats' immune-system responses
- E. Injecting rats with a drug that stimulates immune-system activity and then observing the level of corticosteroids in their bloodstreams

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Rats injected with morphine exhibit decreased immune-system activity and increased levels of corticosteroids, which are secreted by the adrenal glands and can interfere with immune-system activity.

**Reasoning** *What further experiment would help determine whether morphine reduces immune responses in rats by stimulating the adrenal glands to release more corticosteroids?* Contrary to the scientists' hypothesis, the experimental results might have occurred because the morphine injections directly reduced immune-system activity. Or the injections might have blocked some mechanism that reduces corticosteroid levels in the blood, even if the morphine did not stimulate the adrenal glands to produce more corticosteroids. To evaluate whether the scientists' hypothesis is more plausible than these rival hypotheses, it would be helpful to know whether similar experimental results would occur after morphine injections even if adrenal gland activity did not change.

- A. Morphine could stimulate the adrenal glands of rats with normal corticosteroid levels to produce more corticosteroids, whether or not it does so in rats whose corticosteroid levels are already heightened.
- B. Such an experiment would not involve morphine and thus would not help to determine how morphine affects immune-system activity in rats.
- C. Whether or not rats contract infections may not reliably indicate their levels of immune-system activity.
- D. **Correct.** If the immune system responses decreased after the morphine injections in this experiment, the hypothesis that it was by stimulation of the adrenal glands that morphine reduced immune-system activity would be undermined. But if no decrease in immune-system responses occurred, the hypothesis would be confirmed.
- E. Even if the mechanism by which a drug other than morphine increases immune-system activity were discovered, this discovery would not necessarily reveal the mechanism by which morphine reduces immune-system activity.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR06831

174. Curator: If our museum lends *Venus* to the Hart Institute for their show this spring, they will lend us their Rembrandt etchings for our print exhibition next fall. Having those etchings will increase attendance to the exhibition and hence increase revenue from our general admission fee.

Museum Administrator: But *Venus* is our biggest attraction. Moreover the Hart's show will run for twice as long as our exhibition. So on balance the number of patrons may decrease.

The point of the administrator's response to the curator is to question

- A. whether getting the Rembrandt etchings from the Hart Institute is likely to increase attendance at the print exhibition
- B. whether the Hart Institute's Rembrandt etchings will be appreciated by those patrons of the curator's museum for whom the museum's biggest attraction is *Venus*
- C. whether the number of patrons attracted by the Hart Institute's Rembrandt etchings will be larger than the number of patrons who do not come in the spring because *Venus* is on loan
- D. whether, if *Venus* is lent, the museum's revenue from general admission fees during the print exhibition will exceed its revenue from general admission fees during the Hart Institute's exhibition
- E. whether the Hart Institute or the curator's museum will have the greater financial gain from the proposed exchange of artworks

### Argument Construction

**Situation** A curator and a museum administrator debate whether lending a particular artwork to the Hart Institute in exchange for a loan of some of the Hart Institute's artworks would increase or decrease attendance and revenue at the museum.

**Reasoning** Which of the curator's explicit or implicit claims is the museum administrator questioning? The administrator's statements that *Venus* is the museum's biggest attraction and that the Hart Institute's show will run twice as long as the museum's exhibition do not directly conflict with any statement or assumption made by the curator. However, the administrator's conclusion is that on balance the number of patrons at the museum may decrease if the curator's proposal is followed. This conclusion calls into question the curator's claim that the proposal will increase revenue from the general admission fee, since that claim presupposes that on balance the proposal will increase the number of visitors to the museum. (The context suggests that the administrator is using the term *patrons* to mean visitors rather than donors.)

- A. The administrator does not dispute that the Rembrandt etchings would probably increase attendance at the print exhibition but rather suggests that this increase would be exceeded by the loss of visitors to the museum while the Hart Institute borrows *Venus*.
- B. Neither the curator nor the administrator comments on whether the patrons attracted to the Rembrandt etchings would be the same people attracted to *Venus*.
- C. **Correct.** The curator implicitly infers that the former number will be larger than the latter, whereas the administrator questions this by asserting that the latter number may be larger than the former.
- D. The administrator does not question whether the revenue during the print exhibition will exceed the revenue during the Hart Institute's exhibition, but rather whether it will exceed the loss of revenue during the Hart Institute's exhibition.
- E. Neither the curator nor the administrator comments on whether the museum would gain more or less from the exchange than the Hart Institute would.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR03697



Leaf beetles damage willow trees by stripping away their leaves, but a combination of parasites and predators generally keeps populations of these beetles in check. Researchers have found that severe air pollution results in reduced predator populations. The parasites, by contrast, are not adversely affected by pollution; nevertheless, the researchers' discovery probably does explain why leaf beetles cause particularly severe damage to willows in areas with severe air pollution, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. neither the predators nor the parasites of leaf beetles themselves attack willow trees
- B. the parasites that attack leaf beetles actually tend to be more prevalent in areas with severe air pollution than they are elsewhere
- C. the damage caused by leaf beetles is usually not enough to kill a willow tree outright
- D. where air pollution is not especially severe, predators have much more impact on leaf-beetle populations than parasites do
- E. willows often grow in areas where air pollution is especially severe

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Leaf beetles damage willow trees, but predators and parasites keep leaf beetle populations in check. Air pollution reduces populations of predators but not of parasites. Leaf beetles damage willows especially severely in areas with severe air pollution.

**Reasoning** *What would support the conclusion that air pollution's effects on the predator populations (but not on the parasite populations) explains why leaf beetles damage willows the most in areas with severe air pollution?* The word *since* preceding the blank space at the end of the passage indicates that the space should be filled with a premise supporting the conclusion stated immediately before the *since*. To support this conclusion, it would help to have evidence that predators play a predominant role in keeping leaf beetle populations in check, and thus that the reduction of predator populations by air pollution could be sufficient to enable leaf beetle populations to grow and cause especially severe damage.

- A. The fact that neither the predators nor the parasites directly contribute to harming the trees offers no reason to conclude that a difference in how they are affected by pollution would contribute to the harm that the beetles cause to the trees.
- B. If the parasites are more prevalent in areas with severe air pollution, then they are more likely to keep leaf beetle populations in check in those areas, despite the reduced predator populations. Thus, the decline in predator populations would more likely be insufficient to explain why the leaf beetles cause more damage in those areas.
- C. This observation is irrelevant to whether the decline in predator populations explains why leaf beetles damage willow trees more severely in areas with severe air pollution.
- D. **Correct.** This indicates that predators play a predominant role in keeping leaf beetle populations in check, so, as explained above, it supports the argument's conclusion.
- E. This is not clearly relevant to whether the decline in predator populations explains why leaf beetles damage willow trees more severely in areas with severe air pollution. The argument's conclusion could just as easily be true regardless of whether willows grow in such polluted areas frequently or infrequently.

**The correct answer is D.**

176. On May first, in order to reduce the number of overdue books, a children's library instituted a policy of forgiving fines and giving bookmarks to children returning all of their overdue books. On July first there were twice as many overdue books as there had been on May first, although a record number of books had been returned during the interim.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the apparent inconsistency in the results of the library's policy?

- A. The librarians did not keep accurate records of how many children took advantage of the grace period, and some of the children returning overdue books did not return all of their overdue books.
- B. Although the grace period enticed some children to return all of their overdue books, it did not convince all of the children with overdue books to return all of their books.
- C. The bookmarks became popular among the children, so in order to collect the bookmarks, many children borrowed many more books than they usually did and kept them past their due date.
- D. The children were allowed to borrow a maximum of five books for a two-week period, and hence each child could keep a maximum of fifteen books beyond their due date within a two-month period.
- E. Although the library forgave overdue fines during the grace period, the amount previously charged the children was minimal; hence, the forgiveness of the fines did not provide enough incentive for them to return their overdue books.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** After a library started forgiving fines and giving bookmarks to children who returned all their overdue books, the number of books returned greatly increased, but so did the number of overdue books.

**Reasoning** *Why might the policy have simultaneously increased the number of overdue books and the number of books being returned?* In order to increase both these numbers, the policy must have resulted in more books being checked out, kept past their due dates, and then returned. But why would the policy have promoted that behavior? One possibility is that it rewarded the behavior. The policy involved giving children bookmarks as rewards for returning overdue books, while removing the fines that penalized the children for doing so. If the children liked the bookmarks, they might have tried to get more of them by deliberately checking books out in order to keep them past their due dates before returning them to get the bookmarks.

- A. Failing to keep accurate records of the number of children would not clearly increase the number of books being returned. And the policy change did not apply to children who returned only some of their overdue books.
- B. This suggests that the policy had limited effects, but does not help to explain why it had apparently inconsistent effects.
- C. **Correct.** This explains how the policy gave the children a motive to check out and return more books while also allowing them to keep more of the books past the due dates.
- D. This restriction would have limited the number of overdue books and thus would not help to explain why that number increased.
- E. This suggests that the policy had little effect but does not help to explain why it had apparently inconsistent effects.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR00663

177. A certain species of desert lizard digs tunnels in which to lay its eggs. The eggs must incubate inside the tunnel for several weeks before hatching, and they fail to hatch if they are disturbed at any time during this incubation period. Yet these lizards guard their tunnels for only a few days after laying their eggs.

Which of the following, if true, most helps explain why there is no need for lizards to guard their tunnels for more than a few days?

- A. The eggs are at risk of being disturbed only during the brief egg-laying season when many lizards are digging in a relatively small area.
- B. The length of the incubation period varies somewhat from one tunnel to another.
- C. Each female lizard lays from 15 to 20 eggs, only about 10 of which hatch even if the eggs are not disturbed at any time during the incubation period.
- D. The temperature and humidity within the tunnels will not be suitable for the incubating eggs unless the tunnels are plugged with sand immediately after the eggs are laid.
- E. The only way to disturb the eggs of this lizard species is by opening up one of the tunnels in which they are laid.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** Lizards of a certain species dig tunnels in which they lay their eggs. Although the eggs fail to hatch if disturbed during their several weeks of incubation, the lizards guard the tunnels for only a few days after laying the eggs.

**Reasoning** *What would help to explain why the lizards have to guard their tunnels for only a few days?* For the lizards to survive as a species, their behaviors must ensure that enough of their eggs hatch. Thus, they must successfully prevent enough of their eggs from being disturbed in the tunnels throughout the several weeks of incubation. If guarding the tunnels for only a few days accomplishes this, then some other factor must prevent the eggs from being disturbed during the remaining weeks. Evidence of any such factor would help to explain why the lizards do not have to guard the tunnels longer. For example, to protect the eggs without guarding them, the lizards might conceal the tunnel entrances after the first few days. Or animals likely to disturb the eggs might only be present for those first days, in which case there would be nothing for the lizards to guard against thereafter.

- A. **Correct.** This suggests that the only creatures likely to disturb the eggs are other lizards of the same species digging tunnels to lay their own eggs at around the same time. If so, each lizard can safely leave its eggs unguarded after a few days because all the other lizards will have finished digging.
- B. Even if the incubation period varies somewhat, the passage says it always lasts several weeks. So this does not explain why the lizards have to guard the tunnels for only a few days.
- C. If many eggs fail to hatch even when undisturbed, that is all the more reason for the lizards to protect the remaining eggs from disturbance throughout the incubation period so that at least some will hatch. So it does not explain why the lizards guard their tunnels only for a few days.
- D. Whether or not immediately plugging the tunnels with sand is enough to protect the eggs, this behavior does not explain why the lizards subsequently guard the tunnels for a

few days and then leave for the rest of the incubation period.

- E. Even if it is impossible to disturb the eggs without opening the tunnels, that does not explain why the lizards guard the tunnels for a few days and then leave for the rest of the incubation period.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR00677

178. Most banks that issue credit cards charge interest rates on credit card debt that are ten percentage points higher than the rates those banks charge for ordinary consumer loans. These banks' representatives claim the difference is fully justified, since it simply covers the difference between the costs to these banks associated with credit card debt and those associated with consumer loans.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously calls into question the reasoning offered by the banks' representatives?

- A. Some lenders that are not banks offer consumer loans at interest rates that are even higher than most banks charge on credit card debt.
- B. Most car rental companies require that their customers provide signed credit card charge slips or security deposits.
- C. Two to three percent of the selling price of every item bought with a given credit card goes to the bank that issued that credit card.
- D. Most people need not use credit cards to buy everyday necessities, but could buy those necessities with cash or pay by check.
- E. People who pay their credit card bills in full each month usually pay no interest on the amounts they charge.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Banks that issue credit cards tend to charge interest rates on the associated debt that are ten percentage points higher than the rates associated with "ordinary" consumer loans (consumer loans that are not associated with credit cards). Representatives of these banks have offered a justification of this practice, based on a claim that this difference in interest rates "simply covers the difference" in costs, to the banks, associated with these respective types of loans (loans associated with credit cards and consumer loans that are not associated with credit cards).

**Reasoning** *What additional facts would indicate a flaw in the bank representatives' argument?* Given the description of the bank representatives' argument, we may assume that, by their estimation, the costs to banks associated with credit card debt are greater than the costs associated with other consumer loans. The representatives' argument, that the difference in interest rates "simply covers" this difference in costs, may then be seen as an argument that all of the extra money that the banks collect from the higher interest rates is *necessary* if the banks are to cover this difference in costs. If we can find a fact whereby the ten percentage point difference is not necessary to cover the difference in costs, then we may be able to "call into question" the bank representatives' argument.

- A. The point of this response to the bank representatives' argument would seem to be that the relatively high interest rates on credit debt may be justified because certain other businesses charge even higher interest rates on consumer loans. Regardless of the merits of this response, it appears intended to *support* the argument of the representatives, whereas our task is to identify a fact that could be used to criticize the argument.

- B. This purported fact does not address the argument concerning the interest rates on credit-card debt.
- C. **Correct.** If two to three percent of the value of purchases made on credit cards goes to the issuing banks, then this money could be used to cover some of the difference in costs described by the bank representatives. The interest rates on credit cards could therefore be somewhat lower than they actually are, with the difference in costs nevertheless still fully covered. The difference in interest rates of ten percentage points may therefore not be necessary.
- D. This point might be used in support of an argument that consumers have a genuine choice as to whether to use credit cards, and that they are therefore responsible for the higher rates of interest that they pay for credit-card debt. Such an argument would seem to *support* the position of bank representatives.
- E. As with the point in answer choice D, this point might seem to suggest that consumers bear some of the responsibility for the higher interest rates they pay, thus perhaps mitigating the responsibility of the banks. The point might thus seem to *support* the position of the banks' representatives.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR00726

179. Often patients with ankle fractures that are stable, and thus do not require surgery, are given follow-up x-rays because their orthopedists are concerned about possibly having misjudged the stability of the fracture. When a number of follow-up x-rays were reviewed, however, all the fractures that had initially been judged stable were found to have healed correctly. Therefore, it is a waste of money to order follow-up x-rays of ankle fractures initially judged stable.

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

- A. Doctors who are general practitioners rather than orthopedists are less likely than orthopedists to judge the stability of an ankle fracture correctly.
- B. Many ankle injuries for which an initial x-ray is ordered are revealed by the x-ray not to involve any fracture of the ankle.
- C. X-rays of patients of many different orthopedists working in several hospitals were reviewed.
- D. The healing of ankle fractures that have been surgically repaired is always checked by means of a follow-up x-ray.
- E. Orthopedists routinely order follow-up x-rays for fractures of bones other than ankle bones.

### **Argument Evaluation**

**Situation** Often patients with ankle fractures that their orthopedists have judged not to require surgery are given follow-up x-rays to check whether the fracture healed correctly. An examination of a sample of those x-rays found that the ankle had, in each case, healed properly.

**Reasoning** *The question is which of the answer choices, if true, would most strengthen the argument.* The argument is based on data concerning follow-up x-rays, each of which revealed no problem with the orthopedist's initial judgment that the

ankle fracture was stable (and would heal without surgery). This invites the question whether the follow-up x-rays are really needed. The argument concludes that they are a waste of money. But was the x-ray data truly representative of orthopedists generally? After all, some orthopedists—perhaps more experienced, better-trained, or employed at a facility with better staff or facilities—may be much better than others at judging ankle fractures. If we add the information that the data for the conclusion comes from many orthopedists working at many different hospitals, we have greater assurance that the x-ray data is representative, and the argument will be made much stronger.

- A. Neither the study nor the conclusion that is drawn from it concerns general practitioners, so this point is irrelevant.
- B. Naturally many ankle injuries do not involve fractures—x-rays may sometimes be used to determine this—but the argument concerns only cases where there have been ankle fractures.
- C. **Correct.** This shows that the sample of x-ray data examined was probably sufficiently representative of cases of ankle fracture judged to be stable by orthopedists.
- D. The argument does not concern cases of ankle fracture that have been surgically repaired.
- E. The argument concerns only x-rays of ankles. From the information given here, we cannot infer that orthopedists are generally wasteful in routinely ordering follow-up x-rays.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR05431

180. In setting environmental standards for industry and others to meet, it is inadvisable to require the best results that state-of-the-art technology can achieve. Current technology is able to detect and eliminate even extremely minute amounts of contaminants, but at a cost that is exorbitant relative to the improvement achieved. So it would be reasonable instead to set standards by taking into account all of the current and future risks involved.

The argument given concerning the reasonable way to set standards presupposes that

- A. industry currently meets the standards that have been set by environmental authorities
- B. there are effective ways to take into account all of the relevant risks posed by allowing different levels of contaminants
- C. the only contaminants worth measuring are generated by industry
- D. it is not costly to prevent large amounts of contaminants from entering the environment
- E. minute amounts of some contaminants can be poisonous

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** State-of-the-art technology can detect and eliminate even tiny amounts of environmental contaminants, but at a cost that is exorbitant relative to its benefits.

**Reasoning** *What must be true in order for the argument's premises to support its conclusion?* The argument is that environmental standards requiring the best results that state-of-the-art technology can provide are unreasonably expensive



relative to their benefits, so it would be reasonable instead to set environmental standards that take into account all present and future risks from contaminants. In order for the premise to support the conclusion, the environmental standards based on present and future risks would have to be less expensive relative to their benefits than the *best results* environmental standards are. Furthermore, setting the *current and future risks* environmental standards cannot be reasonable unless it is feasible to assess present and future risks as those standards require.

- A. The argument does not say which standards, if any, environmental authorities have set. In any case, such standards could be reasonable or unreasonable regardless of whether industry currently meets them.
- B. **Correct.** If taking future risks into account were infeasible, then applying the *current and future risks* standards would also be infeasible. And setting those standards would be unreasonable if they could not feasibly be applied.
- C. According to the stimulus, the proposed *current and future risks* standards would apply to industry *and others*. So those standards could be reasonable even if the unspecified *others* also generated contaminants worth measuring, and even if the standards required measuring those contaminants.
- D. Even if it were costly to prevent large amounts of contaminants from entering the environment, the benefits of doing so to prevent present and future risks might outweigh the costs.
- E. The *current and future risks* standards could take into account any poisoning risks posed by minute amounts of contaminants.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR05750

181. The chemical adenosine is released by brain cells when those cells are active. Adenosine then binds to more and more sites on cells in certain areas of the brain, as the total amount released gradually increases during wakefulness. During sleep, the number of sites to which adenosine is bound decreases. Some researchers have hypothesized that it is the cumulative binding of adenosine to a large number of sites that causes the onset of sleep.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the researchers' hypothesis?

- A. Even after long periods of sleep when adenosine is at its lowest concentration in the brain, the number of brain cells bound with adenosine remains very large.
- B. Caffeine, which has the effect of making people remain wakeful, is known to interfere with the binding of adenosine to sites on brain cells.
- C. Besides binding to sites in the brain, adenosine is known to be involved in biochemical reactions throughout the body.
- D. Some areas of the brain that are relatively inactive nonetheless release some adenosine.
- E. Stress resulting from a dangerous situation can preserve wakefulness even when brain levels of bound adenosine are high.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Adenosine is released from brain cells that are active. The amount of adenosine released increases during wakefulness, and it binds to more and more sites on cells in certain brain locations. The number of sites to which it is bound decreases during sleep. Researchers have hypothesized that the cumulative binding of adenosine to many sites causes the onset of sleep.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice most strongly supports the hypothesis? If the hypothesis is correct, then some factor that impedes the binding of adenosine should be closely associated with wakefulness. Therefore, finding some such factor, and observing that it is accompanied by wakefulness when the factor operates, would tend to confirm the hypothesis.

- A. Without further, more specific information, this piece of information suffices neither to confirm nor to refute the hypothesis.
- B. **Correct.** A finding that caffeine, known to induce wakefulness, inhibits adenosine from binding to sites on brain cells helps confirm the hypothesis.
- C. This piece of information lacks a clear relevance to the hypothesized impact on sleep, and therefore does not help confirm the hypothesis.
- D. This information lacks a clear relevance to the hypothesized impact on sleep, and therefore does not help confirm the hypothesis.
- E. What this indicates is that stress may impede the hypothesized sleep-inducing effect of adenosine. It does not refute the hypothesis but does not confirm it either.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR01101

182. A two-year study beginning in 1977 found that, among 85-year-old people, those whose immune systems were weakest were twice as likely to die within two years as others in the study. The cause of their deaths, however, was more often heart disease, against which the immune system does not protect, than cancer or infections, which are attacked by the immune system.

Which of the following, if true, would offer the best prospects for explaining deaths in which weakness of the immune system, though present, played no causal role?

- A. There were twice as many infections among those in the study with the weakest immune systems as among those with the strongest immune systems.
- B. The majority of those in the study with the strongest immune systems died from infection or cancer by 1987.
- C. Some of the drugs that had been used to treat the symptoms of heart disease had a side effect of weakening the immune system.
- D. Most of those in the study who survived beyond the two-year period had recovered from a serious infection sometime prior to 1978.
- E. Those in the study who survived into the 1980s had, in 1976, strengthened their immune systems through drug therapy.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** This question presents a puzzling scenario and asks us to find a possible fact that could make the situation less puzzling. The scenario involves a study that was conducted a few decades ago on a certain group of older adults. Those with the weakest immune systems were much more likely to die within two years than were the other individuals in the study. However, among the individuals with the weakest immune systems, death was more often by heart disease, from which the immune system does not protect, than from cancer or infections, for which a strong immune system is protective.

**Reasoning** For the participants in the study with the weakest immune systems, what might best explain the deaths that were not due to weakness of the immune



*system?* We might expect that the people with the weakest immune systems would be more likely to die from diseases that a strong immune system would protect them from than from other diseases. An explanation of the deaths that were not due to weakness of the immune system would explain why this is not the case.

- A. This point is irrelevant. The hypothesis that the participants in the study with the weakest immune systems had more infections than did the other participants does not explain why those participants died from conditions that were not infections.
- B. Our question involves identifying a possible explanation for the deaths of the participants in the study with the weakest immune systems. This answer choice, about the deaths of those with strong immune systems, is thus irrelevant.
- C. **Correct.** This answer choice suggests that those with heart disease—which would not have been due to weakness of the immune system—would have nevertheless had a weaker immune system due to the administration of certain drugs. Those with heart disease may for this reason have been among those with the weakest immune systems. If the individuals with weak immune systems due to treatment for heart disease formed a large-enough portion of the patients with the weakest immune systems, then we would have an explanation for why those with the weakest immune systems were more likely to die from heart disease than from infections or cancer.
- D. This answer choice is not specific enough for us to use in the explanation we are looking for. For example, the “serious” infections in question may have occurred well before the 1977 study. Furthermore, there may appear to be no significant relationship between having had a serious infection and death from a condition that was not an infection.
- E. This answer choice is also not specific enough to be a factor that might reasonably offer the explanation we are looking for. For example, given the information in this answer choice, it could have been the case that all of the participants had the drug therapy.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR13093

183. Most scholars agree that King Alfred (A.D. 849–899) personally translated a number of Latin texts into Old English. One historian contends that Alfred also personally penned his own law code, arguing that the numerous differences between the language of the law code and Alfred’s translations of Latin texts are outweighed by the even more numerous similarities. Linguistic similarities, however, are what one expects in texts from the same language, the same time, and the same region. Apart from Alfred’s surviving translations and law code, there are only two other extant works from the same dialect and milieu, so it is risky to assume here that linguistic similarities point to common authorship.

The passage above proceeds by

- A. providing examples that underscore another argument’s conclusion
- B. questioning the plausibility of an assumption on which another argument depends
- C. showing that a principle if generally applied would have anomalous consequences
- D. showing that the premises of another argument are mutually inconsistent
- E. using argument by analogy to undermine a principle implicit in another argument

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** A historian argues that King Alfred must have written his own law code, since there are more similarities than differences between the language in the law code and that in Alfred’s translations of Latin texts. Apart from Alfred’s

translations and law code, there are only two other extant works in the same dialect and from the same milieu.

**Reasoning** *How does the reasoning in the passage proceed?* The first sentence presents a claim that is not disputed in the passage. The second sentence presents a historian's argument. Implicitly citing the undisputed claim in the passage's first sentence as evidence, the historian proposes an analogy between the law code and Alfred's translations, arguing on the basis of this analogy that Alfred wrote the law code. The third sentence of the passage casts doubt on this analogy, pointing out that it could plausibly apply to texts that Alfred did not write. The fourth sentence suggests that too few extant texts are available as evidence to rule out the possibility raised in the third sentence. Thus, the third and fourth sentences are intended to undermine the historian's argument.

- A. As explained above, the passage is intended to undermine the conclusion of the historian's argument, not to *underscore* (emphasize) it.
- B. **Correct.** The passage's third and fourth sentences question the plausibility of the historian's assumption that no one but Alfred would have been likely to write a text whose language has more similarities to than differences from the language in Alfred's translations.
- C. Although there might well be anomalous consequences from generalizing the assumption on which the historian's argument relies, the passage does not mention or allude to any such consequences.
- D. The passage does not mention, or suggest the existence of, any inconsistencies among the premises of the historian's argument.
- E. Although the historian argues by analogy, the passage does not itself argue by analogy; it does not suggest any specific counteranalogy to undermine the historian's argument.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR01355

184. Parland's alligator population has been declining in recent years, primarily because of hunting. Alligators prey heavily on a species of freshwater fish that is highly valued as food by Parlanders, who had hoped that the decline in the alligator population would lead to an increase in the numbers of these fish available for human consumption. Yet the population of this fish species has also declined, even though the annual number caught for human consumption has not increased.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the decline in the population of the fish species?

- A. The decline in the alligator population has meant that fishers can work in some parts of lakes and rivers that were formerly too dangerous.
- B. Over the last few years, Parland's commercial fishing enterprises have increased the number of fishing boats they use.
- C. Many Parlanders who hunt alligators do so because of the high market price of alligator skins, not because of the threat alligators pose to the fish population.
- D. During Parland's dry season, holes dug by alligators remain filled with water long enough to provide a safe place for the eggs of this fish species to hatch.
- E. In several neighboring countries through which Parland's rivers also flow, alligators are at risk of extinction as a result of extensive hunting.

**Argument Construction**

**Situation** The alligators in a certain region prey heavily on a certain species of fish that is prized for human consumption. However, although in recent years hunting has reduced the population of alligators in the region, the population of the prized freshwater fish species has declined. The annual number caught for human consumption has not increased.

**Reasoning** *What might explain the decline in the population of the prized fish species, despite both the decrease in population of another species that preys heavily on the prized fish and the lack of increase in fishing for the species for human consumption?* The population of the fish species declined, despite both the presence of a factor that we might be expected to produce an increase in the population of the species and the absence of a factor that we might ordinarily expect to explain the decrease. This situation may seem puzzling, and we may thus wish to find an explanation for it.

- A. Given that fishers can work in parts of lakes and rivers that were formerly too dangerous to work in, we might expect fishing of the prized species to increase and thus expect the population of the species to decrease. Although this might explain a decrease in the population of the fish species if fishing for the species increased, we have been given reason to believe that fishing for the species *decreased*.
- B. As with answer choice A, answer choice B suggests that fishing in the region may have increased and thus that fishing for the prized fish species for human consumption may have increased. This might explain the decrease in the population of the fish species if the statement were correct. However, we have been given that fishing for the prized fish species for human consumption has decreased.
- C. The statement in this answer choice provides an explanation of why the alligator hunting has occurred. Given that the alligators prey on the fish, this might help to explain an increase in the population of the prized fish species, had such an increase occurred. However, we are given that the population of the fish species in the region has decreased.
- D. **Correct.** Despite the fact that alligators prey on the prized fish species, this statement describes a way in which the fish species may be dependent on the alligators, in such a way that a decline in the population of the alligators could contribute to a decline in the fish species.
- E. The statement in this answer choice serves to amplify a point that is given in the puzzling situation of a decline in the population of the fish species *despite* (among other factors) a decrease in the population of the alligators. It does not explain why a decline in the population of the alligator species may have contributed to a decline in the population of the fish species.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR05418

185. A company plans to develop a prototype weeding machine that uses cutting blades with optical sensors and microprocessors that distinguish weeds from crop plants by differences in shade of color. The inventor of the machine claims that it will reduce labor costs by virtually eliminating the need for manual weeding.

Which of the following is a consideration in favor of the company's implementing its plan to develop the prototype?

- A. There is a considerable degree of variation in shade of color between weeds of different species.
- B. The shade of color of some plants tends to change appreciably over the course of their growing season.

- C. When crops are weeded manually, overall size and leaf shape are taken into account in distinguishing crop plants from weeds.
- D. Selection and genetic manipulation allow plants of virtually any species to be economically bred to have a distinctive shade of color without altering their other characteristics.
- E. Farm laborers who are responsible for the manual weeding of crops carry out other agricultural duties at times in the growing season when extensive weeding is not necessary.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** A company plans to develop an automated weeding machine that would distinguish weeds from crop plants by differences in shade of color. It is supposed to reduce labor costs by eliminating the need for manual weeding.

**Reasoning** *Which answer choice describes a consideration that would favor the company's plan?* The passage supports the plan by claiming that the machine would reduce labor costs by virtually eliminating weeding by hand. The correct answer choice will be one that adds to this support. Labor costs will be reduced only if the machine works well. The machine relies on shade of color to distinguish between weeds and crop plants. If crop plants can be bred to have distinctive color without sacrificing other qualities, it would be more likely that the machine could be used effectively.

- A. Greater variation among weed plants would make it more difficult for the machine to distinguish between weeds and crop plants, and this would make it less likely that the machine would be effective.
- B. This answer choice tends to disfavor the effectiveness of the machine. The more changeable the colors of the plants to be distinguished, the more complex the task of distinguishing between weeds and crop plants based on their color.
- C. This answer choice tends to disfavor the likely benefits of the machine because it indicates that manual weeding distinguishes weeds from crop plants by using criteria that the machine does not take into account. If the machine does not distinguish weeds from crop plants as accurately and reliably as manual weeding does, then the machine is less apt to make manual weeding unnecessary.
- D. **Correct.** Making crop plants easily distinguishable from weeds would facilitate the effective use of the weeding machine.
- E. This does not favor the company's implementing the plan to develop the machine. There would still be tasks other than weeding that would require hiring staff. Thus there would still be labor costs even if the need for manual weeding were eliminated.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR05079

186. Aroca City currently funds its public schools through taxes on property. **In place of this system, the city plans to introduce a sales tax of 3 percent on all retail sales in the city.** Critics protest that 3 percent of current retail sales falls short of the amount raised for schools by property taxes. The critics are correct on this point. **Nevertheless, implementing the plan will probably not reduce the money going to Aroca's schools.** Several large retailers have selected Aroca City as the site for huge new stores, and these are certain to draw large numbers of shoppers from neighboring municipalities, where sales are taxed at rates of 6 percent and more. In consequence, retail sales in Aroca City are bound to increase substantially.

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

- A. The first presents a plan that the argument concludes is unlikely to achieve its goal; the second expresses that conclusion.
- B. The first presents a plan that the argument concludes is unlikely to achieve its goal; the second presents evidence in support of that conclusion.
- C. The first presents a plan that the argument contends is the best available; the second is a conclusion drawn by the argument to justify that contention.
- D. The first presents a plan one of whose consequences is at issue in the argument; the second is the argument's conclusion about that consequence.
- E. The first presents a plan that the argument seeks to defend against a certain criticism; the second is that criticism.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Aroca City plans to switch the source of its public school funding from property taxes to a new local sales tax.

**Reasoning** *What argumentative roles do the two portions in boldface play in the passage?* The first boldface portion simply describes the city's plan. The next two sentences in the passage describe an observation some critics have made in objecting to the plan and say that the observation is correct. But then the second boldface portion rejects the critics' implicit conclusion that the plan will reduce school funding. The final two sentences in the passage present reasons to accept the statement in the second boldface portion, so they are premises supporting it as a conclusion.

- A. The argument concludes that the plan is unlikely to reduce funding for the schools. The passage does not mention the plan's goal, but presumably that goal is not to reduce school funding.
- B. The second boldface portion presents the argument's conclusion, not evidence to support the conclusion. The passage does not mention the plan's goal, but presumably that goal is not to reduce school funding.
- C. The passage does not say whether the plan is better than any other possible school funding plans.
- D. **Correct.** The plan's likely effect on the amount of school funding is at issue in the argument, whose conclusion is that the plan probably will not reduce that funding.
- E. The second boldface portion does not criticize the plan, but rather rejects a criticism of the plan by stating that the plan will probably not reduce school funding.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR06152

187. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A photograph of the night sky was taken with the camera shutter open for an extended period. The normal motion of stars across the sky caused the images of the stars in the photograph to appear as streaks. However, one bright spot was not streaked. Even if the spot were caused, as astronomers believe, by a celestial object, that object could still have been moving across the sky during the time the shutter was open, since \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the spot was not the brightest object in the photograph
- B. the photograph contains many streaks that astronomers can identify as caused by noncelestial objects



- C. stars in the night sky do not appear to shift position relative to each other
- D. the spot could have been caused by an object that emitted a flash that lasted for only a fraction of the time that the camera shutter was open
- E. if the camera shutter had not been open for an extended period, it would have recorded substantially fewer celestial objects

### Argument Construction

**Situation** In a photograph of the night sky taken with the camera shutter open for an extended period, the images of stars appeared as streaks because of the stars' normal motion across the sky, but one bright spot was not streaked.

**Reasoning** *What would most strongly suggest that a celestial object moving across the sky could have caused the spot?* An object moving across the sky that was bright throughout the time the camera shutter was open should have appeared as a streak in the photograph, just as the stars did. But if the moving object was bright for only a very brief moment, and thus not for an extended time while the camera shutter was open, the object's movement may not have been captured in the photograph, and thus would appear in the photograph as an unstreaked bright spot.

- A. The argument is not about how bright the spot was compared to other objects in the photograph.
- B. Streaks caused by noncelestial objects such as satellites or airplanes do not explain how only one of many celestial objects moving across the sky could have produced the unstreaked spot.
- C. The passage indicates that the stars were shifting position relative to the camera, not relative to one another. In any case, this observation does not help to explain how a celestial object that may not have been a star but that was moving across the sky could have produced the unstreaked spot in the photograph.
- D. **Correct.** As explained above, a moving celestial object that only produced a momentary flash of light would produce an unstreaked bright spot in the photograph.
- E. This may be true, given that fewer celestial objects might have moved into the camera's range of view if the camera shutter had not been open as long. But it does not provide any evidence that a moving celestial object could have produced the unstreaked spot.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR09046

188. Economist: Paying extra for fair-trade coffee—coffee labeled with the Fairtrade logo—is intended to help poor farmers, because they receive a higher price for the fair-trade coffee they grow. But this practice may hurt more farmers in developing nations than it helps. By raising average prices for coffee, it encourages more coffee to be produced than consumers want to buy. This lowers prices for non-fair-trade coffee and thus lowers profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers.

To evaluate the strength of the economist's argument, it would be most helpful to know which of the following?

- A. Whether there is a way of alleviating the impact of the increased average prices for coffee on non-fair-trade coffee farmers' profits
- B. What proportion of coffee farmers in developing nations produce fair-trade coffee

- C. Whether many coffee farmers in developing nations also derive income from other kinds of farming
- D. Whether consumers should pay extra for fair-trade coffee if doing so lowers profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers
- E. How fair-trade coffee farmers in developing nations could be helped without lowering profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Poor farmers receive higher prices for fair-trade coffee. But paying extra for fair-trade coffee lowers prices for non-fair-trade coffee and thus lowers profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers.

**Reasoning** *What would be most helpful to know to evaluate how well the economist's observations support the conclusion that buying fair-trade coffee hurts more farmers in developing nations than it helps?* The economist suggests that buying fair-trade coffee benefits farmers who grow it because they receive higher prices, but that it hurts non-fair-trade coffee farmers by reducing their profits. So to know whether the practice hurts more farmers in developing nations than it helps, it would be helpful to know whether developing nations have more farmers who produce non-fair-trade coffee than produce fair-trade coffee.

- A. Even if there were some potential way of alleviating the negative impact from buying fair-trade coffee on non-fair-trade coffee farmers, it still could be that the practice hurts more developing-nation farmers than it helps. Alleviating the negative impact does not entail that there is no negative impact.
- B. **Correct.** If fewer than half of these farmers produce fair-trade coffee, then the economist's observations do suggest that buying fair-trade coffee hurts more coffee farmers in developing nations than it helps. But if more than half do, those observations suggest the contrary.
- C. Although knowing this could be helpful in determining how intensely many farmers are economically affected by people buying fair-trade coffee, it is not helpful in determining whether more farmers are hurt than are helped.
- D. The argument's conclusion is only about the economic impact of buying fair-trade coffee, not about how consumers should or should not respond to that impact.
- E. Knowing how the fair-trade coffee farmers could potentially be helped without hurting the other coffee farmers is irrelevant to assessing whether the practice of buying fair-trade coffee hurts more developing-nation farmers than it helps.

**The correct answer is B.**

### Questions 189 to 233 - Difficulty: Hard

CR66900.02

189. Twenty-five years ago, 2,000 married people were asked to rank four categories—spouses, friends, jobs, and housework—according to the amount of time each category demanded. A recent follow-up survey indicates that a majority of those same people rank housework higher on the list now than they did twenty-five years ago. Yet most of the respondents also claim that housework has become less demanding of their time over the last twenty-five years.

Which of the following, if true, helps to explain the apparent discrepancy?

- A. Some of the people surveyed were married to other people in the survey.

- B. Many of the most time-consuming aspects of people's lives do not appear as categories on either survey.
- C. Most of those who responded to the follow-up survey have retired in the last twenty-five years.
- D. At the time of the follow-up survey, some of the people surveyed did no housework.
- E. Many of the respondents to the follow-up survey claim that they now spend much more time with their friends than they did twenty-five years ago.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Twenty-five years ago, 2,000 married people were asked in a survey to rank four categories—spouse, friends, jobs, and housework—with respect to the average amount of time demanded by activities in each category. In a recent survey, most of the same people were asked to rank those activities again. Many ranked housework higher than they had ranked it in the first survey. Yet most claimed that housework had become less demanding of their time over the past twenty-five years. In light of the higher ranking of housework, this claim is initially puzzling.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice provides the best explanation for the apparent inconsistency between the two findings cited from the recent survey? A rise in the ranking of housework could occur either because the amount of time taken by housework increased or because the amount of time taken by one or more of the other categories declined over the twenty-five years. For example, suppose housework ranked fourth, i.e., lowest, in the first survey. If most of those surveyed had been fulltime employees twenty-five years ago, the category *jobs* would probably have ranked much higher than the category *housework*. But if those people were retired twenty-five years later, then the time demanded by jobs would be much less or even zero. Housework might then rank higher than jobs in the second survey even if it did not demand as many hours as it did previously.

- A. The information that some people surveyed were spouses of others surveyed would not, by itself, indicate statistical error in the survey. Single people in the surveys would obviously have ranked the category *spouse* lower than did married people. We are given no information as to how many of those people who were single when first surveyed had since married. But even if we had such information, a rise in the ranking for the category *spouse* would not, without further information, explain the rise in the ranking for *housework*.
- B. The surveys asked only for a ranking of activities in the four categories. Each ranking reflects the proportion of total time spent on those four categories, not including other kinds of activity.
- C. **Correct.** Housework could move up in the ranking if the category *jobs*, for example, had drastically declined in the ranking below even housework. As explained above, this could occur if many or most of those surveyed had been employed fulltime twenty-five years ago but had retired in the meantime; this would be consistent with a rise in the ranking of housework as well as a reduction in the proportion of total time spent on housework.
- D. This information is nonspecific about how many people did no housework. It is also nonspecific about how many of those who were surveyed ranked housework lowest or reported doing no housework. It does not help explain the apparent inconsistency in the overall survey results.



- E. In the absence of further information about the ranking of the categories *housework* and *friends* in the two surveys, this new information does little to explain the apparent inconsistency. In fact, without some indication that many respondents do housework with their friends, this suggests that the ranking for the category *housework* should have declined if it changed at all.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR59820.02

190. In order to achieve self-sufficiency in electricity production, **the Hasarian government proposes to construct eleven huge hydroelectric power plants**. Although this is a massive project, it is probably not massive enough to achieve the goal. It is true that **adding the projected output of the new hydroelectric plants to the output that Hasaria can achieve now would be enough to meet the forecast demand for electricity**. It will, however, take at least fifteen years to complete the project and by then the majority of Hasaria's current power plants will be too old to function at full capacity.

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

- A. The first introduces a proposed course of action for which the argument provides support; the second gives evidence in support of that course of action.
- B. The first introduces a proposed course of action for which the argument provides support; the second gives a reason for not adopting a possible alternative course of action.
- C. The first introduces a plan that the argument evaluates; the second provides evidence that is used to support that plan against possible alternatives.
- D. The first introduces a proposed plan for achieving a certain goal; the second is a claim that has been used in support of the plan but that the argument maintains is inaccurate.
- E. The first introduces a proposed plan for achieving a certain goal; the second provides evidence that is used to support the argument's evaluation of that plan.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** To achieve self-sufficiency in electricity production, the Hasarian government proposes to construct eleven large hydroelectric power plants. But the project might not be large enough to achieve its goal. It will take fifteen years to complete, but by then many of the existing power plants will not be able to function at full capacity.

**Reasoning** *What logical roles in the argument do the boldfaced portions play?* The first reports the proposed plan. But it is argued that the plan might not achieve its goal. It is conceded that the amount of power projected to be generated by the new plants might be sufficient if added to the existing power generation capacity. But since it will take fifteen years to complete the project, some of the existing power generation capacity will no longer be fully available.

- A. The first introduces a proposed plan. But the argument is critical of that proposal and indicates that the plan, if adopted, might ultimately NOT achieve its goal. The second does not give evidence in support of the plan.
- B. The first introduces a proposed plan. The second does not give evidence against adopting an alternative course of action. No alternative plan is considered.
- C. The first does introduce a plan that the argument evaluates, but the second does not provide evidence to support that plan against possible alternatives. No possible alternative plan is considered.

- D. The first introduces a proposed plan for achieving a goal of energy self-sufficiency. The second gives a claim that the argument treats as accurate.
- E. **Correct.** The first introduces a proposed plan for achieving a goal of energy self-sufficiency. The second provides support for the argument's evaluation of the plan. It provides information to indicate that the planned new energy generation capacity would provide energy self-sufficiency if existing generation capacity were added. However, the argument indicates a flaw in the plan: Hasaria's existing power plants will have significantly reduced generation capacity in fifteen years, the time it will take for the new plants to become operational.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR89820.02

191. In Cecropia, inspections of fishing boats that estimate the number of fish they are carrying are typically conducted upon their return to port. The high numbers so obtained have led the government to conclude that the coastal waters are being overfished. To allow commercial fishing stocks to recover, the government is considering introducing annual quotas on the number of fish that each fishing boat can catch. Compliance with the quotas would be determined by the established system of inspections.

Which of the following, if true, raises the most serious doubts about whether the government's proposed plan would succeed?

- A. Some commercial fishing boats in Cecropia are large enough to catch their entire annual quota in only a few months of fishing.
- B. The quotas would have to be reduced if more boats began fishing in Cecropia's coastal waters.
- C. Because fish prices will rise if the quotas go into effect, it is unlikely that the quotas will significantly change the number of boats fishing Cecropia's coastal waters.
- D. The procedure that inspectors use to estimate the number of fish a boat is carrying often results in a slight overcount.
- E. Quotas encourage fishers to bring only the most commercially valuable fish into port and to discard less valuable fish, most of them dead or dying.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** The government of Cecropia is considering introducing annual catch quotas for fishing boats in order to allow commercial fishing stocks in coastal waters to recover. The quotas would be enforced by inspectors who will estimate the number of fish brought into port by each boat.

**Reasoning** *What new information raises the most serious doubts about whether the plan would succeed if it is implemented?* The quota restrictions could raise problems associated with enforcement, economic viability, and acceptance by those whose livelihood depends, directly or indirectly, on the fishing industry. The restrictions would be pointless and would not attain the goal of protecting fishing stocks unless they could be effectively enforced. Other issues would have to be resolved for the proposed quotas to pass into law.

- A. For large commercial fishing boats, the quota system could pose difficulties. Large capital investment would likely be tied up in such boats, and such boats might have to supplement their catches by fishing in waters not controlled by any nation. But large boats could presumably do so.

- B. We are given no information as to whether possible reduction of fishing quotas is envisaged in the government's proposed plan—or whether quota reduction would count as a different proposal superseding the one under discussion.
- C. This is a consideration in favor of the proposal. It suggests that the proposed quota system would succeed and that the viability of commercial fishing boats and the livelihoods of fishers would not be negatively affected.
- D. This information does not suggest that the quota system is likely to fail. If fish counts are adjusted using a reasonable margin of error and there are appeal procedures to resolve disputes about fish counts, such disputes, by themselves, would then be unlikely to cause the quota system to fail.
- E. **Correct.** The information about the proposed quota system indicates that the fish catch of each boat is monitored only in port. Boats could circumvent the quota system by indiscriminately catching and letting die all available fish but discarding the least valuable fish out at sea before submitting to the inspections in port. The non-survival of this part of the catch could, over time, impair the recovery of the coastal fish populations.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR55030.02

192. Consultant: **A significant number of complex repair jobs carried out by Ace Repairs have to be redone under the company's warranty, but when those repairs are redone they are invariably successful.** Since we have definitely established that **there is no systematic difference between the mechanics who are assigned to do the initial repairs and those who are assigned to redo unsatisfactory jobs**, it is clear that inadequacies in the initial repairs cannot be attributed to the mechanics' lack of competence. Rather, it is likely that complex repairs require a level of focused attention that the company's mechanics apply consistently only to repair jobs that have been inadequately done on the first try.

In the consultant's reasoning, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- A. The first is a claim that the consultant rejects as false; the second is evidence that forms the basis for that rejection.
- B. The first is part of an explanation that the consultant offers for a certain finding; the second is that finding.
- C. The first presents a pattern whose explanation is at issue in the reasoning; the second provides evidence to rule out one possible explanation of that pattern.
- D. The first presents a pattern whose explanation is at issue in the reasoning; the second is evidence that has been used to challenge the explanation presented by the consultant.
- E. The first is the position the consultant seeks to establish; the second is offered as evidence for that position.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** The following information is attributed to a consultant. Some complex repair jobs done by Ace Repairs have to be redone under warranty and the repairs, when redone, are usually successful. But the mechanics who do the initial repairs and those who redo them are, overall, equally competent to do the repairs successfully.

**Reasoning** *What role in the consultant's reasoning do the boldfaced statements play?* The first sentence describes a situation that is puzzling and needs explanation. One might be inclined to argue that the mechanics who redo the repairs are more

competent that those who did the initial repairs. But the second boldfaced statement rebuts this explanation by telling us that it has been *definitely established* that there are no systematic differences in competence. The final sentence of the consultant's reasoning offers another explanation: that the redoing of a repair elicits from mechanics a higher level of focused attention than did the performance of the initial repair.

- A. The first is an assertion made by the consultant concerning a puzzling phenomenon. It does not attribute a denial of any claim to the consultant; so the second does not provide a reason for a denial made by the consultant in the first boldfaced portion.
- B. The first is not an explanation, or even part of one, for a finding, but rather, a description of a puzzling finding concerning a difference between success rates of initial repairs and those of repairs that are redone. The first, not the second, describes the finding itself.
- C. **Correct.** The first is a statement of a puzzling fact that the consultant seems to have found and that needs explanation. The second provides evidence to exclude the hypothesis that the higher success rates in redoing repairs than in the initial doing of the repairs is explainable by reference to different levels of competence in the mechanics in each case.
- D. The first is a statement of a puzzling fact that the consultant seems to believe needs explanation. Regarding the second, first note that the explanation that the consultant offers is to be found in the final sentence of the passage. The second boldfaced portion is part of the reasoning on which the consultant bases the explanation, not a claim that someone else has made in opposition to the consultant's explanation.
- E. The first is an assertion by the consultant; the consultant presents it as established fact, not as a position that the consultant seeks to establish (i.e., provide evidence for). The second does not give evidence that helps establish the consultant's initial assertion.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR08540.02

193. Half of Metroburg's operating budget comes from a payroll tax of 2 percent on salaries paid to people who work in the city. Recently a financial services company, one of Metroburg's largest private-sector employers, announced that it will be relocating just outside the city. All the company's employees, amounting to 1 percent of all people now employed in Metroburg, will be employed at the new location.

From the information given, which of the following can most properly be concluded?

- A. Unless other employers add a substantial number of jobs in Metroburg, the company's relocation is likely to result in a 1 percent reduction in the revenue for the city's operating budget.
- B. Although the company's relocation will have a negative effect on the city's tax revenue, the company's departure will not lead to any increase in the unemployment rate among city residents.
- C. One of the benefits that the company will realize from its relocation is a reduction in the taxes paid by itself and its employees.
- D. Revenue from the payroll tax will decline by 1 percent if there is no increase in jobs within the city to compensate, fully or partially, for the company's departure.
- E. The company's relocation will tend to increase the proportion of jobs in Metroburg that are in the public sector, unless it results in a contraction of the public-sector payroll.

**Argument Construction**

**Situation** Metroburg funds half of its operating budget with a 2 percent payroll tax for each person who works in the city. A large private-sector firm will soon relocate outside the city; all its current employees will be employed at the new location.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice is most strongly supported by the information provided? The firm's employees comprise 1 percent of all employees working in Metroburg. But we have no information about the company's salaries; for all we can tell, they might be far higher or far lower than the Metroburg average. So we do not know what proportion of the city's total operating budget is funded by the taxes paid by the firm's employees.

- A. As explained above, we do not know how much of the revenue for Metroburg's operating budget comes from the payroll taxes paid by the firm's employees.
- B. We lack the information needed to predict what the downstream economic effects of the firm's departure will be. These effects could include an increase in the unemployment rate among city residents. We do not know whether all the firm's employees are city residents; perhaps none are. But it is conceivable that some of the spending now occurring in the city would migrate to the firm's new location; this loss of commercial business could presumably result in job losses and increased unemployment in the city, but there is little reason to suppose that it would do so.
- C. We have no information to support this. The given information does not imply that the firm is relocating in order to avoid city taxes.
- D. As explained, we do not know how much of the revenue for Metroburg's operating budget is currently funded by taxes on the firm's payroll.
- E. **Correct.** The firm that will relocate is a private-sector employer, and its employees currently comprise 1 percent of the total workforce employed in Metroburg. As a city that collects taxes, Metroburg presumably has public-sector employees. The migration of jobs to a location outside the city will entail that the proportion of all those working in the city who are private-sector employees will decrease, and—all things being equal—this, in turn, will cause an increase in the proportion of all employees in the city that are public-sector employees. However, this consequence would not necessarily occur if the firm's relocation indirectly resulted in a sufficiently large reduction in the city's public-sector workforce.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR62740.02

194. A library currently has only coin-operated photocopy machines, which cost 10 cents per copy. Library administrators are planning to refit most of those machines with card readers. The library will sell prepaid copy cards that allow users to make 50 copies at 9 cents per copy. Administrators believe that, despite the convenience of copy cards and their lower per-copy cost, the number of copies made in the library will be essentially unchanged after the refit.

On the assumption that administrators' assessment is correct, which of the following predictions about the effect of the refit is most strongly supported by the information given?

- A. Library patrons will only purchase a copy card on days when they need to make 50 or more copies.
- B. No library patrons will increase their usage of the library's photocopy machines once the refit has been made.
- C. If most of the copy cards sold in the library are used to their full capacity, the number of people using the library's photocopy machines over a given period will fall.

- D. Revenues from photocopying will decrease unless most library patrons choose to use the remaining coin-operated machines in preference to the card-reader equipped ones.
- E. Revenues from photocopying will increase if copy cards that are purchased are, on average, used to significantly less than 90 percent of their capacity.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** A library's photocopiers are coin-operated; a copy costs 10 cents. The library's management plans to refit most of the photocopiers to accept copy cards that allow 50 copies to be made at 9 cents each. The administrators believe that the refit will not result in fewer copies being made.

**Reasoning** *Assuming that the administrators are right, which of the five predictions about the effect of the refit is most strongly supported by the information provided?* Suppose that only one card were sold and only 45 copies were made with that card. Then the amount that the user paid per copy would be 10 cents. Whatever the number of cards sold, provided the number of copies made per card averages less than 45, then the average revenue per copy would be more than 10 cents. This would produce an increase in total revenue if the total number of photocopy uses were no less than in previous years. The greater the number of cards sold, the greater the increase in total revenues, provided that the usage per card averages less than 45 copies. The lower the average usage per card, the greater the increase in photocopy revenue. The information provided suggests that the number of cards sold will be considerable, given that *most of the machines* are being refitted with card readers (and may be usable only with card readers).

- A. The information provides no reason to suppose that library patrons would buy cards only for use on the same day they buy them. Furthermore, the claim that the number of copies made will not change suggests that this might be false; if, after the refit, patrons almost never make small numbers of copies and almost never make copies on impulse, one might expect a decrease in the number of copies made.
- B. This is not supported by the information provided. For example, some library patrons could increase their usage while others make a compensating reduction in their usage.
- C. If 51 percent of the cards sold *are used to their full capacity*, it could still be the case that average utilization per card would be substantially less than 50 copies. So it is possible that the total number of photocopy users would increase or remain constant over a given period even if there is no change in the number of copies made and most cards are used to their full capacity.
- D. The given information suggests otherwise. If some but not most library patrons choose to use the card-operated machines, revenues will increase if utilization per card averages less than 45 copies.
- E. **Correct.** Each card has a capacity of 50 copies, so 90 percent of that is 45 copies. If the total number of copies made in the library remains at least as great as before and utilization of each card averages less than 45, revenues will increase; the lower the average utilization, the greater the increase in revenue.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR09740.02

195. Harvester-ant colonies live for fifteen to twenty years, though individual worker ants live only a year. The way a colony behaves changes steadily in a predictable pattern as the colony grows older and larger. For the first few years, the foragers behave quite aggressively,



searching out and vigorously defending new food sources, but once a colony has reached a certain size, its foragers become considerably less aggressive.

If the statements above are true, which of the following can most properly be concluded on the basis of them?

- A. As a result of pressure from neighbors, some colonies do not grow larger as they become older.
- B. Unpredictable changes in a colony's environment can cause changes in the tasks that the colony must perform if it is to continue to survive.
- C. The reason a mature colony goes out of existence is that younger, more aggressive colonies successfully outcompete it for food.
- D. The pattern of changing behavior that a colony displays does not arise from a change in the behavior of any individual worker ant or group of worker ants.
- E. A new colony comes into existence when a group of young, aggressive workers leaves a mature colony and sets up on its own.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** The given information contrasts the lifespan of harvester-ant colonies (twenty years) with that of individual foragers in the colonies (one year). When the colony is young and relatively small, its foragers aggressively seek and defend food resources. But when the colony grows older and reaches a certain size, its foragers become less aggressive.

**Reasoning** *Which answer choice is most strongly supported by the given information?*  
Obviously, the survival of a colony can be jeopardized by encountering unusual environmental challenges. But the given information suggests that, provided no unusual threats to the colony's survival are encountered, a colony's life cycle is biologically determined by constraints of colony size and age. The behavior of the individual foragers is correlated with the age and size of the colony; how a forager behaves in a colony near its maximum limits of size and age is quite different from an individual forager's behavior in the colony's early years. The behaviors of individual foragers are highly coordinated; the patterns of behavior of the colony are not caused by individual behaviors of the worker ants.

- A. Although this might be true, the given information suggests that the limits on colony size do not depend on competition from neighbors but are, rather, general constraints that are based in harvester-ant biology.
- B. Although this is likely true, the given information does not address the issue of how colony dynamics might be affected by drastic and unusual environmental changes.
- C. Obviously, the survival of a colony that fails over a period to secure the food resources it needs would be threatened. But the given information does not state or imply that such failures are generally due to more aggressive competition by ants in another colony. It suggests that, in general, a colony's demise is primarily dictated by the biological constraints on colony size and age.
- D. **Correct.** As explained, the given information suggests that, provided no unusual threats to a colony's survival are encountered, its life cycle is biologically determined by constraints of colony size and age, not by the behavior of individual forager ants or groups of such ants. The given information suggests that the biological constraints on a colony's size and longevity also determine behaviors of individual worker ants, who live about one year.



- E. Nothing in the given information suggests that worker ants are the founders of a harvester-ant colony.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR29940.02

196. Trucking company owner: Theft of trucks containing valuable cargo is a serious problem. A new device produces radio signals that allow police to track stolen vehicles, and the recovery rate for stolen cargo in trucks equipped with the device is impressive. The device is too expensive to install in every truck, so we plan to install it in half of our trucks. Using those trucks for the most valuable cargo should largely eliminate losses from theft.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the trucking company owner's expectation about the results of implementing the plan?

- A. For thieves, a cargo is valuable only if it is easy for them to dispose of profitably.
- B. Some insurance companies charge less to insure cargoes transported in trucks protected by the device.
- C. Most stolen trucks are eventually found, but unless a stolen truck is found very soon after it is taken, the likelihood that the trucking company will recover any of its cargo is very low.
- D. Thieves generally avoid trucks belonging to trucking companies that are known to have installed the device in a large proportion of their trucks.
- E. The manufacturer of the device offers a five-year warranty on each unit sold, a longer warranty than any that is offered on any competing antitheft device.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** A new device that can be placed in trucks allows police to track stolen vehicles and quickly recover stolen cargo. A trucking company owner proposes to install the device in half of the company's trucks and use those trucks to haul the most valuable cargo. The owner suggests that doing this will largely eliminate losses from theft.

**Reasoning** *What claim would most strongly suggest that trucking company owner's plan will meet the owner's expectations?* If thieves avoid stealing any trucks belonging to companies known to have installed the device in a large proportion of its vehicles, the company owner's expectations are likely to be met.

- A. If thieves believe they can dispose of some of the company's cargo very quickly, before police can recover the cargo, thieves may find the cargo to be valuable enough for them to risk stealing from the company. Therefore, this does not strongly suggest that the owner's plan will meet expectations.
- B. This suggests that insurance for the company will be less costly if the owner's plan is carried out. Most likely this is because insurance companies have found that thefts decline for trucks that have the device installed. It is nonetheless possible that even for trucks that have the device installed, there are still thefts, even if there are fewer of them. It is also possible that there will be no reduction in losses from thefts of cargo from the trucks that do not have the device installed.
- C. This answer choice actually gives us some reason to think the truck owner's expectations about the results of the plan will not be met. Half of the trucks will not have the device installed. If the trucks are not found quickly after they are stolen, the likelihood that

these trucks' cargo will be recovered is low, and there may be significant losses from theft.

- D. **Correct.** If thieves find out that half of the company's trucks have the device installed, this answer choice suggests that the thieves may well avoid stealing any of the company's trucks.
- E. This answer choice suggests that for five years the company will not have to pay to replace any of the devices installed in its trucks. But that tells us nothing about the likelihood that the owner's expectations will be met.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR11050.02

197. To improve customer relations, several big retailers have recently launched "smile initiatives," requiring their employees to smile whenever they have contact with customers. These retailers generally have low employee morale, which is why they have to enforce smiling. However, studies show that customers can tell fake smiles from genuine smiles and that fake smiles prompt negative feelings in customers. So the smile initiatives are unlikely to achieve their goal.

The argument relies on which of the following as an assumption?

- A. The smile initiatives have achieved nearly complete success in getting employees to smile while they are around customers.
- B. Customers' feelings about fake smiles are no better than their feelings about the other facial expressions employees with low morale are likely to have.
- C. The feelings that employees generate in retail customers are a principal determinant of the amount of money customers will spend at a retailer.
- D. At the retailers who have launched the smile initiatives, none of the employees gave genuine smiles to customers before the initiatives were launched.
- E. Customers rarely, if ever, have a negative reaction to a genuine smile from a retail employee.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Several large retailers where employee morale is low are requiring their employees to smile when they interact with customers; these requirements are known as "smile initiatives." The author of the argument concludes that because fake smiles create negative feelings in customers, these initiatives are unlikely to achieve their goal of improving customer relations.

**Reasoning** *What assumption is required by the argument?* Even if customers can tell fake smiles from real ones and have negative feelings about them, the fake smiles could nonetheless improve customer relations. How? Suppose customers' attitudes are less negative about the fake smiles than about other facial expressions that result from low morale. Therefore, the argument requires the assumption that customer feelings about fake smiles are no better than their feelings about other facial expressions resulting from low morale.

- A. The argument does not require this assumption. The initiative could fail to achieve its goal simply by failing to get employees to smile.
- B. **Correct.** As explained above, if customers' feelings about fake smiles are not as negative as their feelings about other facial expressions that result from low morale, the smile initiative might nonetheless help improve customer relations. As a result, the argument

needs to assume that customers' feelings about fake smiles are no better than their feelings about these other facial expressions.

- C. The argument does not need to assume that the feelings employees generate in customers are a principal determinant of the amount customers will spend. Such feelings merely must have some effect on customer relations.
- D. The argument needs to assume that not all employees at these retailers will give customers genuine smiles as a result of the smile initiatives. The argument does not, however, need to make any assumption about how many employees gave customers genuine smiles before the initiatives (though, presumably, many did not).
- E. If this claim were false, then the argument would be even stronger. Therefore, the argument does not need to assume this claim.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR55190.02

198. Many economists hold that keeping taxes low helps to spur economic growth, and that low taxes thus lead to greater national prosperity. But Country X, which has unusually high taxes, has greater per-capita income than the neighboring Country Y, which has much lower taxes. Some politicians have concluded from this that high taxes do not hinder national prosperity.

The politicians' reasoning is most vulnerable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

- A. It overlooks the possibility that even if Country X reduced its taxes, it would not experience greater national prosperity in the long term.
- B. It confuses a claim that a factor does not hinder a given development with the claim that the same factor promotes that development.
- C. It fails to adequately address the possibility that Country X and Country Y differ in relevant respects other than taxation.
- D. It fails to take into account that the per-capita income of a country does not determine its rate of economic growth.
- E. It assumes that the economists' thesis must be correct despite a clear counterexample to that thesis.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Many economists hold that keeping taxes low helps increase economic growth and national prosperity. But a high-tax country, Country X, has greater per-capita income than Country Y, which has lower taxes. Some politicians have concluded from this that high taxes do not hinder national prosperity.

**Reasoning** *What is a significant weakness in the politicians' reasoning?* Many factors besides level of taxation are likely to affect economic growth and national prosperity—factors such as having a highly skilled labor force, being rich in a valuable natural resource, and having effective and efficient government. So it is likely that more than one such factor is needed to sufficiently explain any country's level of economic growth or prosperity. A combination of such factors may be sufficient to outweigh any negative impact of high taxes on economic growth or national prosperity.

- A. This possibility is quite consistent with the politicians' reasoning that higher taxes do not necessarily impede economic growth.
- B. Nothing in the politicians' reasoning indicates that they believe that higher taxes contribute to economic growth or prosperity. They claim that higher taxes do not

preclude economic growth and prosperity. Nothing suggests that the politicians conflate these two views in their reasoning.

- C. **Correct.** Even though Country X, with unusually high taxes, has greater per-capita income than Country Y, which has much lower taxes, Country X's high-tax regime may contribute to making the country's per-capita income and national prosperity less than it would be with a low-tax regime. As explained earlier, many different factors can affect a country's national prosperity; some non-tax factors, absent in Country Y, may be boosting Country X's prosperity and compensating for some negative effects of its high-tax regime.
- D. The politicians' reasoning suggests that high per-capita income may indicate, or result from, a high level of national prosperity or a favorable rate of economic growth. It need not—and does not—address the question of whether a country's per-capita income could decisively affect the country's rate of economic growth.
- E. The politicians' reasoning indicates their disagreement with the economists' thesis; it cites as a counterexample to that thesis the fact that a high-tax country, Country X, has a higher per-capita income than a low-tax country, Country Y.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR11080.02

199. Urban rail systems have been proposed to alleviate traffic congestion, but results in many cities have been cited as evidence that this approach to traffic management is ineffective. For example, a U.S. city that opened three urban rail branches experienced a net decline of 3,100 urban rail commuters during a period when employment increased by 96,000. Officials who favor urban rail systems as a solution to traffic congestion have attempted to counter this argument by noting that commuting trips in that city represent just 20 percent of urban travel.

The response of the officials to the claim that urban rail systems are ineffective is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it

- A. presents no evidence to show that the statistics are incorrect
- B. relies solely on general data about U.S. cities rather than data about the city in question
- C. fails to consider that commuting trips may cause significantly more than 20 percent of the traffic congestion
- D. fails to show that the decline in the number of urban rail commuters in one U.S. city is typical of U.S. cities generally
- E. provides no statistics on the use of urban rail systems by passengers other than commuters

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Urban rail systems have been proposed to help solve traffic congestion in cities. But critics have cited data from many cities to argue that this approach is ineffective. In one U.S. city that increased its urban rail service, over 3,000 fewer commuters used rail when employment expanded by almost 100,000. But officials who favor urban rail have countered this example by claiming that commuters account for only 20 percent of urban travel in that city.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice most undermines the officials' response to the claim that urban rail would be ineffective in relieving urban traffic congestion? Theoretically, urban rail service should help reduce traffic congestion by encouraging people to travel by train instead of by car. However, there is

purported evidence that this approach is ineffective: In at least one city, an increase in the availability of rail service correlated with a decrease in the number of commuters traveling by rail, even though the total number of commuters apparently increased. Some officials object that in that city, commuters account for only 20 percent of urban travel. The officials' point is presumably that even if there was a net decline in commuters using the rail system, there may have been an overall increase in the number of people who used rail instead of driving. However, the stated goal of building more rail systems is to reduce traffic congestion, not just to reduce the overall amount of urban car traffic. Even if commuting makes up only 20 percent of urban travel in the city in question, it might contribute disproportionately to traffic congestion, and if noncommuters typically use the rail system, commuting might even constitute most of the car traffic in the city. So a net movement of commuters from rail travel to car travel could be detrimental to the goal of alleviating traffic congestion even if a minority of urban travel is in the form of commuting.

- A. The point the officials make is not based on any assumption concerning the correctness of the statistics, nor do the officials appear to believe that the statistics are incorrect.
- B. In their response, the officials do not cite any general data about U.S. cities; their objection only addresses the use of data about a specific city.
- C. **Correct.** As explained above, the stated goal of building more rail systems is to reduce traffic congestion, not just to reduce the overall amount of urban car traffic. Even if commuting makes up only 20 percent of urban travel in the city in question, it might contribute disproportionately to traffic congestion, and if noncommuters typically use the rail system, commuting might even constitute most of the car traffic in the city. So a net movement of commuters from rail travel to car travel could be detrimental to the goal of alleviating traffic congestion even if a minority of urban travel is in the form of commuting.
- D. The officials' opponents appear to rely on the assumption that the decline in urban rail commuting in one U.S. city provides relevant evidence regarding the situation in other cities. However, the point that the officials make in response to that reasoning does not require that they show that the decline in urban rail commuting in one U.S. city is typical of U.S. cities.
- E. Providing such statistics would at best be peripheral to the point that the officials make, which directly concerns urban rail utilization by urban commuters rather than by any other group of travelers.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR63780.02

200. Mayor: The financial livelihood of our downtown businesses is in jeopardy. There are few available parking spaces close to the downtown shopping area, so if we are to spur economic growth in our city, we must build a large parking ramp no more than two blocks from downtown.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the mayor's reasoning?

- A. The city budget is not currently large enough to finance the construction of a new parking ramp.
- B. There are other more significant reasons for the financial woes of downtown businesses in addition to a lack of nearby parking spaces.

- C. Building a parking ramp as much as four blocks from downtown would be sufficient to greatly increase the number of shoppers to downtown businesses.
- D. Explosive growth is most often associated with large suburban shopping malls, not small businesses.
- E. Some additional parking spaces could be added to the downtown area without the construction of a parking ramp.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** A mayor argues that to help spur economic growth in the city and sustain business in the city's downtown, a large parking ramp should be constructed no more than two blocks from downtown to alleviate a parking shortage for business customers.

**Reasoning** *Which answer choice provides the information that most seriously weakens the mayor's reasoning?* It is reasonable to assume that constructing a large parking ramp within two blocks of downtown will involve a large capital investment, made even larger by the high cost of land so near to downtown. If a ramp slightly farther from downtown could equally well serve downtown shoppers, and given that people are also likely to need nonresidential parking in another location, building a ramp in the specific location mentioned by the mayor would not be necessary. Note also that even if providing significantly more parking for business customers were necessary for the survival of downtown businesses, it might not be sufficient.

- A. This information addresses a problem that would need to be overcome in order to have a parking ramp constructed. For example, taxes may need to be raised or a bond issued to fund the construction. It does not directly address the question whether the parking ramp would be necessary. If it were necessary but could not be financed, the result would be that the goal would not be met.
- B. This information indicates that the construction of the parking ramp would likely not be sufficient to ensure the survival of downtown businesses and that other measures would also be needed. This does not weaken the mayor's argument that the ramp would be necessary.
- C. **Correct.** If this were true, a parking ramp four blocks from downtown would suffice to solve the downtown parking shortage. Therefore, the construction of a ramp exactly two blocks from downtown would not be necessary.
- D. This provides a superficial reason for wondering whether economic growth in the mayor's city could be spurred without the measure that the mayor advocates. However, the information provides no reason to suppose that this city has not already achieved all the growth that it can achieve from large suburban shopping malls. Furthermore, the contrast between large malls and small businesses is not clearly relevant; the downtown businesses whose livelihood the mayor wants to save may be large ones.
- E. This information does not significantly weaken the mayor's proposal, since it does not tell us whether the additional parking spaces would suffice for meeting the mayor's goal to spur economic growth in the city.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR28001.02

201. Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs are growing in market share as a replacement for the standard incandescent light bulb. However, an even newer technology is emerging: the light-emitting diode (LED) bulb. Like CFL bulbs, LED bulbs are energy efficient, and they can last



around fifty thousand hours, about five times as long as most CFL bulbs. Yet, a single LED bulb costs much more than five CFL bulbs.

The information in the passage above most supports which of the following conclusions?

- A. LED bulbs are most likely to be used in locations where light bulbs would be difficult or costly to replace.
- B. CFL bulbs will need to come down further in price in order to compete with LED bulbs.
- C. LED bulbs are most likely to be used in locations where there is frequent accidental breakage of bulbs.
- D. CFL bulb designs are likely to advance to the point where they can last as long as LED bulbs.
- E. LED bulbs are likely to drop in price, to the point of being competitive with CFL bulbs.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Both compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs are energy-efficient bulbs. LED bulbs can last around 50,000 hours, about five times as long as CFL bulbs, though (at the time the passage was written) they cost more than five times as much as CFL bulbs.

**Reasoning** *What claim is most strongly supported by the given information?* The information in the passage gives only one reason not to prefer LED bulbs over CFL bulbs—which last five times as long as CFL bulbs—namely, that LED bulbs are more than five times costlier. Because of the greater cost of LED bulbs, it might make economic sense simply to change CFL bulbs numerous times rather than to use the longer-lasting LED bulbs. If, however, there were any practical reason that outweighed that particular economic reason—perhaps the repeated replacement of CFL bulbs would be particularly problematic—then it might be wise to choose LED bulbs over CFL bulbs.

- A. **Correct.** In locations where replacing bulbs is particularly difficult and even costly, it would probably make sense to use LED bulbs rather than CFL bulbs. Assuming, then, that both types of bulbs are otherwise acceptable and that their users are rational, LED bulbs would be most likely to be used in such locations.
- B. The given information indicates that LED bulbs at the time the passage was written cost more than five times as much as CFL bulbs, but LED bulbs last only about five times as long as CFL bulbs. That suggests that CFL bulbs were competitive at that price.
- C. If there is frequent accidental breakage of bulbs in a certain location, then it is likely that the advantage of LED bulbs mentioned in the passage would not hold in such locations.
- D. Nothing in the passage suggests that CFL bulbs can be made to be longer lasting.
- E. Nothing in the passage indicates whether there was any evidence, at the time the passage was written, that manufacturers of LED bulbs would be able to bring down the cost of producing such bulbs.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR01887

202. Tanco, a leather manufacturer, uses large quantities of common salt to preserve animal hides. New environmental regulations have significantly increased the cost of disposing of salt water that results from this use, and, in consequence, Tanco is considering a plan to use potassium chloride in place of common salt. Research has shown that Tanco could reprocess the by-



product of potassium chloride use to yield a crop fertilizer, leaving a relatively small volume of waste for disposal.

In determining the impact on company profits of using potassium chloride in place of common salt, it would be important for Tanco to research all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. What difference, if any, is there between the cost of the common salt needed to preserve a given quantity of animal hides and the cost of the potassium chloride needed to preserve the same quantity of hides?
- B. To what extent is the equipment involved in preserving animal hides using common salt suitable for preserving animal hides using potassium chloride?
- C. What environmental regulations, if any, constrain the disposal of the waste generated in reprocessing the by-product of potassium chloride?
- D. How closely does leather that results when common salt is used to preserve hides resemble that which results when potassium chloride is used?
- E. Are the chemical properties that make potassium chloride an effective means for preserving animal hides the same as those that make common salt an effective means for doing so?

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** New environmental regulations will increase the costs of disposing of the salt water that results from the use of large amounts of common salt in leather manufacturing. The manufacturer is considering switching from common salt to potassium chloride, because the by-product of the latter could be reprocessed to yield a crop fertilizer, with little waste left over to be disposed.

**Reasoning** *In order to determine whether it would be profitable to switch from using common salt to using potassium chloride, which answer choice does the manufacturer NOT need to answer?* The chemical properties making potassium chloride an effective means of preserving animal hides might be quite different from those that make common salt effective, but there is no particular reason for thinking that this would impact the profitability of switching to potassium chloride. The relevant effects on the preserved hides might be the same even if the properties that brought about those effects were quite different. Thus, without more information than is provided in the passage, this question is irrelevant.

- A. The savings in waste disposal costs that would be gained by switching to potassium chloride could be cancelled out if the cost of potassium chloride needed far exceeded that for common salt.
- B. If switching to potassium chloride would force the manufacturer to replace the equipment it uses for preserving hides, then it might be less profitable to switch.
- C. Even though there is said to be relatively little waste associated with using potassium chloride in the process, if the costs of this disposal are very high due to environmental regulations, it might be less profitable to switch.
- D. If the leather that results from the use of potassium chloride looks substantially different from that which results when common salt has been used, then the leather might be less attractive to consumers, which would adversely affect the economics of switching to potassium chloride.
- E. **Correct.** Note that the question as stated here presupposes that potassium chloride and salt are both effective means for preserving animal hides—so it does not raise any issue

as to whether potassium chloride is adequately effective or as effective as salt (clearly, an issue of effectiveness *would* be relevant to profitability).

**The correct answer is E.**

CR04999

203. Colorless diamonds can command high prices as gemstones. A type of less valuable diamonds can be treated to remove all color. Only sophisticated tests can distinguish such treated diamonds from naturally colorless ones. However, only 2 percent of diamonds mined are of the colored type that can be successfully treated, and many of those are of insufficient quality to make the treatment worthwhile. Surely, therefore, the vast majority of colorless diamonds sold by jewelers are naturally colorless.

A serious flaw in the reasoning of the argument is that

- A. comparisons between the price diamonds command as gemstones and their value for other uses are omitted
- B. information about the rarity of treated diamonds is not combined with information about the rarity of naturally colorless, gemstone diamonds
- C. the possibility that colored diamonds might be used as gemstones, even without having been treated, is ignored
- D. the currently available method for making colorless diamonds from colored ones is treated as though it were the only possible method for doing so
- E. the difficulty that a customer of a jeweler would have in distinguishing a naturally colorless diamond from a treated one is not taken into account

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Colored diamonds of a type that comprises 2 percent of all mined diamonds can be treated so that they are not easily distinguishable from more valuable, naturally colorless diamonds, but many are too low in quality for the treatment to be worthwhile.

**Reasoning** *Why do the argument's premises not justify the conclusion that the vast majority of colorless diamonds sold by jewelers are naturally colorless? Since the type of colored diamonds that can be treated make up only 2 percent of all mined diamonds, and many diamonds of that type are too low in quality for treatment to be worthwhile, the vast majority of mined diamonds must not be treated to have their color removed. However, we are not told what proportion of all mined diamonds are naturally colorless. Naturally colorless diamonds may be far rarer even than the uncommon diamonds that have been treated to have their color removed. Thus, for all we can tell from the passage, it could well be that most colorless diamonds sold by jewelers have been treated to remove all color.*

- A. Even if some types of diamonds command higher prices for uses other than as gemstones, the types discussed in the passage evidently command high enough prices as gemstones to be sold as such by jewelers.
- B. **Correct.** The argument does not work if naturally colorless diamonds are rarer than treated diamonds, as they may be for all we can tell from the information provided.
- C. The argument's conclusion is only that jewelers sell more naturally colorless diamonds than diamonds treated to be colorless. Whether jewelers sell any colored diamonds or other gemstones is irrelevant.

- D. The argument only concerns the types of colorless diamonds sold now, not the types that may be sold in the future if other treatment methods are discovered.
- E. The argument does suggest this difficulty but implies that even so there are too few treated diamonds available for jewelers to sell in place of naturally colorless ones.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR14448

204. 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

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** After the Sumpton town council voted to pay a prominent sculptor to create an abstract sculpture for the town square, critics protested the decision. A town council spokesperson responded to the critics.

**Reasoning** *What do the critics and the spokesperson mainly disagree about?* The critics argue that Sumpton residents dislike most abstract art and that art in the town square should reflect their taste. Since the critics are protesting the town council's decision, they are clearly inferring from the residents' general attitude toward abstract art that the residents will dislike the specific sculpture the prominent sculptor will create. The spokesperson replies by arguing that in other cities, sculptures by the same sculptor have been very popular with local residents. The spokesperson implicitly infers from this that the sculpture the prominent sculptor will create for Sumpton will be popular with Sumpton residents—and therefore that the critics are mistaken.

- A. Neither the critics nor the spokesperson mentions consultation with the town residents on the decision.
- B. **Correct.** As explained above, the critics raise points implicitly suggesting that the residents will dislike the sculpture, whereas the spokesperson responds with a point implicitly supporting the opposite conclusion.
- C. The critics could concede that the sculptor's work has been popular in other cities, but nonetheless hold that Sumpton residents have different tastes from those of the other cities' residents.
- D. The spokesperson gives no indication regarding the attitudes of Sumpton residents regarding traditional sculpture.

- E. It may be that neither the critics nor the spokesperson holds this view. The spokesperson may hold that Sumpton residents are easier to please than residents of most other cities, whereas the critics may hold that Sumpton residents are far more traditional in their tastes than other cities' residents.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR09085

205. 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 preventable illnesses.

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.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Some of the greatest societal expenses arise from frequent urgent-care needs for people who have reached old age thanks to preventive medical care. But society also suffers economic loss when any of its productive members suffer preventable illnesses.

**Reasoning** *What is Sunil assuming in his argument that Jay's argument fails?* Jay implies that by helping people live longer, expanding preventive medical care may actually increase the amount of urgent medical care people need over the course of their lives, and that societal expenses for this additional urgent care may equal or exceed any societal economic benefits from expanding preventive care. Sunil responds by implying that expanding preventive care would allow society to avoid economic losses from lost productivity caused by preventable illnesses. In order for Sunil's argument to establish that Jay's argument fails, the potential economic benefits that Sunil implies would arise from expanded preventive care must be greater than the economic losses from the increased need for urgent care that Jay points out.

- A. This is not an assumption that underpins Sunil's suggestion that the societal economic benefits from expanded preventive care may exceed any resulting economic losses from urgent care.
- B. If Jay intends the phrase "economic gains" to refer only to gains within the health care system, then Sunil's point about economic gains outside the health care system is not even relevant to Jay's argument about economic gains within it.

- C. Even if productive members of society are not more likely than others to suffer preventable illnesses, it still may be true, as Sunil suggests, that the economic benefits of preventing productive members of society from suffering those illnesses may outweigh the economic losses of doing so. In that case, Jay's argument could still fail in the way Sunil indicates.
- D. **Correct.** Sunil must assume this in order to rebut Jay's argument. As explained above, if the economic contributions of those receiving preventive care definitely do not outweigh the economic losses caused by preventive care, then Sunil's implicit point that expanding preventive care would help to prevent the loss of such contributions is insufficient to rebut Jay's argument.
- E. Whether Jay is correct or incorrect in this respect, Sunil may be correct that Jay's argument fails because Jay has neglected to consider how preventive care produces larger economic gains outside the health care system.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR01766

206. Boreal owls range over a much larger area than do other owls of similar size. The reason for this behavior is probably that the small mammals on which owls feed are especially scarce in the forests where boreal owls live, and the relative scarcity of prey requires the owls to range more extensively to find sufficient food.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to confirm the explanation above?

- A. Some boreal owls range over an area eight times larger than the area over which any other owl of similar size ranges.
- B. Boreal owls range over larger areas in regions where food of the sort eaten by small mammals is sparse than they do in regions where such food is abundant.
- C. After their young hatch, boreal owls must hunt more often than before in order to feed both themselves and their newly hatched young.
- D. Sometimes individual boreal owls hunt near a single location for many weeks at a time and do not range farther than a few hundred yards.
- E. The boreal owl requires less food, relative to its weight, than is required by members of other owl species.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** The small mammals on which owls prey are relatively scarce in the forests where boreal owls live. That is why boreal owls range more extensively than do other, similarly sized owls in search of food.

**Reasoning** *Which answer choice, if true, would most help confirm the proposed explanation?* One way to confirm an explanation is by finding further information that one would expect to be true *if* the explanation is valid. If the explanation in the passage is valid, then one would expect that variations in the population density of available small-animal prey for boreal owls would be accompanied by variations in the ranges of the boreal owls. Naturally the population density of available small-animal prey is likely to be affected by how plentiful food is for those small animals.

- A. The comparison between different groups of boreal owls is not relevant to the comparison between boreal owls and other owls.

- B. **Correct.** This indicates that abundance of food for the boreal owls' small-animal prey in an area (and therefore abundance of small animals in that area) correlates with a smaller range for the boreal owls there. This strengthens the proposed explanation.
- C. This answer choice concerns a correlation between owls' need for food and the frequency with which owls hunt, whereas the phenomenon described in the passage and the proposed explanation have to do with the range over which owls hunt.
- D. If one were to assume that boreal owls never hunt near a single location for weeks, that would in no way undermine the proposed explanation.
- E. If anything, this answer choice tends to undermine the proposed explanation, because it suggests the possibility that boreal owls need not make up for the relative scarcity of prey in their habitats by ranging over larger areas.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR12567

207. Microbiologist: A lethal strain of salmonella recently showed up in a European country, causing an outbreak of illness that killed two people and infected twenty-seven others. Investigators blame the severity of the outbreak on the overuse of antibiotics, since the salmonella bacteria tested were shown to be drug-resistant. But this is unlikely because patients in the country where the outbreak occurred cannot obtain antibiotics to treat illness without a prescription, and the country's doctors prescribe antibiotics less readily than do doctors in any other European country.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the microbiologist's reasoning?

- A. Physicians in the country where the outbreak occurred have become hesitant to prescribe antibiotics since they are frequently in short supply.
- B. People in the country where the outbreak occurred often consume foods produced from animals that eat antibiotics-laden livestock feed.
- C. Use of antibiotics in two countries that neighbor the country where the outbreak occurred has risen over the past decade.
- D. Drug-resistant strains of salmonella have not been found in countries in which antibiotics are not generally available.
- E. Salmonella has been shown to spread easily along the distribution chains of certain vegetables, such as raw tomatoes.

### **Argument Evaluation**

**Situation** Antibiotic-resistant salmonella caused an outbreak of illness in a European country where patients need prescriptions to obtain antibiotics and where doctors dispense such prescriptions less readily than in other European countries.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would most strongly suggest that overuse of antibiotics was likely responsible for the outbreak, despite the cited facts?* The microbiologist reasons that because patients need prescriptions to obtain antibiotics in the country where the outbreak occurred, and the country's doctors dispense such prescriptions less readily than doctors in other European countries do, antibiotics are probably not being overused in the country—so antibiotic overuse was probably not responsible for the outbreak. Implicit in the microbiologist's reasoning is the assumption that overuse of antibiotics, if it had occurred, could probably have resulted only from overprescribing of



antibiotics by physicians to treat illness in people in the country in question. Any evidence casting doubt on this complex assumption would suggest a weakness in the microbiologist's reasoning.

- A. This strengthens the argument by providing additional evidence that antibiotics are not being overprescribed in the country.
- B. **Correct.** This weakens the microbiologist's argument by indicating that an assumption implicit in the argument may be false: the salmonella outbreak could easily be explained by overuse of antibiotics in livestock feed (perhaps imported from other countries).
- C. Even if antibiotic use has risen in the two neighboring countries, antibiotics still might be underused in both countries.
- D. This suggests that antibiotic-resistant salmonella arises only in countries where antibiotics are used; even if this were true it would be quite compatible with the microbiologist's argument and does not weaken that argument.
- E. This describes one mechanism by which salmonella can spread in a population; it says nothing about whether an outbreak of antibiotic-resistant strains of salmonella might have been caused by antibiotic overuse.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR37090.02

208. Economist: Construction moves faster in good weather than in bad, so mild winters in areas that usually experience harsh conditions can appear to create construction booms as builders complete projects that would otherwise have to wait. But forecasting one mild winter or even two for such areas generally does not lead to overall increases in construction during these periods, because construction loans are often obtained more than a year in advance, and because \_\_\_\_\_.

Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the economist's argument?

- A. construction workers often travel to warmer climates in the wintertime in search of work
- B. construction materials are often in short supply during construction booms
- C. many builders in these areas are likely to apply for construction loans at the same time
- D. it is frequently the case that forecasted weather trends do not actually occur
- E. mild winters are generally followed by spring and summer weather that promotes more rapid construction

### Argument Construction

**Situation** According to an economist, construction booms can seem to occur when mild winters allow construction to proceed in places where harsh winters usually prevent it. But the economist suggests that the greater construction in mild winters than in harsh winters is not due to contractors prescheduling more construction during winters that are predicted to be mild. The economist says there are two reasons for this. One is that construction loans often need to be approved more than a year in advance.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice is logically most suited to be the second of the two reasons referred to by the economist? The economist seeks to explain why a forecast of an unusually mild winter does not result in an overall increase in construction scheduled to take place in upcoming winters. One reason suggested is that loan approval—and presumably financial planning—for a construction project might often need to take place at least one year in advance.



However, forecasts a year in advance that a mild winter will occur are quite likely to turn out to be wrong. The unreliability of such forecasts would make it unwise to intentionally schedule greater amounts of construction for winters that may or may not turn out to be mild.

- A. If an adequate labor force were lacking for a project in a given area, that project might not proceed. However, as part of the planning of a project, construction firms would likely have an assurance that an adequate labor force would be available.
- B. This suggests a slightly plausible hypothesis for why greater amounts of construction would not be scheduled for mild winters: if the construction firms have reason to believe that other companies will also have a motivation to schedule more construction at those times, they might all tacitly agree to distribute the projects more evenly across time to avoid shortages. However, it is also reasonable to suppose that shortages are a result of unforeseen boom conditions, not planned ones, and if the companies plan well in advance, they should be able to arrange for adequate supplies of materials.
- C. A surge in loan applications might mean longer waits for loan approvals. Contrary to what the economist claims, the fact that *many builders* are planning projects tends to suggest that there could be a construction boom scheduled for winter. The economist aims to explain why forecasts of one or more mild winters in places where winters are usually harsh do not result in *overall increases in construction*.
- D. **Correct.** The high likelihood that a forecast of a mild winter might turn out to be wrong is one reason for construction firms not to plan winter projects for areas where winters are usually harsh. This reason converges with the other reason provided: the forecast of a mild winter would have to occur up to one year in advance in order to obtain a loan approval in sufficient time to start construction.
- E. This information does not contribute to explaining why prescheduled construction booms are unlikely during exceptionally mild winters where winters are usually harsh. If long-term winter-weather forecasts were reliable, this could be a reason why such construction booms might be planned for mild winters.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR03416

209. Historian: Newton developed mathematical concepts and techniques that are fundamental to modern calculus. Leibniz developed closely analogous concepts and techniques. It has traditionally been thought that these discoveries were independent. Researchers have, however, recently discovered notes of Leibniz's that discuss one of Newton's books on mathematics. Several scholars have argued that since **the book includes a presentation of Newton's calculus concepts and techniques**, and since the notes were written before Leibniz's own development of calculus concepts and techniques, it is virtually certain **that the traditional view is false**. A more cautious conclusion than this is called for, however. Leibniz's notes are limited to early sections of Newton's book, sections that precede the ones in which Newton's calculus concepts and techniques are presented.

In the historian's reasoning, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- A. The first is a claim that the historian rejects; the second is a position that that claim has been used to support.
- B. The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion about which the historian expresses reservations; the second is that conclusion.
- C. The first provides evidence in support of a position that the historian defends; the second is that position.

- D. The first and the second each provide evidence in support of a position that the historian defends.
- E. The first has been used in support of a position that the historian rejects; the second is a conclusion that the historian draws from that position.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** A historian discusses a controversy about whether or not Leibniz developed calculus concepts and techniques independently of Newton.

**Reasoning** *What argumentative roles do the two portions in boldface play in the passage?* The first four sentences of the passage simply provide background information. Both boldface sections are within the fifth sentence, which reports an argument by *several scholars*. The key word *since* indicates that the first boldface section is a premise in the scholars' argument. A second premise preceded by another *since* follows in the next clause. The final clause of the fifth sentence reveals that the second boldface section is the conclusion of the scholars' argument. In the sixth sentence, the historian expresses misgivings about the scholars' conclusion, for reasons presented in the seventh and final sentence.

- A. The historian does not reject the claim that Newton's book includes a presentation of Newton's calculus concepts and techniques. Instead, the historian merely points out that Leibniz's notes do not cover those sections of Newton's book.
- B. **Correct.** The first boldface section is one of two premises in the scholars' argument, and the second boldface section is that argument's conclusion. In the following sentence the historian expresses reservations about that conclusion.
- C. The historian does not defend the scholars' conclusion but rather expresses misgivings about it.
- D. The second boldface section is the scholars' conclusion and does not present any evidence. Nor does it support the historian's position that a more cautious conclusion is called for.
- E. The second boldface section presents not the historian's conclusion but rather the scholars' conclusion, about which the historian expresses misgivings.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR03867

210. For over two centuries, no one had been able to make Damascus blades—blades with a distinctive serpentine surface pattern—but a contemporary sword maker may just have rediscovered how. Using iron with trace impurities that precisely matched those present in the iron used in historic Damascus blades, this contemporary sword maker seems to have finally hit on an intricate process by which he can produce a blade indistinguishable from a true Damascus blade.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest support for the hypothesis that trace impurities in the iron are essential for the production of Damascus blades?

- A. There are surface features of every Damascus blade—including the blades produced by the contemporary sword maker—that are unique to that blade.
- B. The iron with which the contemporary sword maker made Damascus blades came from a source of iron that was unknown two centuries ago.
- C. Almost all the tools used by the contemporary sword maker were updated versions of tools that were used by sword makers over two centuries ago.

- D. Production of Damascus blades by sword makers of the past ceased abruptly after those sword makers' original source of iron became exhausted.
- E. Although Damascus blades were renowned for maintaining a sharp edge, the blade made by the contemporary sword maker suggests that they may have maintained their edge less well than blades made using what is now the standard process for making blades.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** A sword maker may have recently rediscovered how to make Damascus blades using iron with trace impurities matching those in the iron from which historic Damascus blades were wrought.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would suggest that the trace impurities are essential for producing Damascus blades?* The passage says the sword maker seems to have created blades indistinguishable from historic Damascus blades by using iron with the same trace impurities found in those blades. But that does not prove the trace impurities are essential to the process. Evidence suggesting that Damascus blades have never been made from iron without the trace impurities would support the hypothesis that the trace impurities are essential to their manufacture.

- A. Damascus blades could vary in their surface features whether or not trace impurities are essential for their manufacture.
- B. Whatever the source of the iron the contemporary sword maker used, it contains the same trace impurities as the iron historically used to make Damascus blades, which is what the hypothesis is about.
- C. If anything, this might cast doubt on the hypothesis by suggesting that the special tools rather than the trace impurities could account for the distinctive features of Damascus blades.
- D. **Correct.** This suggests that when the historic sword makers lost access to the special iron with its trace impurities, they could no longer make Damascus blades. Thus, it supports the hypothesis that the trace impurities are necessary for manufacturing Damascus blades.
- E. Even if Damascus blades maintained their edges less well than most contemporary blades do, the trace impurities may not have been essential for manufacturing them.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR01903

211. Images from ground-based telescopes are invariably distorted by the Earth's atmosphere. Orbiting space telescopes, however, operating above Earth's atmosphere, should provide superbly detailed images. Therefore, ground-based telescopes will soon become obsolete for advanced astronomical research purposes.

Which of the following statements, if true, would cast the most doubt on the conclusion drawn above?

- A. An orbiting space telescope due to be launched this year is far behind schedule and over budget, whereas the largest ground-based telescope was both within budget and on schedule.
- B. Ground-based telescopes located on mountain summits are not subject to the kinds of atmospheric distortion which, at low altitudes, make stars appear to twinkle.

- C. By careful choice of observatory location, it is possible for large-aperture telescopes to avoid most of the kind of wind turbulence that can distort image quality.
- D. When large-aperture telescopes are located at high altitudes near the equator, they permit the best Earth-based observations of the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, a prime target of astronomical research.
- E. Detailed spectral analyses, upon which astronomers rely for determining the chemical composition and evolutionary history of stars, require telescopes with more light-gathering capacity than space telescopes can provide.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Earth's atmosphere distorts images from ground-based telescopes, whereas space telescopes orbiting above the atmosphere should provide superbly detailed images.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would undermine the claim that ground-based telescopes will soon become obsolete for advanced astronomical research?* The argument implicitly assumes that advanced astronomical research can be accomplished more effectively with the more detailed, less distorted images produced by space telescopes and that therefore almost all advanced astronomical research will soon be conducted with space telescopes. This reasoning would be undermined by evidence that ground-based telescopes have substantial advantages for advanced astronomical research despite their distorted images or by evidence that space telescopes will not soon become common or affordable enough to support most advanced astronomical research.

- A. Even if this is true, there may be several orbiting space telescopes that will be, or have been, launched on schedule and within budget, so this answer choice does not cast doubt on the conclusion of the argument.
- B. Ground-based telescopes on mountain summits are still subject to more atmospheric distortion than are space telescopes orbiting above the atmosphere.
- C. Atmospheric distortion of telescopic images may result mainly from factors other than wind turbulence.
- D. Even the best Earth-based observations of the center of the Milky Way Galaxy may be vastly inferior to space-based observations.
- E. **Correct.** This indicates an inherent limitation of space-based telescopes: unlike Earth-based telescopes, they lack the light-gathering capacity that astronomers need to perform one of their primary tasks, i.e., detailed spectral analyses. So Earth-based telescopes are unlikely to soon become obsolete.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR07562

212. Generally scientists enter their field with the goal of doing important new research and accept as their colleagues those with similar motivation. Therefore, when any scientist wins renown as an expounder of science to general audiences, most other scientists conclude that this popularizer should no longer be regarded as a true colleague.

The explanation offered above for the low esteem in which scientific popularizers are held by research scientists assumes that

- A. serious scientific research is not a solitary activity, but relies on active cooperation among a group of colleagues
- B. research scientists tend not to regard as colleagues those scientists whose renown they envy
- C. a scientist can become a famous popularizer without having completed any important research
- D. research scientists believe that those who are well known as popularizers of science are not motivated to do important new research
- E. no important new research can be accessible to or accurately assessed by those who are not themselves scientists

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Research scientists desire to do important new research and treat as colleagues just those who have a similar desire. When a scientist becomes popular among a general audience for explaining principles of science, other scientists have less esteem for this popularizer, no longer regarding such a scientist as a serious colleague.

**Reasoning** *What assumption do research scientists make about scientists who become popularizers?* The community of scientists shares a common goal: to do important new research. What would cause this community to disapprove of a popularizer and to cease to regard the popularizer as a colleague? It must be because many scientists believe that becoming a popularizer is incompatible with desiring to do important new research.

- A. Many scientists make this assumption, of course—but it is not an assumption on which the explanation specifically depends. The explanation concerns the scientists' motivation, not their style of doing research.
- B. This statement gives another reason that scientists may reject a popularizer, but because it is not the reason implied in the passage, it is not assumed.
- C. Even if this is true, it does not address the core issue of the argument: what scientists believe about the *motivation* of popularizers.
- D. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies an assumption on which the explanation for scientists' rejection of popularizers depends.
- E. The passage is not concerned with whether nonscientists can understand new research, but rather with the beliefs and motivations of scientists who reject popularizers as colleagues.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR07676

213. Urban planner: When a city loses population due to migration, property taxes in that city tend to rise. This is because there are then fewer residents paying to maintain an infrastructure that was designed to support more people. Rising property taxes, in turn, drive more residents away, compounding the problem. Since the city of Stonebridge is starting to lose population, the city government should therefore refrain from raising property taxes.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the urban planner's argument?

- A. If Stonebridge does not raise taxes on its residents to maintain its infrastructure, the city will become much less attractive to live in as that infrastructure decays.

- B. Stonebridge at present benefits from grants provided by the national government to help maintain certain parts of its infrastructure.
- C. If there is a small increase in property taxes in Stonebridge and a slightly larger proportion of total revenue than at present is allocated to infrastructure maintenance, the funding will be adequate for that purpose.
- D. Demographers project that the population of a region that includes Stonebridge will start to increase substantially within the next several years.
- E. The property taxes in Stonebridge are significantly lower than those in many larger cities.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** When a city loses population due to migration, fewer residents remain to pay to maintain the city's infrastructure, so property taxes tend to rise. These rising property taxes then drive even more residents away. The city of Stonebridge is starting to lose population, so Stonebridge's government should not raise property taxes.

**Reasoning** *What would weaken the urban planner's justification for concluding that Stonebridge's government should refrain from raising property taxes?* The urban planner implicitly reasons that raising property taxes in Stonebridge in order to maintain the city's infrastructure would make the city lose even more residents, leaving even fewer paying to maintain the infrastructure, and that this would worsen the funding problem the tax increase would have been intended to solve. The urban planner's argument would be weakened by any evidence that raising property taxes in Stonebridge would not drive residents away or that refraining from raising property taxes would cause the same problems as raising them would cause, or worse.

- A. **Correct.** This suggests that refraining from raising property taxes could drive more residents out of Stonebridge than raising them would, and thus would not help the city avoid the problem the urban planner describes.
- B. This does slightly weaken the argument because the grants may still be provided to maintain certain parts of the infrastructure, even if increased property taxes drive more residents away. But losing more residents could still make it harder to raise enough funds to maintain the rest of the city's infrastructure, as the urban planner argues.
- C. Even if this approach would address the immediate maintenance funding problem, the small increase in property taxes could still drive more residents away, forcing additional future tax increases on those who remain, just as the urban planner suggests.
- D. This does slightly weaken the argument, but the residents who will move to the region might still avoid moving to Stonebridge if the property taxes there are too high, and those who live in Stonebridge might still move to other cities in the region.
- E. Residents fleeing Stonebridge because of high property taxes would likely avoid moving to the many larger cities with even higher property taxes, but they might be happy to move to many other places with low property taxes.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR01338

214. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Utrania was formerly a major petroleum exporter, but in recent decades economic stagnation and restrictive regulations inhibited investment in new oil fields. In consequence, Utranian



oil exports dropped steadily as old fields became depleted. Utrania's currently improving economic situation, together with less-restrictive regulations, will undoubtedly result in the rapid development of new fields. However, it would be premature to conclude that the rapid development of new fields will result in higher oil exports, because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the price of oil is expected to remain relatively stable over the next several years
- B. the improvement in the economic situation in Utrania is expected to result in a dramatic increase in the proportion of Utranians who own automobiles
- C. most of the investment in new oil fields in Utrania is expected to come from foreign sources
- D. new technology is available to recover oil from old oil fields formerly regarded as depleted
- E. many of the new oil fields in Utrania are likely to be as productive as those that were developed during the period when Utrania was a major oil exporter

### Argument Construction

**Situation** A country that had been a major oil exporter has seen its exports decline in recent decades due to economic stagnation, a failure to invest in new fields, and the steady depletion of its old fields. But looser regulations and an improving economy will bring rapid development of new oil fields in the country.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice would most logically complete the argument? The passage describes the conditions that led to Utrania's no longer being a major oil exporter: a lack of investment in new oil fields due to a stagnant economy and restrictive regulations. The passage then says that due to changed regulatory and economic conditions, there will now be rapid development of new oil fields. Nonetheless, this might not bring about an increase in Utrania's oil exports. To logically complete the argument, one must explain how oil exports might not increase even when the condition that led to decreased oil exports has been removed. Suppose there were an increase in domestic oil consumption. A dramatic increase in the rate of car ownership in Utrania could reasonably be expected to significantly increase domestic oil consumption, which could eat up the added oil production from the new fields.

- A. This answer choice is incorrect. There is no reason why stable oil prices should prevent Utrania's oil exports from increasing.
- B. **Correct.** An increase in car ownership would increase Utrania's oil consumption—and this supports the claim that oil exports might not increase.
- C. If anything, this suggests that oil exports should increase. So it would not be a good choice for completion of the argument.
- D. The advent of new technology allowing oil to be extracted from fields previously thought to be depleted would mean that there is even more reason to think that Utrania's oil exports will increase.
- E. This does not help to explain why exports would not increase. On the contrary, it suggests that the new fields will lead to increased exports.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR09592

215. The use of growth-promoting antibiotics in hog farming can weaken their effectiveness in treating humans because such use can spread resistance to those antibiotics among microorganisms. But now the Smee Company, one of the largest pork marketers, may stop



buying pork raised on feed containing these antibiotics. Smee has 60 percent of the pork market, and farmers who sell to Smee would certainly stop using antibiotics in order to avoid jeopardizing their sales. So if Smee makes this change, it will probably significantly slow the decline in antibiotics' effectiveness for humans.

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

- A. Other major pork marketers will probably stop buying pork raised on feed containing growth-promoting antibiotics if Smee no longer buys such pork.
- B. The decline in hog growth due to discontinuation of antibiotics can be offset by improved hygiene.
- C. Authorities are promoting the use of antibiotics to which microorganisms have not yet developed resistance.
- D. A phaseout of use of antibiotics for hogs in one country reduced usage by over 50 percent over five years.
- E. If Smee stops buying pork raised with antibiotics, the firm's costs will probably increase.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Using growth-promoting antibiotics in hog farming can produce widespread resistance to antibiotics among microorganisms, thereby making the antibiotics less effective in treating humans. The Smee Company, a pork marketer with 60 percent of the pork market, may stop buying pork raised on feed containing these antibiotics.

**Reasoning** *What additional evidence would most help to support the conclusion that if Smee makes the change, it will significantly slow the decline in antibiotics' effectiveness for humans?* We are already informed that if Smee makes the change, it will eliminate the use of antibiotics in hog feed by farmers supplying at least 60 percent of the pork market. The argument would be strengthened by evidence that Smee's decision would indirectly cause use of the antibiotics to stop more broadly, for example in hog farms supplying significantly more than 60 percent of the total amount of pork marketed.

- A. **Correct.** This suggests that if Smee makes the change, hog farmers supplying other major pork marketers will also have to stop using antibiotics in hog feed, making the change more widespread and thus probably more effective.
- B. Even if the decline in hog growth from discontinuing the antibiotics cannot be offset, many hog farmers will still have to stop using the antibiotics as a result of Smee's decision. On the other hand, even if the decline can be offset with improved hygiene, that change might be too expensive or difficult to be worth its benefits for most hog farmers.
- C. Whatever new antibiotics authorities are promoting, microorganisms may soon develop resistance to them as well. Smee may or may not refuse to buy pork raised on feed containing these new antibiotics.
- D. This is evidence that Smee's decision may significantly reduce antibiotic use in hogs, but it provides no evidence of how this reduction may affect antibiotics' effectiveness for humans.
- E. If anything, this provides reason to suspect that Smee will not stick with the change for long after the costs increase, so it weakens rather than strengthens the argument that the change will significantly slow the decline in antibiotics' effectiveness.

**The correct answer is A.**

216. In an experiment, volunteers walked individually through a dark, abandoned theater. Half of the volunteers had been told that the theater was haunted and the other half that it was under renovation. The first half reported significantly more unusual experiences than the second did. The researchers concluded that reports of encounters with ghosts and other supernatural entities generally result from prior expectations of such experiences.

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

- A. None of the volunteers in the second half believed that the unusual experiences they reported were supernatural.
- B. All of the volunteers in the first half believed that the researchers' statement that the theater was haunted was a lie.
- C. Before being told about the theater, the volunteers within each group varied considerably in their prior beliefs about supernatural experiences.
- D. Each unusual experience reported by the volunteers had a cause that did not involve the supernatural.
- E. The researchers did not believe that the theater was haunted.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Volunteers in an experiment walked through a dark, abandoned theater. Those who had been told the theater was haunted reported more unusual experiences than those who had been told it was under renovation.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would most strongly suggest that the experimental results do not indicate that reports of supernatural encounters result from prior expectations of such experiences?* The researcher assumes that the half of the volunteers who had been told the theater was haunted were more inclined to expect supernatural experiences in the theater than were the other half of the volunteers. Based on this assumption and the greater incidence of reports of unusual experiences among the first half of the volunteers, the researcher concludes that prior expectation of supernatural experiences makes people more likely to report such experiences. The researchers' reasoning would be weakened by evidence that the volunteers did not actually have the expectations the researchers assumed them to have, or by evidence that any such expectations did not influence their reports.

- A. This strengthens the argument by indicating that the volunteers whom the researchers did not lead to expect supernatural experiences reported no such experiences.
- B. **Correct.** If none of the volunteers believed the researchers' claim that the theater was haunted, then the implicit assumption that several of those volunteers expected supernatural experiences in the theater is flawed, and so the inference that their prior expectations probably account for their reports of supernatural experiences is flawed.
- C. This is compatible with the researchers' inference and does not undermine it. Even if the volunteers' initial beliefs about supernatural experiences varied, the researchers' claims about the theater might have strongly influenced how many volunteers in each group expected to have such experiences in the theater specifically.
- D. The researchers argue that the volunteers' prior expectations account for all the reports of unusual experiences, and this is compatible with there being no genuine supernatural occurrences in the theater.
- E. Whatever the researchers personally believed about the theater, they might still have successfully influenced the volunteers' beliefs about it.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR05665

217. In order to reduce dependence on imported oil, the government of Jalica has imposed minimum fuel-efficiency requirements on all new cars, beginning this year. The more fuel-efficient a car, the less pollution it produces per mile driven. As Jalicans replace their old cars with cars that meet the new requirements, annual pollution from car traffic is likely to decrease in Jalica.

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

- A. In Jalica, domestically produced oil is more expensive than imported oil.
- B. The Jalican government did not intend the new fuel-efficiency requirement to be a pollution-reduction measure.
- C. Some pollution-control devices mandated in Jalica make cars less fuel-efficient than they would be without those devices.
- D. The new regulation requires no change in the chemical formulation of fuel for cars in Jalica.
- E. Jalicans who get cars that are more fuel-efficient tend to do more driving than before.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** The Jalican government is requiring all new cars to meet minimum fuel-efficiency requirements starting this year. Cars that are more fuel efficient produce less pollution per mile driven.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would suggest that annual pollution from car traffic will not decrease in Jalica, despite the new policy?* Air pollution from car traffic is unlikely to decrease if the new standards will result in more cars on the road or more miles driven per car; or if air pollution from car traffic in Jalica is increasing because of unrelated factors such as growing numbers of Jalicans who can afford cars, construction of more roads, etc. Evidence that any of these factors is present would cast doubt on the argument's conclusion and thus weaken the argument.

- A. The question at issue is not whether the new policy will reduce dependence on imported oil as the government intends, but rather whether it will reduce air pollution from car traffic.
- B. A government policy may have consequences that the government did not intend it to have.
- C. Even if these pollution-control devices make cars less fuel efficient, the new fuel-efficiency standards may still improve cars' average fuel efficiency and thereby reduce air pollution.
- D. Even if the fuel is unchanged, the new fuel-efficiency standards may still result in cars using less fuel and may thereby reduce air pollution.
- E. **Correct.** If the new fuel-efficient cars are driven more miles per year than older cars are, they may produce as much or more pollution per year than older cars do even though they produce less pollution per mile driven.

**The correct answer is E.**

218. Plantings of cotton bioengineered to produce its own insecticide against bollworms, a major cause of crop failure, sustained little bollworm damage until this year. This year the plantings are being seriously damaged by bollworms. Bollworms, however, are not necessarily developing resistance to the cotton's insecticide. Bollworms breed on corn, and last year more corn than usual was planted throughout cotton-growing regions. So it is likely that the cotton is simply being overwhelmed by corn-bred bollworms.

In evaluating the argument, which of the following would it be most useful to establish?

- A. Whether corn could be bioengineered to produce the insecticide
- B. Whether plantings of cotton that does not produce the insecticide are suffering unusually extensive damage from bollworms this year
- C. Whether other crops that have been bioengineered to produce their own insecticide successfully resist the pests against which the insecticide was to protect them
- D. Whether plantings of bioengineered cotton are frequently damaged by insect pests other than bollworms
- E. Whether there are insecticides that can be used against bollworms that have developed resistance to the insecticide produced by the bioengineered cotton

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Although plantings of cotton bioengineered to produce an insecticide to combat bollworms were little damaged by the pests in previous years, they are being severely damaged this year. Since the bollworms breed on corn, and there has been more corn planted this year in cotton-growing areas, the cotton is probably being overwhelmed by the corn-bred bollworms.

**Reasoning** *In evaluating the argument, which question would it be most useful to have answered?* The argument states that the bioengineered cotton crop failures this year (1) have likely been due to the increased corn plantings and (2) not due to the pests having developed a resistance to the insecticide. This also implies (3) that the failures are not due to some third factor.

It would be useful to know how the bioengineered cotton is faring in comparison to the rest of this year's cotton crop. If the bioengineered cotton is faring better against the bollworms, that fact would support the argument because it would suggest that the insecticide is still combating bollworms. If, on the other hand, the bioengineered cotton is being more severely ravaged by bollworms than is other cotton, that suggests that there is some third cause that is primarily at fault.

- A. This would probably be useful information to those trying to alleviate the bollworm problem in bioengineered cotton. But whether such corn could be developed has no bearing on what is causing the bioengineered cotton to be damaged by bollworms this year.
- B. **Correct.** If bollworm damage on non-bioengineered cotton is worse than usual this year, then bollworm infestation in general is simply worse than usual, so pesticide resistance does not need to be invoked to explain the bollworm attacks on the bioengineered cotton.
- C. Even if other crops that have been bioengineered to resist pests have not successfully resisted them, that fact would not mean that the same is true of this cotton.

Furthermore, the facts already suggest that the bioengineered cotton has resisted bollworms.

- D. Whether other types of pests often damage bioengineered cotton has no bearing on why bollworms are damaging this type of cotton more this year than in the past.
- E. This, too, might be useful information to those trying to alleviate the bollworm problem in bioengineered cotton, but it is not particularly useful in evaluating the argument. Even if there are pesticides that could be used against bollworms that have developed resistance to the insecticide of the bioengineered cotton, that does not mean that such pesticides are being used this year.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR03331

219. Typically during thunderstorms most lightning strikes carry a negative electric charge; only a few carry a positive charge. Thunderstorms with unusually high proportions of positive-charge strikes tend to occur in smoky areas near forest fires. The fact that smoke carries positively charged smoke particles into the air above a fire suggests the hypothesis that the extra positive strikes occur because of the presence of such particles in the storm clouds.

Which of the following, if discovered to be true, most seriously undermines the hypothesis?

- A. Other kinds of rare lightning also occur with unusually high frequency in the vicinity of forest fires.
- B. The positive-charge strikes that occur near forest fires tend to be no more powerful than positive strikes normally are.
- C. A positive-charge strike is as likely to start a forest fire as a negative-charge strike is.
- D. Thunderstorms that occur in drifting clouds of smoke have extra positive-charge strikes weeks after the charge of the smoke particles has dissipated.
- E. The total number of lightning strikes during a thunderstorm is usually within the normal range in the vicinity of a forest fire.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Thunderstorms with unusually high proportions of positive-charge lightning strikes tend to occur in smoky areas near forest fires. Smoke carries positively charged particles into the air above fires, suggesting that smoke particles in storm clouds are responsible for the higher proportion of positive strikes.

**Reasoning** *What would cast doubt on the hypothesis that the extra positive-charge lightning strikes in thunderstorms near forest fires result from positively charged smoke particles carried into the storm clouds?* The hypothesis would be weakened by evidence that the positively charged smoke particles do not enter the storm clouds in the first place, or that they do not retain their charge in the clouds long enough to produce an effect, or that their positive charge cannot affect the charges of the storm's lightning strikes in any case, or that some other factor tends to make the lightning strikes above these storms positively charged.

- A. It could be that positively charged smoke particles cause these other kinds of rare lightning, too, so this does not seriously undermine the hypothesis.
- B. The hypothesis is not about the power of the positive-charge lightning strikes, only about why a high proportion of them occur in thunderstorms near forest fires.

- C. The hypothesis is about why positive-charge strikes tend to occur in smoky areas near forest fires that have already started before the strikes occur. Furthermore, an equal likelihood of positive-charge and negative-charge strikes starting fires cannot explain a correlation between fires and positive-charge strikes specifically.
- D. **Correct.** This means that even when drifting clouds of smoke persist for weeks after a fire, when the charge of their particles has already dissipated, the smoke somehow still makes the strikes positively charged in any thunderstorms arising within it. If so, some factor other than positively charged smoke particles must affect the strikes' charge.
- E. This information does not undermine the hypothesis. The hypothesis does not concern the possibility that there might be more lightning strikes in the vicinity of forest fires; rather it concerns the proportion of all such lightning strikes that are positively charged.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR01140

220. Many gardeners believe that the variety of clematis vine that is most popular among gardeners in North America is *jackmanii*. This belief is apparently correct since, of the one million clematis plants sold per year by the largest clematis nursery in North America, ten percent are *jackmanii*.

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

- A. The nursery sells more than ten different varieties of clematis.
- B. The largest clematis nursery in North America sells nothing but clematis plants.
- C. Some of the *jackmanii* sold by the nursery are sold to gardeners outside North America.
- D. Most North American gardeners grow clematis in their gardens.
- E. For all nurseries in North America that specialize in clematis, at least ten percent of the clematis plants they sell are *jackmanii*.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** Of the clematis plants sold by the largest clematis nursery in North America, 10 percent are *jackmanii*, which many gardeners believe to be the most popular variety of clematis in North America.

**Reasoning** *What must be true in order for the fact that 10 percent of the clematis sold at the nursery are jackmanii to provide evidence that jackmanii is the most popular variety of clematis in North America?* The argument assumes that sales of different varieties of clematis at the nursery reflect the relative levels of popularity of those varieties among North American gardeners. It also assumes that *jackmanii* is the best-selling clematis variety at the nursery, an assumption which requires that less than 10 percent of the nursery's clematis sales are of any one variety other than *jackmanii*.

- A. **Correct.** Suppose the nursery sold ten or fewer varieties of clematis. Then at least one variety other than *jackmanii* would have to account for at least 10 percent of the nursery's clematis sales, so *jackmanii* would not be the best-selling clematis variety at the nursery as the argument assumes.
- B. The argument only concerns how popular *jackmanii* is relative to other varieties of clematis, not relative to any plants other than clematis that the nursery may sell.
- C. If anything, this would weaken the argument by suggesting that the nursery's *jackmanii* sales might reflect *jackmanii*'s popularity outside North America more than its popularity within North America.



- D. This would indicate that clematis is a popular plant among North American gardeners, not that *jackmanii* is the most popular variety of clematis.
- E. Even if *jackmanii* accounts for less than 10 percent of clematis sales at a few individual nurseries, it may still account for 10 percent or more of North American clematis sales overall.

**The correct answer is A.**

CR06422

221. Since 1990 the percentage of bacterial sinus infections in Aqadestan that are resistant to the antibiotic perxicillin has increased substantially. Bacteria can quickly develop resistance to an antibiotic when it is prescribed indiscriminately or when patients fail to take it as prescribed. Since perxicillin has not been indiscriminately prescribed, health officials hypothesize that the increase in perxicillin-resistant sinus infections is largely due to patients' failure to take this medication as prescribed.

Which of the following, if true of Aqadestan, provides most support for the health officials' hypothesis?

- A. Resistance to several other commonly prescribed antibiotics has not increased since 1990 in Aqadestan.
- B. A large number of Aqadestanis never seek medical help when they have a sinus infection.
- C. When it first became available, perxicillin was much more effective in treating bacterial sinus infections than any other antibiotic used for such infections at the time.
- D. Many patients who take perxicillin experience severe side effects within the first few days of their prescribed regimen.
- E. Aqadestani health clinics provide antibiotics to their patients at cost.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** In Aqadestan the percentage of bacterial sinus infections resistant to the antibiotic perxicillin has been increasing even though perxicillin has not been indiscriminately prescribed.

**Reasoning** *What evidence most strongly suggests that the main reason perxicillin-resistant sinus infections are becoming more common is that patients are failing to take perxicillin as prescribed?* Any evidence suggesting that patients have in fact been failing to take perxicillin as prescribed would support the hypothesis, as would any evidence casting doubt on other possible explanations for the increasing proportion of perxicillin-resistant sinus infections.

- A. This suggests that some factor specific to perxicillin is increasing bacterial resistance to it, but that could be true whether or not the factor is patients' failure to take perxicillin as prescribed.
- B. If anything, this weakens the argument by suggesting that most people with sinus infections are never prescribed perxicillin, and that therefore relatively few people are getting prescriptions and then failing to follow them.
- C. The relative effectiveness of perxicillin when it first became available does not suggest that the reason it is now becoming less effective is that many patients are failing to take it as prescribed.
- D. **Correct.** These side effects would discourage patients from taking perxicillin as prescribed, so their existence provides evidence that many patients are not taking it as



prescribed.

- E. If the clinics do not charge extra for perxicillin, that would make it more affordable and hence easier for many patients to take as prescribed.

**The correct answer is D.**

CR07793

222. Psychologist: In a study, researchers gave 100 volunteers a psychological questionnaire designed to measure their self-esteem. The researchers then asked each volunteer to rate the strength of his or her own social skills. The volunteers with the highest levels of self-esteem consistently rated themselves as having much better social skills than did the volunteers with moderate levels. This suggests that attaining an exceptionally high level of self-esteem greatly improves one's social skills.

The psychologist's argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

- A. It fails to adequately address the possibility that many of the volunteers may not have understood what the psychological questionnaire was designed to measure.
- B. It takes for granted that the volunteers with the highest levels of self-esteem had better social skills than did the other volunteers, even before the former volunteers had attained their high levels of self-esteem.
- C. It overlooks the possibility that people with very high levels of self-esteem may tend to have a less accurate perception of the strength of their own social skills than do people with moderate levels of self-esteem.
- D. It relies on evidence from a group of volunteers that is too small to provide any support for any inferences regarding people in general.
- E. It overlooks the possibility that factors other than level of self-esteem may be of much greater importance in determining the strength of one's social skills.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** In a psychological study of 100 volunteers, those found to have the highest self-esteem consistently rated themselves as having much better social skills than did those found to have moderate self-esteem.

**Reasoning** *What is wrong with the psychologist citing the study's results to justify the conclusion that exceptionally high self-esteem greatly improves social skills?* The psychologist reasons that the study shows a correlation between very high self-esteem and how highly one rates one's social skills, and that this correlation in turn suggests that very high self-esteem improves social skills. This argument is vulnerable to at least two criticisms: First, the argument assumes that the volunteers' ratings of their own social skills are generally accurate. But very high self-esteem might in many cases result from a tendency to overestimate oneself and one's skills, including one's social skills. Second, the argument fails to address the possibility that good social skills promote high self-esteem rather than vice versa, as well as the possibility that some third factor (such as a sunny disposition or fortunate circumstances) promotes both high self-esteem and good social skills.

- A. An experiment's subjects do not have to understand the experiment's design in order for the experimental results to be accurate.
- B. To the contrary, the argument concludes that the volunteers with the highest self-esteem attained their enhanced social skills as a result of attaining such high self-esteem.

- C. **Correct.** As explained above, very high self-esteem may often result from a tendency to overestimate oneself in general, and thus to overestimate one's social skills.
- D. A group of 100 volunteers is large enough for an experiment to provide at least a little support for at least some inferences regarding people in general.
- E. As explained above, the argument overlooks the possibility that some third factor may play a significant role in determining the strength of one's social skills. But even if some factor other than self-esteem is more important in determining the strength of social skills, that would still be compatible with very high self-esteem being of some importance in improving one's social skills.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR06826

223. A product that represents a clear technological advance over competing products can generally command a high price. Because **technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed** and companies want to make large profits while they still can, **many companies charge the maximum possible price for such a product**. But large profits on the new product will give competitors a strong incentive to quickly match the new product's capabilities. Consequently, the strategy to maximize overall profit from a new product is to charge less than the greatest possible price.

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

- A. The first is a consideration raised to argue that a certain strategy is counterproductive; the second presents that strategy.
- B. The first is a consideration raised to support the strategy that the argument recommends; the second presents that strategy.
- C. The first is a consideration raised to help explain the popularity of a certain strategy; the second presents that strategy.
- D. The first is an assumption, rejected by the argument, that has been used to justify a course of action; the second presents that course of action.
- E. The first is a consideration that has been used to justify adopting a certain strategy; the second presents the intended outcome of that strategy.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** Often, when a company comes out with an innovative product, it will price the product as high as it can to maximize profits before the competitors quickly catch up. But this is not a good strategy because the very high price of the new product only encourages competitors to match the technological advance more quickly.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice best describes the roles that the boldface portions play in the argument? This type of item concerns only the argument's structure—the way it is intended to work, not the quality of the argument or what might strengthen or weaken the argument. So even if a boldface portion could be used by the argument in a certain way, all that matters is its actual intended role. The fact that *technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed* serves to partly explain why *many companies charge the maximum possible price for such a product*. In other words, the first boldface portion helps explain the popularity of the strategy presented in the second boldface portion. The conclusion of the argument, however, is that the strategy exemplified in this latter boldface portion is unwise, so the argument as a whole opposes that strategy.

- A. Although the first boldface portion could be used as part of an argument that the strategy presented in the second boldface portion is counterproductive, that is not how it is used here. Rather, it immediately follows the word *because* and serves to explain the occurrence of what is described in the second boldface portion.
- B. This is clearly wrong because the second boldface portion presents the strategy that the argument opposes.
- C. **Correct.** It is the only answer choice that is consistent with the analysis of the reasoning presented above.
- D. The first boldface portion is not an assumption rejected by the argument; rather, it is affirmed in the argument.
- E. The argument does not expressly claim that the first boldface portion has been used to justify the strategy of setting the price as high as possible, although it implies that this is part of the justification that those adopting the strategy would give. More clearly, the second boldface portion does not describe the intended outcome of the strategy, but rather the means of bringing about that intended outcome (maximizing profits, by means of high prices).

**The correct answer is C.**

CR05554

224. Gortland has long been narrowly self-sufficient in both grain and meat. However, as per capita income in Gortland has risen toward the world average, per capita consumption of meat has also risen toward the world average, and it takes several pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat. Therefore, since per capita income continues to rise, whereas domestic grain production will not increase, Gortland will soon have to import either grain or meat or both.

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

- A. The total acreage devoted to grain production in Gortland will not decrease substantially.
- B. The population of Gortland has remained relatively constant during the country's years of growing prosperity.
- C. The per capita consumption of meat in Gortland is roughly the same across all income levels.
- D. In Gortland, neither meat nor grain is subject to government price controls.
- E. People in Gortland who increase their consumption of meat will not radically decrease their consumption of grain.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** A country previously self-sufficient in grain and meat will soon have to import one or the other or both because its consumption of meat has risen as per capita income has risen. It takes several pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat.

**Reasoning** *What conditions must be true for the conclusion to be true?* Meat consumption is rising. What about grain consumption? A sharp reduction in the amount of grain directly consumed by meat eaters could compensate for increased meat consumption, making the conclusion false. If people did radically decrease their grain consumption, it might not be necessary to import grain or meat. Since the argument concludes that the imports are necessary, it assumes that direct consumption of grain by those who begin to eat meat will not plunge.

- A. The argument makes no assumptions about the acreage devoted to grain; it assumes only that the demand for grain will rise.
- B. The argument is based on rising per capita income, not population levels.
- C. The argument involves only meat consumption in general, not its distribution by income level.
- D. Since the argument does not refer to price controls, it cannot depend on an assumption about them.
- E. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the assumption that those who begin to eat meat do not then greatly decrease their direct consumption of grains.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR05625

## 225. Political Advertisement:

Mayor Delmont's critics complain about the jobs that were lost in the city under Delmont's leadership. Yet the fact is that not only were more jobs created than were eliminated, but each year since Delmont took office the average pay for the new jobs created has been higher than that year's average pay for jobs citywide. So it stands to reason that throughout Delmont's tenure the average paycheck in this city has been getting steadily bigger.

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

- A. The unemployment rate in the city is higher today than it was when Mayor Delmont took office.
- B. The average pay for jobs in the city was at a ten-year low when Mayor Delmont took office.
- C. Each year during Mayor Delmont's tenure, the average pay for jobs that were eliminated has been higher than the average pay for jobs citywide.
- D. Most of the jobs eliminated during Mayor Delmont's tenure were in declining industries.
- E. The average pay for jobs in the city is currently lower than it is for jobs in the suburbs surrounding the city.

## Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Every year since Mayor Delmont took office, average pay for new jobs has exceeded average pay for jobs citywide. So, the average paycheck in the city has been increasing since Delmont took office.

**Reasoning** Which answer choice, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument? If average pay for new jobs continually exceeds that for jobs generally, new jobs pay better (on average) than old jobs that still exist. But suppose the following occurred. Every year all of the highest paying jobs are eliminated and replaced with somewhat lower-paying jobs that still pay more than the average job. The result would be that every year the average pay for a new job would be greater than that for existing jobs, but the average pay for all jobs would nonetheless decrease. Thus, if every year during the mayor's tenure the jobs that were eliminated paid better on average than jobs citywide, that would seriously weaken the argument: the conclusion could be false even if the information on which it is based is true.

- A. The percentage of people in the city who have a job has no direct bearing on whether the average pay for jobs citywide is increasing or decreasing.

- B. Whether the average pay was low when the mayor took office in comparison to the ten preceding years is immaterial to the comparison addressed in the argument's conclusion.
- C. **Correct.** This information weakens the argument because it opens up the possibility that the jobs eliminated had higher average pay than the jobs created during Mayor Delmont's tenure. This in turn would mean that the average pay was not increasing during Mayor Delmont's tenure.
- D. This, too, has no bearing on the argument, because we have no information about the average pay for jobs in those declining industries.
- E. This is also irrelevant. No comparison is made (or implied) in the argument between jobs in the city and jobs in the suburbs.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR04930

226. To prevent a newly built dam on the Chiff River from blocking the route of fish migrating to breeding grounds upstream, the dam includes a fish pass, a mechanism designed to allow fish through the dam. Before the construction of the dam and fish pass, several thousand fish a day swam upriver during spawning season. But in the first season after the project's completion, only 300 per day made the journey. Clearly, the fish pass is defective.

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

- A. Fish that have migrated to the upstream breeding grounds do not return down the Chiff River again.
- B. On other rivers in the region, the construction of dams with fish passes has led to only small decreases in the number of fish migrating upstream.
- C. The construction of the dam stirred up potentially toxic river sediments that were carried downstream.
- D. Populations of migratory fish in the Chiff River have been declining slightly over the last 20 years.
- E. During spawning season, the dam releases sufficient water for migratory fish below the dam to swim upstream.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** A new dam includes a mechanism called a fish pass designed to allow fish to migrate upstream past the dam to their breeding grounds. The number of migrating fish fell from several thousand per day before the dam was built to three hundred per day in the first season after it was built, indicating—according to the argument—that the fish pass is defective.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would suggest that the fish pass is not defective?* The argument implicitly reasons that a defective fish pass would make it difficult for the fish to migrate, which would explain why the number of migrating fish fell when the dam was completed. Any evidence suggesting an alternative explanation for the reduced number of migrating fish, such as an environmental change that occurred when the dam was built, would cast doubt on the argument's reasoning.

- A. A defective fish pass could prevent most of the fish from migrating upstream regardless of whether those that succeed ever return downstream.
- B. This would suggest that dams with properly functioning fish passes do not greatly reduce the number of migrating fish, so it would provide further evidence that the fish pass in

this particular dam is defective.

- C. **Correct.** This suggests that the toxic sediments may have poisoned the fish and reduced their population. A smaller fish population could be sufficient to explain the reduced number of fish migrating, which casts doubt on the argument's assumption that the explanation for their declining numbers involves the fish pass.
- D. A slight and gradual ongoing decline in migratory fish populations would not explain an abrupt and extreme decline right after the dam was built.
- E. This supports the argument's proposed explanation for the declining fish population by ruling out the alternative explanation that the dam does not release enough water for the fish to migrate.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR09969

227. Music critic: Fewer and fewer musicians are studying classical music, decreasing the likelihood that those with real aptitude for such music will be performing it. Audiences who hear these performances will not appreciate classical music's greatness and will thus decamp to other genres. So to maintain classical music's current meager popularity, we must encourage more young musicians to enter the field.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the music critic's reasoning?

- A. Musicians who choose to study classical music do so because they believe they have an aptitude for the music.
- B. Classical music's current meager popularity is attributable to the profusion of other genres of music available to listeners.
- C. Most people who appreciate classical music come to do so through old recordings rather than live performances.
- D. It is possible to enjoy the music in a particular genre even when it is performed by musicians who are not ideally suited for that genre.
- E. The continued popularity of a given genre of music depends in part on the audience's being able to understand why that genre attained its original popularity.

### Argument Evaluation

**Situation** Fewer musicians are studying classical music. This reduces the likelihood that those performing the music will have real aptitude for it, which in turn reduces audience's appreciation of classical music performances.

**Reasoning** *What evidence would cast the most doubt on the support provided for the conclusion that encouraging more young musicians to study classical music is necessary in order to maintain the genre's meager popularity?* The music critic's argument is that because fewer talented classical musicians are performing, audiences hearing their performances will fail to appreciate the genre, and thus will abandon it. The critic reasons that to solve this problem, it will be necessary to encourage more young musicians to study classical music so that audiences will eventually be exposed to more talented classical performers and decide the genre is worthwhile after all. The argument would be weakened, for example, by evidence that hearing unremarkable live performances does not really drive many people away from classical music, or that the number of audience members hearing great performances does not depend much on the number of talented performers, or that encouraging young



musicians to study classical music is either ineffective or not the only effective way to increase the number of talented classical performers.

- A. This does not weaken the critic's reasoning. However much confidence musicians studying classical music have in their own talent, a decline in the total number of classical musicians will probably result in a decline in the number of truly talented classical musicians, just as the critic assumes.
- B. The critic is only proposing a way to at least maintain classical music's current meager popularity, which might be accomplished even if the profusion of other genres prevents classical music's popularity from increasing.
- C. **Correct.** This suggests that classical music's meager popularity could at least be maintained by encouraging people to listen to great old recordings of classical music rather than by increasing the supply of great live performances.
- D. This does weaken the argument slightly. But even if a few audience members manage to enjoy mediocre classical music performances, they might still be more strongly drawn to other genres with more talented performers.
- E. Listeners exposed to more impressive live performances of classical music by talented performers would probably better understand why classical music was once popular than would listeners exposed only to mediocre classical performances.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR67850.02

228. People with a college degree are more likely than others to search for a new job while they are employed. There are proportionately more people with college degrees among managers and other professionals than among service and clerical workers. Surprisingly, however, 2009 figures indicate that people employed as managers and other professionals were no more likely than people employed as service and clerical workers to have searched for a new job.

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

- A. People generally do not take a new job that is offered to them while they are employed unless the new job pays better.
- B. Some service and clerical jobs pay more than some managerial and professional jobs.
- C. People who felt they were overqualified for their current positions were more likely than others to search for a new job.
- D. The percentage of employed people who were engaged in job searches declined from 2005 to 2009.
- E. In 2009 employees with no college degree who retired were more likely to be replaced by people with a college degree if they retired from a managerial or professional job than from a service or clerical job.

### **Argument Construction**

**Situation** College graduates are more likely than others to search for another job while they are employed. A greater percentage of managers and other professionals are college graduates than of service and clerical workers. In 2009, however, managers and other professionals were no more likely than service and clerical workers to have searched for another job while employed.

**Reasoning** *What additional piece of information would most help resolve the apparent paradox described?* The apparent paradox concerns a 2009 phenomenon that initially seems at odds with a general pattern in job-search behavior. However,



the phenomenon seems less puzzling when one considers the following. Depending on the current state of the employment market, some college graduates may choose to take a job as a service or clerical worker, seeing it as a way of paying their expenses while aiming to transition to a job more suited to their medium- and long-term career aspirations.

- A. This information provides one answer to the question, why do people choose to accept or decline a particular job? However, this has no clear relevance to the apparent paradox we are asked to resolve; the paradox concerns the proportions of people in different kinds of jobs who search for a new job even while employed.
- B. This information is too vague to contribute to resolving the apparent paradox. It is little more than a truism that, given certain labor supply and demand conditions, pay rates for different jobs vary.
- C. **Correct.** College graduates in clerical jobs might feel that they had more advanced skills than their jobs demanded. College graduates in managerial or professional jobs would be less likely to have a similar feeling.
- D. This information regarding a decline in job searches from 2005 to 2009 has no clear relevance to the apparent paradox we are asked to resolve. For example, we are not told that this decline occurred predominantly among managerial or professional workers.
- E. This information suggests that the supply of college graduates was larger in 2009 than it had been some decades before. If the supply were large enough in 2009, it could be the case that some college graduates accepted service or clerical jobs that, decades previously, would not have been filled by college graduates. But we lack enough specific information for this answer choice to help resolve the apparent paradox.

**The correct answer is C.**

CR20190.02

229. To reduce traffic congestion, City X's transportation bureau plans to encourage people who work downtown to sign a form pledging to carpool or use public transportation for the next year. Everyone who signs the form will get a coupon for a free meal at any downtown restaurant.

For the transportation bureau's plan to succeed in reducing traffic congestion, which of the following must be true?

- A. Everyone who signs the pledge form will fully abide by the pledge for the next year.
- B. At least some people who work downtown prefer the restaurants downtown to those elsewhere.
- C. Most downtown traffic congestion in City X results from people who work downtown.
- D. The most effective way to reduce traffic congestion downtown would be to persuade more people who work there to carpool or use public transportation.
- E. At least some people who receive the coupon for a free meal will sometimes carpool or use public transportation during the next year.

### **Evaluation of a Plan**

**Situation** In City X, the transportation bureau's plan to reduce traffic congestion involves giving every downtown worker who signs a form pledging to carpool or use public transportation next year a coupon for a free meal at any downtown restaurant.

**Reasoning** *What claim must be true for the transportation bureau's plan to reduce traffic*

*congestion to succeed?* Obviously, if people sign the pledge just so they can get a coupon for a free meal, and if no one who signs the pledge actually carpools or uses public transportation, then the plan will not succeed. Therefore, for the plan to be successful, at least some of the people who receive the coupon must at least occasionally carpool or use public transportation during the next year.

- A. If this were true, it would certainly help the plan succeed. But the question asks what *must* be true for the plan to succeed, and it is not necessary that anyone fully abide by the plan. The plan could well succeed, for instance, if no one fully abided by the pledge but a large number of people only partially abided by the pledge.
- B. This is not necessary. Even if everyone prefers restaurants outside the downtown area, they may still want a free meal at a downtown restaurant.
- C. It could be that a majority of the downtown traffic congestion in City X results not from people who work downtown, but from people who shop downtown or live downtown but work elsewhere. The plan could still work as long as there was a sufficient reduction in the congestion caused by the downtown workers.
- D. The plan could work even if it is not the most effective way to reduce traffic congestion. If there is a more effective way to reduce traffic congestion, then it might be advisable to implement that plan instead of, or in addition to, this one. But second-best plans, for instance, can be successful.
- E. **Correct.** Certainly, this is not sufficient for the plan to succeed; compliance would probably need to be well above the minimal level. But, as explained above, this is necessary for the plan to succeed. Suppose someone objected to the idea that this must be true for the plan to succeed by saying that, even if no one who received the coupon carpoled or used public transportation, congestion could still be reduced if enough *other* people carpoled or used public transportation. That is true, but in that case, it would not be the *plan* that succeeded. The goal would be accomplished, but it would have been accomplished without the plan itself being successful at accomplishing it.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR05656

230. 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.

### Argument Construction

**Situation** The oldest surviving cast-brass plaques from the Benin culture date to the

1400s. Records of a Portuguese expedition to Benin in 1485 mention cast-brass jewelry sent to Benin's king from neighboring Ife.

**Reasoning** *What additional evidence, when combined with the argument's premises, would most help support the conclusion that Benin's knowledge of brass casting did not derive from the Portuguese?* The argument is that since the expedition records indicate that cast-brass jewelry from Ife was already known in Benin when the Portuguese first came there, Benin's knowledge of brass casting probably did not derive from the Portuguese. This argument assumes that receiving the brass-cast jewelry from Ife could have transmitted knowledge of brass casting to Benin, and also that knowledge of brass casting in Ife did not itself derive from the Portuguese. Any evidence supporting either of these assumptions would strengthen the argument.

- A. This is compatible with a Portuguese origin for brass-casting in Benin. The expedition might well have included metalworkers even if the records do not mention whether it did. Furthermore, other Portuguese expeditions with metalworkers might have quickly followed the initial expedition.
- B. **Correct.** If the Portuguese had no contact with Ife before 1500, then Ife's earlier knowledge of brass casting did not derive directly from the Portuguese. This increases the likelihood that knowledge of brass-casting in Benin did not derive from the Portuguese, even if it derived from Ife.
- C. This is compatible with a Portuguese origin for brass-casting in Benin. Even if the Portuguese did not use cast brass for commemorative plaques, they could have used it for jewelry or other items they brought to Benin or manufactured there, and thus they could have transmitted the knowledge to the Benin culture.
- D. This leaves open the possibility that the Benin culture learned about brass casting from the Portuguese in 1485 and started using it to produce plaques of this type by 1500.
- E. Even if copper has always been common in the Benin territory, brass-casting techniques could have been introduced by the Portuguese.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR56601.02

231. When new laws imposing strict penalties for misleading corporate disclosures were passed, they were hailed as initiating an era of corporate openness. As an additional benefit, given the increased amount and accuracy of information disclosed under the new laws, it was assumed that analysts' predictions of corporate performance would become more accurate. Since the passage of the laws, however, the number of inaccurate analysts' predictions has not in fact decreased.

Which of the following would, if true, best explain the discrepancy outlined above?

- A. The new laws' definition of "misleading information" can be interpreted in more than one way.
- B. The new laws require corporations in all industries to release information at specific times of the year.
- C. Even before the new laws were passed, the information most corporations released was true.
- D. Analysts base their predictions on information they gather from many sources, not just corporate disclosures.

- E. The more pieces of information corporations release, the more difficult it becomes for anyone to organize them in a manageable way.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** It was assumed that new laws, implemented to increase the amount and accuracy of information released by corporations, would increase the accuracy of analysts' predictions about corporate performance. This outcome has not occurred, however.

**Reasoning** *What claim would best explain the new laws' failure to reduce the number of inaccurate analysts' predictions?* The new laws were intended to increase both the accuracy and the amount of information. If the amount of information increased to such a level that analysts became overwhelmed by it, this could help explain the laws' failure to reduce the number of inaccurate predictions.

- A. Even if the new laws' definition of "misleading information" can be interpreted in multiple ways, it could be that the accuracy of corporate information has increased. This fact alone does little if anything to explain the discrepancy.
- B. The fact that all industries are required to release information at specific times of the year is not helpful in explaining why the number of inaccurate analysts' predictions has not declined. Presumably analysts would wait for the information to be released to make predictions.
- C. This might help somewhat in explaining the failure to bring about the desired outcome. It would do so by ruling out one scenario that would make the outcome more likely to occur: If past predictions had been inaccurate because they were based on false information, it would seem likely that the law would reduce the number of inaccurate predictions. But even if most of the information corporations released in the past was true, one would still expect some improvement in the accuracy of predictions if the information became universally accurate, and there was more of it available.
- D. The fact that analysts base their predictions about corporate performance on information gathered from many sources in addition to corporate disclosures does not explain why, if corporate disclosures improved, there would not be at least some improvement in the accuracy of predictions about corporate performance.
- E. **Correct.** If the amount of information corporations release becomes so great that organizing it in a manageable way becomes difficult or impossible, then it could become more difficult to interpret and understand. This could interfere with analysts' ability to make accurate predictions about performance, even if the information provided is 100 percent accurate.

**The correct answer is E.**

CR50611.02

232. Economist: Even with energy conservation efforts, current technologies cannot support both a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and an expanding global economy. Attempts to restrain emissions without new technology will stifle economic growth. Therefore, increases in governmental spending on research into energy technology will be necessary if we wish to reduce carbon dioxide emissions without stifling economic growth.

Which of the following is an assumption the economist's argument requires?

- A. If research into energy technology does not lead to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, then economic growth will be stifled.
- B. Increased governmental spending on research into energy technology will be more likely to reduce carbon dioxide emissions without stifling growth than will nongovernmental

spending.

- C. An expanding global economy may require at least some governmental spending on research into energy technology.
- D. Attempts to restrain carbon dioxide emissions without new technology could ultimately cost more than the failure to reduce those emissions would cost.
- E. Restraining carbon dioxide emissions without stifling economic growth would require both new energy technology and energy conservation efforts.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** An economist argues that without new technology, attempts to restrain carbon dioxide emissions will stifle economic growth. The economist concludes from this that if such emissions are to be reduced without stifling economic growth, there must be increases in governmental spending on research into energy technology.

**Reasoning** *What assumption is required by the economist's argument?* An obvious question to the economist's argument is why an increase in *governmental* spending is required. Could nongovernmental spending alone not be at least as effective? If it could be, then the economist's conclusion would not follow. Therefore, for the economist's argument to be a good one, it would need to be true that nongovernmental spending alone would not be as effective for the intended purpose as increased governmental spending would be.

- A. Nothing in the argument requires the assumption that only a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions can stifle economic growth. The argument is perfectly compatible, for instance, with the assumption that economic growth would be stifled if there were significant climate change—perhaps leading to severe crop shortages—as a result of increased carbon dioxide emissions.
- B. **Correct.** As explained above, a natural response to the economist's argument is to ask, "Why can we not just use nongovernmental spending to come up with new technologies that will allow us to restrain carbon dioxide emissions without stifling economic growth?" Without an answer to that question, the economist's argument cannot be a good one. If answer choice B were true, it would bridge the logical gap by providing a reason that increased governmental spending—and not just nongovernmental spending—would be needed.
- C. This does not have to be assumed. True, the argument assumes that *if* we try to reduce carbon dioxide emissions without increased governmental spending on research into energy technology, then the economy will be stifled. But the argument is compatible with the occurrence of economic growth despite a lack of governmental spending on research into energy technology, as long as carbon dioxide emissions are not reduced.
- D. The argument does not require this assumption. As explained in answer choice A, the argument is compatible with the idea that the economy could be stifled by climate change that results from a failure to reduce carbon emissions. This could result in great economic cost.
- E. The argument does not indicate that new energy technology alone cannot be sufficient for restraining carbon dioxide emissions without stifling economic growth.

**The correct answer is B.**

CR98001.02

233. Researchers have developed a technology that uses sound as a means of converting heat into electrical energy. Converters based on this technology can be manufactured small enough to

be integrated into consumer electronics, where they will absorb significant quantities of heat. A group of engineers is now designing converters to be sold to laptop computer manufacturers, who are expected to use the electrical output of the converters to conserve battery power in their computers.

Which of the following would, if true, provide the strongest evidence that the engineers' plan will be commercially successful for their group?

- A. The sound that is used by the converters is generated by the converters themselves.
- B. Most laptop computer manufacturers today receive fewer complaints than in previous years regarding shortness of operating time on a single battery charge.
- C. The overheating of microprocessors in laptop computers presents a major technological challenge that manufacturers are prepared to meet at significant expense.
- D. Although battery technology has improved significantly, the average capacity of laptop computer batteries has not.
- E. Electrical power generated by the converters can be used to power the fans installed to cool computers' components.

### Evaluation of a Plan

**Situation** A group of engineers is designing converters that absorb heat and then use sound to convert it into electrical energy. The engineers hope to sell the converters to laptop manufacturers for the purpose of using the electrical output of the converters to conserve battery power.

**Reasoning** Which claim provides the strongest evidence that the engineers' plan will be commercially successful? A claim that reveals that there would be demand among laptop manufacturers for the converters would provide such evidence. If these manufacturers currently face a major challenge that they would be willing to meet at significant expense, they would provide a demand for this product if it could be shown to work well.

- A. Whether the sound is generated by the converters or by something else would be irrelevant to whether the plan would be commercially successful, unless the sound production required a significant amount of electrical energy. If it did require a significant amount of electrical energy, this would tend to weaken the hypothesis that the plan would succeed.
- B. This suggests that laptop manufacturers may not feel a great need to use these converters to conserve battery power.
- C. **Correct.** If laptop manufacturers are prepared to meet the challenge of the overheating of microprocessors at significant expense, in a way that provides an additional benefit such as conserving battery power, they could very well be a receptive market for these converters.
- D. This would not provide strong evidence that the plan will be commercially successful unless we had further evidence that laptop manufacturers see it as a challenge that they would be willing to meet at significant expense.
- E. Presumably, the electricity generated by the converter should be able to contribute toward satisfying any of the energy needs of the computer. The passage provides no reason to think that the cooling fans are special in this regard. The converters generate electrical energy by absorbing heat so, in principle, there might even be circumstances in which the use described in this answer choice could undermine the converters' functionality.



**The correct answer is C.**

**To register for the GMAT™ exam go to [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com)**

## **Note**

\*These numbers correlate with the online test bank question number. See the GMAT™ Official Guide Verbal Review Question Index in the back of this book.



## 6.0 Sentence Correction

### 6.0 Sentence Correction

Each GMAT™ Sentence Correction question presents a statement in which words are underlined. The question asks you to select the best expression of the idea or relationship described in the underlined section from the answer options. The first answer choice always repeats the original phrasing, whereas the other four provide alternatives. In some cases, the original phrasing is the best choice. In other cases, the underlined section has obvious or subtle errors that require correction. These questions require you to be familiar with the stylistic conventions and grammatical rules of standard written English and to demonstrate your ability to improve incorrect or ineffective expressions. Sentence Correction questions may include English-language idioms, which are standard constructions not derived from the most basic rules of grammar and vocabulary, but questions about idioms are not intended to measure any specialized knowledge of colloquialisms or regionalisms.

You should begin each question by reading the sentence carefully. Note whether there are any obvious grammatical errors as you read the underlined portion. Then read the five answer choices carefully. If there is a subtle error you did not recognize the first time you read the sentence, it may become apparent after you have read the answer choices. If the error is still unclear, see whether you can eliminate some of the answers as being incorrect. Remember that in some cases, the original selection may be the best answer.

### 6.1 Some Comments About How It Works

Sentence Correction questions require a good understanding of how the conventions of standard written English can be used for effective communication. However, that understanding does not have to come from extensive explicit training in grammar and usage or from knowledge of specialized linguistic terminology. Many people may have the needed insights without being able to explain them in technical terms. Analogously, without knowing the scientific name of baker's yeast or the chemistry of the Maillard reaction, a talented baker or food critic may be able to tell whether a loaf of bread was properly prepared. This is not to say that explicit training in grammar and usage is unhelpful. As an adjunct to experience in critical reading and writing, it can be a useful way to develop insights into good written communication. It is good to be cautious, though; books and websites offering advice about how to write may occasionally stipulate outmoded or idiosyncratic rules not generally followed in effective professional writing.

The problems posed in Sentence Correction take a different approach from those in the other Verbal Reasoning sections, and fall within a different domain. But like the questions in those sections, they test skills of critical reasoning, problem solving, and reading comprehension. Sentence Correction tasks can be aptly thought of as requiring detective work. A key part of this work consists in understanding the differences among formulations the answer choices offer and in seeing that some do not make sense when they are plugged into the larger sentence. In this way, the Sentence Correction questions pose some of the most refined and closely targeted reading comprehension tasks in the GMAT exam. To see why certain wordings do not work, you will need to use critical analysis, forming hypotheses about what the writer is trying to express and being ready to revise the hypotheses as you read through the answer choices.

The more difficult questions are not essentially designed to test for knowledge of rules or facts that are harder to learn or that require more technical training. Difficulty often stems from complexity and subtlety among the interconnected parts of the sentence and involves critical application of principles that all astute users of English should understand. Sentence Correction tasks are puzzles of a sort, but they are not arbitrarily contrived. Typically, the incorrect answer

choices represent flaws that even an experienced writer might introduce by temporarily losing track of a sentence's structure or by accidentally moving a piece of text to an unsuitable position.

Sometimes you may be able to think of a wording that works better than any of the options presented, but the task is to find the most effective of the wording choices offered. In writing, there are almost always tradeoffs. For example, conciseness is sometimes the enemy of adequate precision and specificity. Certain types of redundancy can be annoying and can make the writer seem inept, but other types of repetition and paraphrasing can improve readability and comprehension. Language serves many purposes, not all of which are cooperative or directly informative. In sincere, straightforwardly informative writing—although not in all advertising, entertainment, and poetry—one should minimize ambiguity, yet in the end every sentence is at least somewhat open to multiple interpretations. Because one can never absolutely eliminate the risk of unintended interpretations, Sentence Correction answers should minimize that risk relative to the context, setting, and ordinary assumptions about the intent of the writer. It is safe to assume that any GMAT Sentence Correction sentence you encounter will be intended to sincerely inform, instruct, or inquire, rather than to parody bad writing, confuse the reader, or provoke laughter, outrage, or derision.

You will not be expected to take sides in contentious controversies about grammar, usage, or style or to apply rules widely regarded as highly pedantic or outdated. A few of these are mentioned in the discussions of the specific categories that follow.

## 6.2 The Eight Sentence Correction Categories

Sentence Correction questions are classified into eight grammar and usage categories. Each incorrect answer choice contains a flaw in at least one of these categories, and some span two or more categories. Each test contains questions representing a wide range of different types of problems. In the answer explanations in section 6.9, the categories shown in each question's heading are the most salient, but many questions contain problems in other categories as well. Although these eight categories represent the full range of Sentence Correction questions, the discussions about each category below are not exhaustive and are not intended as a comprehensive guide to English grammar and usage. For each category, the discussion aims to provide a general understanding of the kinds of reasoning that may be involved in solving Sentence Correction problems of that type. For more information about English grammar and style, please refer to [section 3.5](#) of [Chapter 3](#).

### 1. Agreement

Effective verbal communication requires clarity about how a sentence's elements relate to one another. The conventions of agreement help maintain such clarity; constructions that violate these conventions can be confusing or even nonsensical. There are two types of agreement: subject-verb agreement and agreement of terms that have the same referent.

A. **Subject-verb agreement:** Singular subjects take singular verbs, whereas plural subjects take plural verbs.

B. **Agreement between terms that have the same referent:** A pronoun that stands for another element in the discourse—a noun, a noun phrase, or another pronoun—must agree with its antecedent in person, number, and gender.

For details about and examples of these two types of agreement, see section 3.5.2 of [Chapter 3](#).

Almost all educated users of English have internalized the conventions of agreement, yet we all occasionally make grammatical mistakes involving agreement because we lose track of the structure of our wording. Keep in mind that as you evaluate different wording choices, context is vitally important.

*Examples:*

i) We can see immediately that an entire clause consisting of the words **you is working** would be incorrect. On the other hand, that same sequence of words is correct in the following sentence:

The team member who used to assist **you is working** on a different project now.

Seeing this depends on recognizing that the subject of **is** is not **you** but rather the entire noun phrase preceding the verb. This recognition may be either intuitive or based on explicit analysis.

ii) Similarly, no one would seriously claim that the plural **they** should stand for the singular noun **proposal**, but one might more easily overlook the failure of agreement in the following sentence:

From among the six submitted proposals, they chose number four, believing that **they** could be more easily implemented than the other five.

Many readers may see the problem quickly, but in doing so they are noting some complex features of the sentence structure. Grammatically, **they** could refer to the six proposals or to those who chose from among them, but neither of those tentative interpretations makes sense. The choosers are not the sorts of things that could be implemented, and the comparative phrase **than the other five** rules out the hypothesis that the antecedent of **they** is the plural **six submitted proposals**. Changing **they** to **it** resolves the discrepancy by providing a pronoun that clearly has the singular noun phrase **number four** as its antecedent. Here the reasoning overlaps with that involved in the category of logical predication discussed in section 3.2.5 below.

**Some complicating factors to consider:**

When analyzing potential agreement issues in Sentence Correction, keep in mind that not all cases conform obviously and straightforwardly to the basic rules of agreement reviewed in [section 3.5](#) of [Chapter 3](#). Here are a few special considerations not reviewed in that section.

- A. **Plurals that appear singular:** Fluent English speakers are aware that for some words the plural is the same as the singular (**sheep** and **deer**, for example). But there are subtle cases, as when a formally singular noun referring to a group or culture is construed as plural. No simple rule governs the use of such terms; one can say, for example, **the British are** or **the Inuit are** but not **the German are** or **the Cuban are**. **Police** is plural, but many similar group words, such as **navy**, are typically construed as singular.
- B. **Plurals construed as singular:** Some formally plural nouns, such as **news**, are construed as singular in normal usage. A title with a plural form (such as **The Grapes of Wrath**) takes a singular verb if it refers to a single work, and some names of organizations or political entities may be construed as singular even though they have a plural form. For example, the phrase **the Cayman Islands** may be singular when referring to the country as a political entity but plural when referring to the islands as multiple pieces of land.
- C. **Singular verbs that could appear plural:** For most English verbs (with the notable exception of **to be**), the infinitive is the same as the present plural, and the present subjunctive for all persons is the same as the infinitive. Furthermore, the singular past subjunctive is the same as the plural. Thus, there is a risk that at first glance a correct verb form used with a singular subject may appear plural.

*Examples:*

i) “The researcher suspend further testing” and “I were you” would be incorrect as complete sentences, but in the following sentences they are in the subjunctive mood and are correct:

We considered it imperative that **the researcher suspend further testing**.

I wouldn’t do that if **I were you**.

ii) As a complete sentence, “The mayor attend the hearings” would be incorrect, but in the following sentence it is correct because the verb form **attend** is an infinitive preceded by the auxiliary verb **will**:

In none of these cases will either the councilor or **the mayor attend the hearings**.

### Some issues that are not tested:

The following are a few examples of issues outside the scope of the agreement-related Sentence Correction questions:

- A. Especially in informal discourse, the plural pronoun **they** and related forms **them**, **their**, and **theirs** are sometimes used as nonspecific, genderless ways of referring to a singular person. Consider, for example, “Somebody left **their** notebook on the conference room table.”

The reasoning surrounding such usage and the alternatives (**he**, **she**, **she or he**, **she/he**) is complex and evolving. You should not expect to see questions that require you to judge which usage is preferable.

- B. Although you should be able to recognize commonly used irregular plurals or special classes of plurals (such as **phenomena**, **cacti**, **genera**), you will not be asked to correct an improper plural spelling. For example, you will not be asked to correct **the genuses are to the genera are**.
- C. You will also not be expected to know whether certain highly technical terms or local organization names take singular or plural verbs and pronouns unless the context makes it clear whether they are singular or plural. For example, those who are very familiar with the Centers for Disease Control (a U.S. government organization) will know that it is normally referred to in the singular, but others would not be able to determine this merely from seeing the name.

## 2. Diction

Sentences that are structurally well formed can still be confusing, or can make the writer seem inept, if the words are not chosen appropriately and effectively. Effective diction involves using the right part of speech and observing other conventions regarding which words to use in which contexts. Word choices involving agreement and verb form may also be thought of partly as matters of diction, but they are treated separately under the Agreement and Verb Form headings. The diction issues you may encounter in Sentence Correction questions are too many and varied to list here. Many such issues are discussed and examples provided in [Chapter 3](#). Here are a few salient categories often encountered in diction-related Sentence Correction questions:

- A. **Parts of speech:** Even accomplished writers sometimes accidentally use an inappropriate part of speech, such as an adjective where an adverb is needed or a preposition where a conjunction is needed.

*Example:*

**Correct:** I could **easily** tell that the cat was friendly.

**Incorrect:** I could **easy** tell that the cat was friendly.

- B. **Pronoun cases:** Pronouns should be in the right case. A writer might compromise clarity by using a subject form of a pronoun as an object or vice versa or a reflexive pronoun in a nonreflexive context.
- C. **Counting and quantifying:** Although the conventions for quantification of mass nouns and count nouns have some subtle complexities, keep in mind the general rule that mass nouns are quantified by an amount, whereas count nouns are quantified by numbers or by words (such as **many**) that indicate multiple units.

*Example:*

**Correct:** **Fewer** deliveries arrived today than yesterday.

**Incorrect:** **Less** deliveries arrived today than yesterday.

- D. **Prepositions:** Subtle differences of relationship are often expressed by different prepositions that function similarly to one another. Consider, for example, **in/into/within, to/toward, on/onto/above, through/throughout, beside/besides, beside/along/against, and on/over/above.**

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** We were standing **beside** the river.

**Incorrect:** We were standing **besides** the river.

The incorrect version above can also be thought of as displaying a problem of logical predication in that it appears to say illogically that the river was also standing.

ii) **Correct:** The editor was sitting **in** his office all afternoon.

**Incorrect:** The editor was sitting **into** his office all afternoon.

The preposition **into** indicates motion from outside a location to within that location. Since it is unlikely that sitting would be a motion from outside an office to within an office over the course of an entire afternoon, **into** is the wrong preposition to use in this context.

Word choices that are inherently very simple and obvious can become a little more difficult in complex settings, and a Sentence Correction answer choice that appears appropriate on its own may not work when plugged into the larger sentence.

*Examples:*

i) In isolation, **distributed throughout** is recognizable as a standard phrase, but in the following sentence it does not make sense:

The computers were **distributed throughout** the generosity of a group of donors.

Replacing **throughout** with **through** solves the problem. The issue here is a matter not only of diction but also of logical predication: the wording causes the sentence to make an illogical claim about the computers.

ii) Similarly, the phrase **we were confident** is fine as a freestanding clause, but it is nonsense in the following context:

The lawyer who consulted with **we were confident** that we could negotiate a settlement.

This displays combined problems of diction (**with we**), agreement (the plural **were** with the singular subject **lawyer**), and grammatical construction.

iii) The phrase **us was confident** sounds strange out of context, but substituting **us was** for the offending part of the sentence solves the problem:

The lawyer who consulted with **us was confident** that we could negotiate a settlement.

**Some complicating factors to consider:**

The following are only a few examples of the types of subtleties and complexities that may be involved in deciding what words are appropriate:

- A. **Potentially misleading grammatical constructions:** In some contexts, a verb might superficially appear to require an adverb when in fact an adjective is appropriate. For example, it is correct to say “The surface feels rough” rather than “The surface feels roughly.” And “The animal does not smell well” means something very different from “The animal does not smell good.” Both can be correct depending on what the writer wants to convey.
- B. Words ending in **-ing** that are derived from verbs (such as **going**, **assessing**, and **hurting**) can be either gerunds or participles. Generally, in carefully crafted formal writing, a pronoun or noun that modifies a gerund will be possessive. However, in some similar constructions the **-ing** word is intended as a participle with the noun or pronoun as its subject.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** The schedule depends on **our** receiving the materials on time.

**Incorrect in formal writing:** The schedule depends on **us** receiving the materials on time.

ii) **Correctly expresses one meaning:** I was concerned about **my friend’s lying on the ground**.

iii) **Correctly expresses a different meaning:** I was concerned about **my friend lying on the ground**.

In ii) the object noun phrase is headed by the gerund **lying**, indicating that the concern is about the situation the friend was in. But in iii), **lying** is a participle modifying the noun **friend**, indicating that the concern is explicitly about the friend rather than the situation.



- C. **Words with multiple functions:** In English, almost any noun can function as an adjective. Nouns that also function as verbs are well known (as in **chaired the meeting** or **tabled the motion**), but words that are not normally used as verbs can also be pressed into special service as verbs on an ad hoc basis. One could say, for example, “She plans to **greenhouse** her tender plants when the weather turns cold.” Some words regularly function as both adjectives and adverbs. One can say, for example, both “This is a **hard** job” and “We are working **hard**.” Likewise, **fast** is used correctly as both adjective and adverb in the following sentence: “This is not usually a **fast** train, but it is moving **fast** at this moment.”
- D. **Considerations in applying between and among:** **Among** is generally not appropriate for relationships that involve only two entities. It is standard to say **the distance between my house and yours**, not **the distance among my house and yours**. For relationships involving more than two entities, **among** is usually needed instead of **between**, but there are exceptions. **Between** is sometimes the more accurate preposition to use where the relationship holds, independently, between each member of the group and another individual member. Thus, for example, it would be appropriate to say, “In planning your trip **among** the five destinations, consider the distances **between** cities.”

### Some issues that are not tested:

The following are a few examples of issues outside the scope of the diction-related Sentence Correction questions:

- A. **Which/that:** Some American publishers have adopted the convention that **which**, used as a relative pronoun, should always be nonrestrictive and should be replaced with **that** in restrictive contexts (as in “Laws **which** have been repealed are no longer enforced” versus “Laws **that** have been repealed are no longer enforced”). You should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer adheres to this convention.
- B. **Object words with to be:** Some usage advisors prescribe the use of nominative (subject) pronouns in both the subject position and the object position with the verb **to be**. According to this convention, “If I were **her**, I would be happy to accept the job” is incorrect; it should be “If I were **she**, I would be happy to accept the job.” In some contexts, this latter form of expression could seem annoyingly stilted and pedantic, and thus could violate other standards of effective expression. You should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer adheres to this convention.
- C. **Slang, archaic diction, and words that are distinctively regional or limited to certain subsets of English:** You will not be expected, for example, to correct **thou** or **you-all** to **you**, to understand that **skint** could be paraphrased as **lacking resources**, to judge whether **mickle** is a synonym of **muckle** or whether either of these should be paraphrased with **large**, or to understand that **give** (a test) in some usages is synonymous with **take** (a test) in others.
- D. **Variant forms and spellings:** You will not be asked to choose between variant forms that have the same function and meaning. Some examples of such variant pairs are: **whilst/while**, **toward/towards**, **until/till**, and **outward/outwards**.

### 3. Grammatical Construction

Many issues of agreement, verb form, parallelism, diction, and idiom can be described as matters of grammar, but those categories by no means cover the full range of grammar-related tasks in Sentence Correction. The Grammatical Construction category concerns issues of grammar not treated elsewhere in this classification scheme. For the most part, these are matters of syntax—the ways a sentence’s elements are arranged. Effective communication depends on shared understandings between the writer and reader about how the relative positions of words and phrases help convey meaning. A series of words and punctuation marks that does not follow



predictable conventions of syntax can be puzzling, annoying, or even incomprehensible. In [section 3.5](#) of [Chapter 3](#), grammatical issues are reviewed extensively and many examples provided. Here are a few major issues often encountered in Sentence Correction questions related to grammatical construction:

- A. **Complete structure:** In English, a well-formed sentence or independent clause generally needs both a subject and a predicate that contains a main verb.
- B. **Clear and correct linkages and punctuation:** A sentence's elements need to be linked to and separated from one another with standard punctuation and, when appropriate, with links such as conjunctions and relative pronouns.
- C. **Proper ordering of words and phrases:** A sentence whose components are ordered in ways incompatible with the conventions of standard English can be confusing and can make the writer appear unfamiliar with the language.

To see how a Sentence Correction answer choice affects a sentence's grammatical construction, you may need to analyze the relationship between widely separated parts.

*Examples:*

i) **Incorrect:** If you clean the filter before it becomes so clogged that it impedes the flow can prevent costly repairs in the long run.

**Correct:** Cleaning the filter before it becomes so clogged that it impedes the flow can prevent costly repairs in the long run.

It is important to see that the main verb phrase in these sentences is **can prevent**; the intervening verbs are embedded in the clause modifying **clean the filter**. In the incorrect version, the opening phrase **if you clean** is not grammatically structured to function as a subject. But in the correct version that phrase is replaced with **cleaning**, which allows the noun phrase **cleaning the filter** to serve correctly as the sentence's subject. This sentence correction task involves both grammatical construction and verb form (discussed later under that heading).

ii) **Incorrect:** The headphones that were provided with the audio player that although she bought them last year, they never worked.

**Correct:** The headphones that were provided with the audio player she bought last year never worked.

The phrase **she bought last year never worked** would be ungrammatical in isolation, but if substituted for the underlined phrase in the incorrect version, it makes the sentence grammatically correct. The crucial relationship here is between the opening words (**the headphones**) and the final phrase of the sentence.

**Some complicating factors to consider:**

In informal contexts and in many formal contexts where economy of words and smoothness of flow are key considerations, certain sentence elements may be omitted when the writer's intent is entirely clear without them. For example, **that** is often omitted at the start of a relative clause, as in "The film I saw last night was boring" or "I was afraid they might be angry." It is also often acceptable to omit infinitive verbs to avoid awkward repetition, leaving the preposition **to** dangling, as in "I reviewed the report even though I didn't want to."

**Some issues that are not tested:**

The following two issues are outside the scope of Sentence Correction questions related to grammatical construction.

- A. **Fragments that function as complete sentences in special contexts:** A group of words with no subject or verb can sometimes stand as a well-formed sentence. For example, “No” can be a complete sentence in answer to a stated or hypothetical question, as can “The one on the left.” Similarly, a clause beginning with a conjunction and not followed by any other clause can sometimes be an acceptable sentence, as, for example, “Because the delivery was late.” Exclamations such as “Not again!” are also complete and well formed in special contexts. You should not expect to see a Sentence Correction question that appears likely to be drawn from a context in which it is intended to function in any of these ways or as a headline, title, or line of poetry.
- B. **Punctuation as editorial style:** You will need to judge issues of punctuation only insofar as they involve standard conventions that make a difference for the sentence’s meaning and coherence. Beyond the basic grammatical principles, some punctuation conventions vary by region or academic discipline, are matters of pure style, or are determined by publishers or editors for their own purposes. You will not need to judge, for example, whether a comma should be inside or outside a closing quotation mark, whether emphasis should be indicated by italics, or whether an apostrophe should be inserted before the s in a plural non-word such as ***IOUs***/***IOU’s*** or ***1980s***/***1980’s***.

#### 4. Idiom

**Idioms** are standard forms of expression that consist of ordinary words but whose uses cannot be inferred from the meanings of their component parts or the basic conventions of grammar and usage. There is ultimately no logical reason why English speakers say ***on average*** rather than ***at average*** or ***depending on*** rather than ***depending from***. This is simply how we do things. Thus, knowing idiomatic constructions is rather like knowing vocabulary words. Accidentally using the wrong combination of words in an idiomatic construction or structuring a phrase in an unidiomatic way can make it difficult for readers to discern the writer’s intended meaning. Here are a few major categories of idiomatic wording issues that you may encounter in Sentence Correction questions:

- A. **Prepositions with abstract concepts:** For abstract concepts, there is no top, bottom, inside, or outside, yet with terms denoting such concepts we often use the same prepositions that denote spatial relationships between concrete objects. There are some patterns, but for the most part knowing which preposition to use with which abstract noun or verb depends on familiarity. The idiomatic pairings of prepositions with abstract concepts are far too many and varied to list here. A few illustrations are: ***in*** love, different ***from***, ***in*** a while, ***on*** guard, ***at*** work.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** ***With*** regard ***to*** your party invitation, I may not be able to go, because I will be ***on*** call at the clinic that evening.

**Incorrect:** ***On*** regard ***with*** your party invitation, I may not be able to go, because I will be ***in*** call at the clinic that evening.

ii) **Correct:** The cost of the repairs will depend ***on*** what clever solutions the contractors come ***up with***.

**Incorrect:** The cost of the repairs will depend ***from*** what clever solutions the contractors come ***out through***.

- B. **Correlatives:** Certain standard correlative structures provide economical ways of expressing relationships between concepts. For example, it can be more efficient to say “Neither she nor he is going” than to say “He is not going, and she is also not going.”

However, if such structures are not skillfully handled in accordance with standard conventions, they can be puzzling and misleading.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** Neither the pomegranates **nor** the melons have arrived yet from the vendor.

**Incorrect:** Neither the pomegranates have arrived yet **neither** the melons from the vendor.

ii) **Correct:** She was almost **as** sure that if we installed this system it would fail **as** that we would need some such system.

**Incorrect:** She was almost **as** sure that if we installed this system it would fail **than** that we would need some such system.

- C. **Verb phrases:** Many combinations of verbs with adverbs and/or prepositions have conventional meanings that do not follow directly from the meanings of their component parts. These include such phrases as **give up, give up on, come through with, come up, come up with, come down with, do without, have at, get over, get on with, go through, go through with, and get through with**. Similarly, there are many idiomatic combinations of verbs and objects, such as **have had it, make waves, make one's mark, and put one's finger on**.

*Example:*

**Correct:** When they checked the patient's temperature, it **turned out** that he was **running a fever**.

**Incorrect:** When they checked the patient's temperature, it **veered off** that he was **doing a fever**.

- D. **Pronouns with no reference:** As discussed in [section 3.5](#), English requires stated subjects in most sentences with active verb forms. Where there is no real subject, one uses specific referentless placeholder pronouns: **it** and **there**.
- E. **Compound modifiers:** Some adverbs and adjectives are idiomatically built out of multiple words. A few examples are: **all in all, by and by, by and large, on the whole, through and through, on the up and up, and on the other hand** (which is sometimes, but not always, correlated with **on the one hand**).

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** She listened to the radio **off and on** throughout the day.

**Incorrect:** She listened to the radio **off but again on** throughout the day.

ii) **Correct:** You wondered whether anyone would mention you at the meeting; in fact, two people **did so**.

**Incorrect:** You wondered whether anyone would mention you at the meeting; in fact, two people **did thus and so**.

Idiom-related questions do not always involve identifying malformed idioms. Sometimes the crucial insight may involve determining which of multiple idiomatic meanings is intended, or whether a phrase should be treated as an idiom or not.

*Example:*

**Incorrect:** She asked for information **on purpose** of the order I had submitted.

The meaning of the sentence above is unclear. However, a plausible hypothesis is that the writer meant to say **information on the purpose**, with **on** serving as an informal equivalent of **regarding**. On that reading, the apparent use of the idiom **on purpose** results from an accidental juxtaposition of the two words. Substituting a phrase such as **regarding the** for **on** can turn this into a meaningful, well-formed sentence:

**Correct:** She asked for information **regarding the purpose** of the order I had submitted.

### Some complicating factors to consider:

Here are just a few of the many subtleties that one may encounter in judging whether idiomatic usages are correct and effective:

- A. Similar phrases often have very different idiomatic uses and meanings; consider, for example, **come through with**, **come down with**, and **come up with**.
- B. Some idiomatic preposition-plus-noun phrases have alternate forms. For example, it is correct to say either **with regard to** or **in regard to**.
- C. Many idiomatic phrases have multiple meanings, which are not always similar. For example, **come out with** in some contexts means **express** and in others means **publish** or **begin marketing**.
- D. For many idiomatic expressions, there are special exceptions to the standard forms.

*Example:*

Phrases of the form **not only ... but** are standardly completed with **also**, but there are special cases in which **also** is unnecessary or misleading.

**Correct:** Surprisingly, the endangered species was found **not only** at the valley's lowest elevations **but** throughout the entire valley.

**Incorrect:** Surprisingly, the endangered species was found **not only** at the valley's lowest elevations **but also** throughout the entire valley.

If the lowest elevations referred to are in the valley, **but also** would misleadingly seem to indicate that the entire valley was a separate category rather than a more general category encompassing the lower elevations.

- E. Words that form standard pairs, such as **neither** and **nor**, often have other meanings and uses as well. In some contexts, **neither** or **nor** might appear at first glance to need the other term. However, **neither** often occurs as an adjective (as in "**Neither book** has been opened"), a pronoun (as in "**Neither of them** has been opened"), or a freestanding clause negator (as in "My supervisor is not fond of filing reports, but **neither am I**"). Similarly, **nor** can occur without **neither** (as in "None of the strata in the escarpment were fractured in the earthquake, **nor** were any of the exposed formations displaced").

### Some issues that are not tested:

GMAT Sentence Correction questions neither assess nor presuppose knowledge of obsolete forms of idiomatic expression, highly specialized technical jargon, distinctive dialect constructions, or slang idioms that have not become standard forms of expression.

## 5. Logical Predication

Logical predication is the modification of one sentence element by another. Accidentally modifying the wrong sentence element may create unintended meanings even in a grammatically correct sentence. Issues of logical predication intersect with all the other categories discussed here and are involved in many of the Sentence Correction questions. Here are a few ways they may occur. See [Chapter 3](#) for more details and examples.

- A. **Position and scope of modifiers:** Modifiers should be positioned so that it is clear what word or words they are meant to modify. If modifiers are not positioned clearly, they can cause illogical references or comparisons, or otherwise distort the meaning of the sentence.

*Example:*

**Correct:** I put the cake **that I baked** by the door.

**Incorrect:** I put the cake by the door **that I baked**.

- B. **Pronoun-antecedent relationships:** A misplaced pronoun can bind to the wrong noun, pronoun, or noun phrase and thus create an unintended meaning.

*Example:*

**Correct:** After **it** has reviewed the report from the consultants, **the company** may consider changing the logo.

**Incorrect:** After **it** has reviewed the report from the consultants, **changing the logo** may be considered by the company.

- C. **Compatibility of concepts:** Careless wording can cause a predicate to say something inconsistent with the nature of the subject and vice versa.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** **The three types of wildlife** most often seen in the park **are sparrows, mallards, and squirrels**, in that order.

**Incorrect:** **The type of wildlife** most often seen in the park **is the sparrow, the mallard, and the squirrel**, in that order.

ii) **Correct:** Stock prices **rose** abruptly today **to an all-time high**.

**Incorrect:** Stock prices **dropped** abruptly today **to an all-time high**.

- D. **Ellipses and extraneous elements:** Omission of a crucial word or phrase or inclusion of an extraneous element can shift the subject to an unintended element while leaving the sentence grammatically well formed. Accidents of this sort can also make an unintended noun or pronoun the subject or object of a verb.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** Work on the stadium renovations is temporarily **at a standstill**.

**Incorrect:** Work on the stadium renovations is temporarily **a standstill**.

In the incorrect version of i), the omission of **at** causes the sentence to claim illogically that the work itself is a standstill.

ii) **Correct:** The **car was traveling** slowly along the highway.

**Incorrect:** The **car's speed was traveling** slowly along the highway.

In the incorrect version of ii), the redundant reference to speed makes the sentence say, absurdly, that the speed rather than the car was traveling along the highway.

E. **Reversed relationships:** An unintended meaning can result from accidentally or misguidedly reversing a relationship between sentence elements.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** Last week's unusually high sales of electric fans can almost certainly be **blamed on** the unseasonably hot weather.

**Incorrect:** Last week's unusually high sales of electric fans can almost certainly be **blamed for** the unseasonably hot weather.

Example i) also involves idiomatic usage of prepositions (discussed under the Idiom category above).

ii) **Correct:** **Forecasters said the cold front** will move through the region tomorrow.

**Incorrect:** **Forecasters, said the cold front**, will move through the region tomorrow.

F. **Ambiguous words and phrases:** Writers should be cautious in using words or phrases that have multiple standard meanings. Often the context makes it clear which meaning is intended, but sometimes it does not. Paraphrasing to rule out unwanted meanings can sometimes require adding words or increasing a sentence's structural complexity.



*Examples:*

i) **Incorrect:** She has studied Greek and speaks it **as well as** Gujarati.

**Correct:** She has studied Greek and speaks it **in addition to** Gujarati.

**Correct:** She has studied Greek and speaks it **as well as she speaks** Gujarati.

**As well as** is an entirely acceptable equivalent of **and also** or **in addition to**, but it can be an unfortunate choice of words for a context in which **well** makes perfect sense as an evaluative judgment. The second correct version of i) captures this alternate, evaluative meaning.

ii) **Incorrect:** Although visitors **may not** enter the loading docks, they occasionally **may** wander past the area.

**Correct:** Although visitors **might not** enter the loading docks, they occasionally **might** wander past the area.

**Correct:** Although visitors **are not allowed to** enter the loading docks, they occasionally **are allowed to** wander past the area.

Here again, there is no firm basis for deciding which way the incorrect version is intended. Both occurrences of **may** could mean either **are permitted to** or **might**.

Few incorrect answers in actual Sentence Correction questions will be as easy to dismiss as the most obvious of these illustrative examples. Most Logical Predication questions will require careful analysis of the relationships between the answer choice and the nonunderlined portions of the sentence. Be alert for all types of problematic relationships among sentence parts, not just for stereotypical dangling modifiers.

### **Some complicating factors to consider:**

Given that all Sentence Correction questions are presented out of context, there may be no basis for certainty about which of several possible interpretations the writer intended to convey. You will not be given multiple equally good versions of a sentence and asked to guess which one accurately represents the writer's true intention. In principle, almost any illogically constructed sentence could be intended to convey a bizarre meaning. One could hypothesize that the writer of the first incorrect example under **Reversed relationships** really did intend to say that the fan sales somehow caused the hot weather. Even on that hypothesis, the most reasonable judgment for Sentence Correction purposes would be that the sentence is poorly constructed. A careful writer who wants to convey a straightforward message should make it clear that the unusual meaning is the intended one instead of leading the reader to believe that she or he is ineptly trying to convey the more plausible meaning.

### **Some issues that are not tested:**

Occasionally, you may find a poorly worded version of a sentence amusing. However, you should not expect to see Sentence Correction sentences that can be interpreted as jokes. Among the answer choices, there will always be a serious way of resolving ambiguities and illogical meanings.

## **6. Parallelism**

Words or phrases that have similar roles in a sentence should be treated in ways that make the similarity clear. This often requires ensuring that parallel clauses have parallel structure, that verbs having the same function are in the same form, and that elements within the scope of a modifier all relate to the modifier in the same way. Here are some major categories in which parallelism can be an issue:



- A. **Elements of a series:** Where the elements of a series all have the same role or function, they often should be in parallel form.

*Example:*

**Correct:** She tackled the problem calmly, **efficiently**, and **analytically**.

**Incorrect:** She tackled the problem calmly, **by being efficient in tackling it**, and **was analytic**.

In this example, the nonparallel version of the sentence is also awkward and wordy. Problems of these types are further discussed under the category of rhetorical construction.

- B. **Correlations and comparisons:** As explained in section 3.5.5.D of [Chapter 3](#), the sides of a correlative structure often need parallel treatment to make the relationship clear and accurate.
- C. **Issues of scope and repetition of elements:** To determine what elements of a sentence should be made parallel to each other, it is sometimes necessary to determine how much of the wording should fall within the scope of a verb, preposition, or modifier. The scope may determine which elements need to be in parallel form and whether certain elements need to be repeated. Issues of this type overlap with those discussed previously.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** He mended the torn fabric **with a needle and thread**.

**Incorrect:** He mended the torn fabric **with a needle and with thread**.

Assuming that the needle and thread were used together as a unit, the incorrect version's repetition of **with** misrepresents the relationship, suggesting that the needle was used separately from the thread.

Contrast this with example ii) below, in which the incorrect version inappropriately combines one action that used the needle with a separate action that used the thread:

ii) **Correct:** He **punched holes** in the decoration **with a needle** and **tied it** to the lamp **with thread**.

**Incorrect:** He **punched holes in and tied** the decoration to the lamp **with a needle and thread**.

In example iii) below, the preposition **on** functions so differently in the two phrases that it makes no sense to subsume both the fire and the list under a single occurrence of the preposition. Therefore, we need the repetition of **was on**.

ii) **Correct:** The house **that was on fire was on the list** of historically significant buildings.

**Incorrect:** The house **was on fire and the list** of historically significant buildings.

- D. **Corresponding series:** Where the elements of one series are supposed to correspond to those of another series, the order of elements in each series should parallel the order of elements in the other. This parallelism can help prevent confusion about how the two series relate to each other without using cumbersome repetition.

*Example:*

**Correct:** Our **first, second, and third meetings** last week were **on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday respectively**.

**Incorrect:** Of our **first, second, and third meetings** last week, **one was on Thursday and on Tuesday and Wednesday the others occurred**.

- E. **Grammatical considerations:** Some requirements of parallelism, including some of those illustrated above, are also requirements of grammatical construction.

*Example:*

**Correct:** **The shipping delays** and **the two-day closure** have caused a backlog of orders.

**Incorrect:** **The shipping was delayed** and **the two-day closure** have caused a backlog of orders.

To function properly as subjects of **have caused**, both of the stated causes need to be in the form of noun phrases.

### **Some complicating factors to consider:**

Problems of idiomatic structure and of logical predication sometimes involve parallelism as well. The following sentence displays all three:

Not only the CEO, and also the executive vice president's proposed policies, have been distributed to the relevant people in middle management.

In presenting a faulty parallelism between the **not only** term and the **and also** term, the sentence appears illogically to claim that the CEO has been distributed. It also falls short of the clarity that could be achieved with a more standard **not only ... but also** structure.

Agreement, as discussed previously, represents a special kind of parallelism. For example, where a singular noun and a pronoun refer to the same thing, the two terms should be parallel in both being singular, and when a verb has a plural subject, the two should be parallel in both being plural. However, in the Sentence Correction classification scheme, agreement is treated as a distinct category. Thus, agreement-related answer explanations in section 6.9 will not automatically carry the parallelism label as well.

### **Some issues that are not tested:**

Sentence Correction questions do not require decisions about purely aesthetic or decorative types of parallelism. For example, you will not be asked to decide whether a rhymed pair such as **highways and byways** would be preferable to another phrase that is equivalent in meaning and function.

## **7. Rhetorical Construction**

A sentence that is grammatically and idiomatically correct and conforms to good standards of parallelism and logical predication may still be unclear or annoying or may appear ineptly written. Rhetorical construction problems arise in many ways, including the following.

- A. **Economy of wording:** Superfluous words, unneeded punctuation, pointless redundancies, or convoluted structures that do not enhance precision and adequacy of detail can make a sentence confusing or simply annoying.

*Example:*

**Correct:** We will carefully review your memo and let you know whether we are interested in the solutions you propose.

**Incorrect:** We will “review”—i.e., carefully scrutinize—your memo submitted, letting you know, vis-à-vis the memo’s contained proposal details, whether there is interest, on our part, or not, in those.

- B. **Precision and adequacy of detail:** Wording that is too vague, sparse, indeterminate, or incomplete can fail to effectively communicate the intended message. Precision often requires including details and qualifying phrases. How much specificity and qualification are required depends on the communication’s purpose. Scientific and legal contexts, for example, often require far more precision than do casual communications between friends.

*Example:*

**Correct:** The contractor shall deliver the completed materials, as defined in Section 5 of this agreement, no later than the thirtieth calendar day after the date on which the signed and ratified contract is distributed to the contracting parties.

**Incorrect:** The contractor shall finish taking the actions for relevant agreement sections within a month of contract distribution and related events.

The latter version of this sentence is poorly constructed and very vague. The acceptability of the former version depends on the wording’s adequacy for the intended purpose.

- C. **Active and passive voice:** Passive voice is a means of bringing a verb’s object into the subject position. It can sometimes be more straightforward and economical than active voice where the verb’s subject in the active voice is unknown or irrelevant. However, passive-voice constructions are often objectionably vague, awkward, or indirect.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** **We** had lunch in the hotel and then **spent** the afternoon **looking at** paintings and sculptures in the museum.

**Incorrect:** Lunch **was had** in the hotel **by us** before the afternoon **was spent** in the museum where paintings and sculptures **were looked at**.

In the correct version of i), the sentence’s subject **we** is known and relevant, and only needs to be stated once to serve as the subject of both verbs and of the gerund. Thus, the use of passive voice in the incorrect version is needlessly vague and convoluted.

ii) **Correct:** The fruits **are left** to dry for two weeks and then collected, sorted, and packaged for shipment.

**Incorrect:** **Relevant people leave** the fruits to dry for two weeks, and then **people, devices, and systems collect, sort, and package** them for **someone or something to ship**.

In the incorrect version of ii), the active voice requires specifying vague or unimportant grammatical subjects, making the sentence much wordier than the correct version, which appropriately uses the passive voice.

D. **Other types of awkwardness and inelegance:** Problems of rhetorical construction take many different forms, some of which do not fall neatly into standard categories.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** As expected, she did the job very well.

**Incorrect:** Expectedly, the goodness of her doing the job was considerable.

ii) **Correct:** She hoped that humans would be able to explore some of the planets in other solar systems.

**Incorrect:** Her hope was for other solar systems' planets' possible human exploration.

### **Some complicating factors to consider:**

Because rhetorical construction is one of the points tested in Sentence Correction, some people might be tempted to guess that shorter answer choices are a safer bet than longer ones. Wordiness is a stereotypical feature of some inelegant writing, and teachers and writing coaches often emphasize conciseness as a goal. On the other hand, some might guess that a longer version or one with more qualifiers and caveats is more likely correct. No such guessing strategy is justified. Sentence Correction questions are designed to represent a wide range of issues. Highly professional expert question writers and test assemblers would be unlikely to create predictable patterns that could be exploited in guessing. There is simply no substitute for careful analysis and understanding of the content of each question and answer choice.

### **Some issues that are not tested:**

Sentence Correction questions do not require judgments about rhetorical appropriateness that depend on knowledge of highly technical or specialized vocabulary or syntax. Similarly, you should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer uses jargon or buzzwords. For example, you would not be asked to determine whether **contact** might be preferable to **reach out to**—or whether **sunsetting** might be an effective substitute for **phasing out**—in a sentence such as: “I will reach out to various stakeholders to leverage decisions about the timeframe for phasing out the product.”

## **8. Verb Form**

Verbs should be in the right tenses and moods and should have the right relationships to other verbs. Uses of infinitives and participles should follow standard conventions so that the intended meanings are clear. For an extended discussion and examples of appropriate uses of verb tenses and moods, see section 3.5.3 of [Chapter 3](#). Some of the problems posed in Sentence Correction questions involve choices among verb tenses, but many are concerned with other verb-form issues. Here are some categories in which verb-form problems may occur:

A. **Temporal relationships:** Because Sentence Correction questions are presented without any context, it is sometimes impossible to tell when they were written or whether the events they refer to were in the past, present, or future from the writer's point of view. Therefore, to the extent that verb tenses are at issue, they are often a matter of internal coherence of the parts of the sentence.

*Example:*

**Correct:** Chili peppers **belong** to the Solanaceae family of flowering plants.

**Incorrect:** Chili peppers **are belonging** to the Solanaceae family of flowering plants.

The present progressive form **are belonging** is used unidiomatically in the incorrect version. That form indicates that the event or condition referred to is ongoing at the time of writing and may not continue. The simple present form **belong** is coherent with the permanence and timelessness of the stated fact.

B. **Conditionals and subjunctives:** As explained in section 3.5.3.D of [Chapter 3](#), conditional verb forms referring to conjectural or counterfactual events are typically created with the auxiliary **would**. **Would** constructions often require the antecedent (the **if** clause) to be in subjunctive form. Subjunctives have other purposes as well, such as expressing wishes and requests.

C. **Auxiliary verbs:** English uses auxiliary verbs for many purposes, some of which are mentioned in the discussions of temporal relationships and conditionals in section 3.5.3 of [Chapter 3](#). For effective communication, the use of auxiliary verbs should conform to standard conventions.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** **Does** the professor **teach** that course often?

**Incorrect:** **Teaches** the professor that course often?

In contemporary English, interrogative forms of most verbs are created using appropriate forms of the auxiliary verb **to do**. The simple inversion of subject and verb seen in the incorrect version of i) is an obsolete form.

ii) **Correct:** The new book might turn out **to be** a best seller.

**Incorrect:** The new book might turn out **will be** a best seller.

The auxiliary verbal phrase **might turn out** is correctly used with infinitive verb forms such as **to be**, not with simple future forms such as **will be**.

D. **Treatment of participles, gerunds, and infinitives:** Present participles (such as **finding** and **taking**) are used with the verb **to be** to express progressive verb forms (**is finding**, **had been taking**). They also function as modifiers in phrases such as **he bought the book, hoping he would like it** and as nouns in phrases such as **his buying the book was unexpected**. When used as nouns, present participles are known as gerunds.

Past participles (such as **found** and **taken**) are used with the verb **to have** to express perfect verb forms (**has found**, **will have taken**). They also function as adjectives in phrases such as **the book published last year** and **the withered plant**.

The infinitive form is used for verbs that are modified by other verbs. With some modifying verbs, the infinitive must be preceded by **to**. With other verbs (certain modal and auxiliary verbs) it must not. With yet others (such as **help**, **go**, and **need**) it can be used either with or without **to**. Infinitives can be treated as nouns, serving as subjects or objects of verbs, as in **to laugh at one's own mistakes can be therapeutic**.

*Examples:*

i) **Correct:** **Being** widely disliked, the software went unused.

**Incorrect:** **Been** widely disliked, the software went unused.

In i), the present participle **being** can correctly head a modifying phrase, but the past participle **been** cannot.

ii) **Correct:** My colleague went **to find** another microphone.

**Incorrect:** My colleague went **find** another microphone.

Although such expressions as **go find** and **go get** are standard, they are unidiomatic in affirmative past tenses, which require the preposition **to** with the infinitive (**went to find**).

### Some complicating factors to consider:

English verb forms and surrounding idiomatic wording conventions have many peculiarities and nuances. The following are reminders of just a few such complications.

- A. Keep in mind that the subtleties of how English tenses are used cannot always be inferred from the names of the tenses. For example, in some other European languages, actions that are currently occurring are indicated by the simple present tense. But English typically uses the present progressive form for that purpose, as in “The dog is barking” or “The car is running.” The simple present tense in English is typically reserved instead for events and conditions that occur at indefinite or unspecified times or that recur, as in “Dogs bark for various reasons” or “The car runs on unleaded fuel.”
- B. **Going to (do or happen)** is a standard way of expressing the future tense, but unlike in French for example, there is no parallel form **coming from (doing or happening)**. To indicate that an action was recently completed, English uses the idiom **has/have/had just**, as in “I had just finished composing the email.”
- C. The preposition **to** has many different uses in combination with verbs. These differences can sometimes lead to ambiguous constructions and potential confusion. Stereotypically, **to** before a verb is thought of as an infinitive marker, but it can also indicate purpose or intention. Thus, for example, “I need your truck to haul the boxes” is indeterminate between two meanings. More precise expressions of these could be “I need your truck so that I can haul the boxes” and “It is essential for me that your truck haul the boxes.” The latter may seem very formal but could be appropriate where precision is needed. **To** with a verb can also be prescriptive, as in “The borrower is to pay a fine if the materials are not returned by the due date,” or simply predictive, as in “The visitors are to arrive soon.” It can even be used in expressing a past tense in a construction such **as was never to see him again** or **was the last one to leave the building**.
- D. **Shall** also has multiple meanings. As a simple future-tense indicator, it is an alternative to **will** for first-person verbs (“I shall tell you about it tomorrow”). However, it can also be used prescriptively, similarly to **must**, as in “The borrower shall pay a fine if the materials are not returned by the due date.”

### Some issues that are not tested:

You may hear that some usage advisors object to placing anything between **to** and an infinitive verb, as in **to finally reach the destination**. You should not expect to see Sentence Correction questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer follows this advice. However, you might encounter a sentence that is awkward and unclear because too many words—or words that would go better elsewhere—are crammed in between the preposition and the verb. This occurs in the following sentence:



I try to remember **to scrupulously every day before I leave work log off** my computer.

This sentence has an issue of general unclarity and inelegance falling under the heading of rhetorical construction, and not a mere case of a split infinitive.

## 6.3 Study Suggestions

There are two basic ways you can study for Sentence Correction questions:

1. **Read material that reflects standard usage.**

One way to gain familiarity with the basic conventions of standard written English is simply to read. Suitable material will usually be found in good magazines and nonfiction books, editorials in outstanding newspapers, and the collections of essays used by many college and university writing courses.

2. **Review basic rules of grammar and practice with writing exercises.**

Begin by reviewing the grammar rules laid out in this chapter. Then, if you have school assignments (such as essays and research papers) that have been carefully evaluated for grammatical errors, it may be helpful to review the comments and corrections.

## 6.4 What Is Measured

Sentence Correction questions test three broad aspects of language proficiency:

- **Correct expression**

A correct sentence is grammatically and structurally sound. It conforms to all the rules of standard written English, including noun-verb agreement, noun-pronoun agreement, pronoun consistency, pronoun case, and verb tense sequence. A correct sentence will not have dangling, misplaced, or improperly formed modifiers; unidiomatic or inconsistent expressions; or faults in parallel construction.

- **Effective expression**

An effective sentence expresses an idea or relationship clearly and concisely as well as grammatically. This does not mean the choice with the fewest and simplest words is necessarily the best answer. It means there are no superfluous words or needlessly complicated expressions in the best choice.

- **Proper diction**

An effective sentence also uses proper diction. In evaluating the diction of a sentence, you must be able to recognize whether the words are well chosen, accurate, and suitable for the context.

In the GMAT™ Enhanced Score Report, the Sentence Correction skills are divided into two fundamental categories, **Grammar** and **Communication**.

The skills classified as **Grammar** are represented primarily by the Agreement, Diction, Grammatical Construction, and Verb Form question types and by some aspects of the Idiom and Parallelism questions. **Grammar** tasks primarily give you an opportunity to show your skill in judging whether a sentence structure conforms to the basic conventions of standard English syntax and word use.

The skills classified as **Communication** are represented primarily by the Logical Predication and Rhetorical Construction question types and by some aspects of the Idiom and Parallelism questions. **Communication** tasks given you an opportunity to show your skill in judging whether a sentence effectively and reasonably communicates a coherent message.



## 6.5 Test-Taking Strategies

### 1. Read the entire sentence carefully.

Try to understand the specific idea or relationship that the sentence should express.

### 2. Evaluate the underlined passage for errors and possible corrections before reading the answer choices.

This strategy will help you discriminate among the answer choices. Remember, in some cases the underlined section of the sentence is correct.

### 3. Read each answer choice carefully.

The first answer choice always repeats the underlined portion of the original sentence.

Choose this answer if you think that the sentence is best as originally written, but do so **only after** examining all the other choices.

### 4. Try to determine how to correct what you consider to be wrong with the original sentence.

Some of the answer choices may change things that are not wrong, whereas others may not change everything that is wrong.

### 5. Make sure that you evaluate the sentence and the choices thoroughly.

Pay attention to general clarity, grammatical and idiomatic usage, economy and precision of language, and appropriateness of diction.

### 6. Read the whole sentence, substituting the choice that you prefer for the underlined passage.

An answer choice may be wrong because it does not fit grammatically or structurally with the rest of the sentence. Remember that some sentences will require no correction. When the given sentence requires no correction, choose the first answer choice.

## 6.6 Section Instructions

Go to [www.mba.com/tutorial](http://www.mba.com/tutorial) to view instructions for the section and get a feel for what the test center screens will look like on the actual GMAT exam.

## 6.7 Practice Questions

Each of the Sentence Correction questions presents a sentence, part of or all of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined part. The first of these repeats the original; the other four are different. Follow the requirements of standard written English to choose your answer, paying attention to grammar, word choice, and sentence construction. Select the answer that produces the most effective sentence; your answer should make the sentence clear, exact, and free of grammatical error. It should also minimize awkwardness, ambiguity, and redundancy.

Questions 234 to 268 - Difficulty: Easy

\*SC01545

234. With respect to most species of animals, they are evenly divided in right- or left-handedness, unlike humans.

A. With respect to most species of animals, they are evenly divided in right- or left-handedness, unlike humans.

- B. With respect to right- or left-handedness, most species of animals are evenly divided, unlike in humans.
- C. Unlike humans, most species of animals are evenly divided with respect to right- or left-handedness.
- D. Unlike in humans, most species of animals with respect to right- or left-handedness are evenly divided.
- E. Unlike humans, with respect to right- or left-handedness, in most species of animals it is evenly divided.

SC07435

235. Using digital enhancements of skull fragments from five prehistoric hominids dating to more than 350,000 years ago, anthropologists argue that these human ancestors probably had hearing similar to that of people today.

- A. anthropologists argue that these human ancestors
- B. anthropologists argue, so these human ancestors
- C. anthropologists argue, these human ancestors
- D. these human ancestors, anthropologists argue,
- E. these human ancestors are argued by anthropologists to have

SC14890

236. The interior minister explained that one of the village planning proposal's best characteristics was their not detracting from the project's overall benefit by being a burden on the development budget.

- A. one of the village planning proposal's best characteristics was their not detracting
- B. one of the village's planning proposal's best characteristics were its not taking
- C. one of the best characteristics of the village's planning proposal was that it did not detract
- D. a best characteristic of the village planning proposal was, it did not take
- E. among the village planning proposal's best characteristics, one was, it did not detract

SC02940

237. Like ants, termites have an elaborate social structure in which a few individuals reproduce and the rest are serving the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or they battle intruders.

- A. are serving the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or they battle
- B. are serving the colony in that they tend juveniles, gather food, build the nest, or battle
- C. serve the colony, tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or by battling
- D. serve the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, by building the nest, or by battling
- E. serve the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or battling

SC01519

238. Global warming is said to be responsible for extreme weather changes, which, like the heavy rains that caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding throughout the state of California, and the heat wave in the northeastern and midwestern United States, which was also the cause of a great amount of damage and destruction.

- A. which, like the heavy rains that caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding throughout the state of California,
- B. which, like the heavy rains that throughout the state of California caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding,
- C. like the heavy flooding that, because of rains throughout the state of California, caused more than \$2 billion in damages,
- D. such as the heavy flooding that led to rains throughout the state of California causing more than \$2 billion in damages,
- E. such as the heavy rains that led to flooding throughout the state of California, causing more than \$2 billion in damages,

SC02548

239. Hundreds of species of fish generate and discharge electric currents, in bursts or as steady electric fields around their bodies, using their power either to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or also for communicating and navigating.
- A. either to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or also for communicating and navigating
  - B. either for finding and attacking prey, defend themselves, or for communication and navigation
  - C. to find and attack prey, for defense, or communication and navigation
  - D. for finding and attacking prey, to defend themselves, or also for communication and navigation
  - E. to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or to communicate and navigate

SC05367

240. Native to South America, when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being so similar to the Bambarra groundnut, a popular indigenous plant.
- A. when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
  - B. peanuts having been introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
  - C. peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
  - D. peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
  - E. peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and having been quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were

SC03552

241. It stood twelve feet tall, weighed nine thousand pounds, and wielded seven-inch claws, and *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth, may have been the largest hunting mammal ever to walk the Earth.
- A. It stood twelve feet tall, weighed nine thousand pounds, and wielded seven-inch claws, and *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth,
  - B. It stood twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, *Megatherium americanum* was a giant ground sloth and

- C. The giant ground sloth *Megatherium americanum*, having stood twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, it
- D. Standing twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth,
- E. Standing twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, it wielded seven-inch claws, and the giant ground sloth *Megatherium americanum*

SC04083

242. Studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this that an epidemic of malaria struck in the empire's waning days.
- A. Studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this
  - B. In studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this
  - C. Scientists recovered DNA evidence from studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, being able to deduce from this
  - D. Skeletons unearthed near Rome allowed scientists to recover DNA evidence, and they were able to deduce from it
  - E. Scientists studying skeletons unearthed near Rome recovered DNA evidence from which they were able to deduce

SC01594

243. Butterflies come in more than 17,000 species, displaying a wing pattern unique to each one.
- A. displaying a wing pattern unique to each one
  - B. displaying a unique wing pattern in each
  - C. each uniquely displaying a wing pattern
  - D. each of which displays a unique wing pattern
  - E. each of which uniquely displays a wing pattern

SC04652

244. A March 2000 Census Bureau survey showed that Mexico accounted for more than a quarter of all foreign-born residents of the United States, the largest share for any country to contribute since 1890, when about 30 percent of the country's foreign-born population was from Germany.
- A. the largest share for any country to contribute
  - B. the largest share that any country has contributed
  - C. which makes it the largest share for any country to contribute
  - D. having the largest share to be contributed by any country
  - E. having the largest share to have been contributed by any country

SC01579

245. Recently declassified information from military satellites in orbit thousands of miles above the Earth show the planet continually bombarded by large meteoroids that explode with the power of atomic bomb blasts.
- A. show the planet continually bombarded by
  - B. show continual bombarding of the planet by

- C. show a continual bombardment of the planet from
- D. shows continually that the planet is bombarded from
- E. shows that the planet is continually bombarded by

SC04026

246. Child development specialists believe that, in confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited.
- A. that, in confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited
  - B. that, in their confinement much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited in babies
  - C. that confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can inhibit muscle development
  - D. that babies, if confined much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can inhibit muscle development
  - E. that strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can, if babies are confined to them much of the time, result in muscle development being inhibited

SC01482

247. Together with Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary, the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the first underwater park in the United States, provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers, which includes more than 500 species of fish and 55 varieties of coral.
- A. provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers, which includes
  - B. provide for underwater explorers 165 square nautical miles of marine life, which include
  - C. provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers and includes
  - D. provides 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers and including
  - E. provides underwater explorers with 165 square nautical miles of marine life, including

SC01481

248. While Hollywood makes films primarily for entertainment, the motion picture was not first developed to entertain, but it was to allow detailed analysis of animal motion.
- A. was not first developed to entertain, but it was
  - B. was developed not first to entertain, but it was
  - C. was first developed not to entertain, but
  - D. did not first develop for entertainment, but
  - E. did not first develop for entertainment, but it was

SC01069

249. The personal income tax did not become permanent in the United States until the First World War; before that time the federal government was dependent on tariffs to be their main source of revenue.
- A. the federal government was dependent on tariffs to be their main source of revenue
  - B. the federal government had depended on tariffs as its main source of revenue
  - C. tariffs were what the federal government was dependent on to be its main source of revenue

- D. the main source of revenue for the federal government was dependent on tariffs
- E. for their main source of revenue, tariffs were depended on by the federal government

SC02628

250. In 1776 Adam Smith wrote that it is young people who have “the contempt of risk and the presumptuous hope of success” needed to found new businesses.

- A. who have
- B. with
- C. having
- D. who are those with
- E. who are the ones to have

SC04198

251. Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports and because automakers have started using it to make the huge engines in sport utility vehicles and other light trucks.

- A. Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports and because automakers have started using
- B. Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports, in addition to automakers that have started to use
- C. Prices for palladium have soared as Russia has restricted exports and automakers have started using
- D. Prices for palladium have soared as Russia has been restricting exports, in addition to automakers starting to use
- E. Prices for palladium have soared because Russia is restricting exports, as well as automakers that have started using

SC01543

252. Variability in individual physical traits both are determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between these factors.

- A. both are determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between
- B. are both determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, as well as interaction among
- C. both is determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between
- D. is determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, as well as interaction among
- E. is determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between

SC06613

253. In his *Uses of Enchantment* (1976), it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim’s assertion that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are an instructive reflection of a child’s natural and necessary “killing off” of successive phases in his or her own development.

- A. it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim’s assertion that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are
- B. it was the assertion of psychologist Bruno Bettelheim that what is apparently the cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually is

- C. psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that what is apparently the cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually is
- D. psychologist Bruno Bettelheim asserted that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are
- E. psychologist Bruno Bettelheim asserted that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales is actually

SC06012

254. After weeks of uncertainty about the course the country would pursue to stabilize its troubled economy, officials reached a revised agreement with the International Monetary Fund, pledging the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent.
- A. the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent
  - B. the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline than originally promised and keeping inflation below the ten percent figure
  - C. to enforce substantially greater budget discipline than originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent
  - D. to enforce substantially greater budget discipline than that which was originally promised and keeping inflation less than the ten percent figure
  - E. to enforce substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation less than ten percent

SC01596

255. A new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles is called POLAR, giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
- A. A new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles is called POLAR, giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
  - B. A new satellite called POLAR that is giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles.
  - C. Scientists are getting their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, from a new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles called POLAR.
  - D. Sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles, a new satellite called POLAR is giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
  - E. Sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles, scientists' best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, is coming from a new satellite called POLAR.

SC05787

256. The treasury market dropped in response to a decrease in the value of the dollar and to continued concern that the economy might be growing as fast as to accelerate inflation and drive interest rates higher.
- A. that the economy might be growing as fast as



- B. that the economy might be growing fast enough
- C. with the economy's possibly growing so fast as
- D. with the possibility of the economy growing fast enough so as
- E. with the possibility of the economy possibly growing fast enough

SC03724

257. Despite a growing population, in 1998 the United States used 38 billion fewer gallons of water a day when comparing it to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier.
- A. day when comparing it to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier
  - B. day than it did during the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier
  - C. day than were used almost 20 years earlier, which had been the all-time high consumption
  - D. day, compared to almost 20 years earlier, that having been the all-time high consumption
  - E. day, which is in comparison to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier

SC01600

258. A federal advisory panel proposes expanding a national computerized file to permit law-enforcement agencies to track people under criminal investigation but have not yet been charged.
- A. under criminal investigation but
  - B. under criminal investigation, but who
  - C. under criminal investigation, but they
  - D. who are under criminal investigation, but they
  - E. who are under criminal investigation but

SC03779

259. Analysts believe that whereas bad decisions by elected leaders can certainly hurt the economy, no administration can really be said to control or manage all of the complex and interrelated forces that determine the nation's economic strength.
- A. no administration can really be said to control
  - B. no administration can be said that it really controls
  - C. that no administration can really be said to control
  - D. that no administration can really be said that it controls
  - E. that it cannot be said that any administration really controls

SC03146

260. Nearly unrivaled in their biological diversity, coral reefs provide a host of benefits that includes the supply of protein for people, protecting shorelines, and they contain biochemical sources for new life-saving medicines.
- A. coral reefs provide a host of benefits that includes the supply of protein for people, protecting shorelines,

- B. coral reefs provide a host of benefits: they supply people with protein, they protect the shorelines,
- C. coral reefs provide a host of benefits that include supplying protein for people, as well as shoreline protection,
- D. a coral reef provides a host of benefits; they supply protein for people, the protecting of shorelines,
- E. a coral reef provides a host of benefits, including protein for people, protecting shorelines,

SC12367

261. Literacy opened up entire realms of verifiable knowledge to ordinary men and women having been previously considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves.

- A. having been previously considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- B. who had previously been considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- C. previously considered incapable of discerning truth for himself or herself
- D. of whom it had previously been considered they were incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- E. who had previously been considered incapable of discerning truth for himself or herself

SC01915

262. In early Mesopotamian civilization, castor oil served not only as a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion and it was a construction lubricant for sliding giant stone blocks over wooden rollers.

- A. not only as a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion and it was a construction
- B. as not only a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion, and it was a construction
- C. not only as a laxative but also as a skin-softening lotion and as a construction
- D. as not only a laxative but as a skin-softening lotion and in construction, as a
- E. not only as a laxative, but a skin-softening lotion and in construction, a

SC06935

263. An analysis of tree bark all over the globe shows that chemical insecticides have often spread thousands of miles from where they were originally used.

- A. that chemical insecticides have often spread thousands of miles from where they were originally used
- B. that chemical insecticides have spread, often thousands of miles from their original use
- C. chemical insecticides, having often spread thousands of miles from where they were used originally
- D. chemical insecticides, often spreading thousands of miles from where their original use
- E. chemical insecticides, often spreading thousands of miles from where they were originally used

SC02241

264. According to the Economic Development Corporation of Los Angeles County, if one were to count the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that is bigger than that of Australia, Mexico, or the Netherlands.

- A. if one were to count the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that is
- B. if the Los Angeles metropolitan area is counted as a separate nation, it has the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that being
- C. if the Los Angeles metropolitan area were a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product,
- D. were the Los Angeles metropolitan area a separate nation, it will have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, which is
- E. when the Los Angeles metropolitan area is counted as a separate nation, it has the world's eleventh largest gross national product, thus

SC51661.01

265. Some sociologists claim to have found a direct link from the appearance of news stories about violence to the rate of homicide.
- A. from the appearance of news stories about violence to
  - B. between the appearance of news stories about violence to
  - C. between the appearance of news stories about violence and
  - D. with the appearance of news stories about violence to
  - E. with the appearance of news stories about violence and

SC61661.01

266. Government statistics on the size of foreign investment in real estate are inconclusive because neither federal nor state laws require disclosure of foreign ownership, and the Commerce Department, in its public tallies, does not categorize the owners.
- A. are inconclusive because neither federal nor state laws require
  - B. are inconclusive because neither the federal nor state laws requires
  - C. are inconclusive because neither federal laws or state laws require
  - D. is inconclusive because neither the federal or state laws requires
  - E. is inconclusive because neither federal laws nor state laws require

SC81661.01

267. In the United States one of the earliest challengers of the economic principle of free trade was Alexander Hamilton, who in 1791 advocated government policies that would encourage indigenous manufacturing and to protect it from competition from British exports.
- A. and to protect it
  - B. but protecting it
  - C. while protecting it
  - D. for protecting them
  - E. to protect them

SC94920.02

268. Some business experts think that allowing employees to buy their employer's stock for a set price, no matter how high the stock rises, will give the employees a powerful incentive to work together, making a company more prosperous, which will thus increase the return to shareholders.
- A. to work together, making a company more prosperous, which will thus

- B. to work together to make a company more prosperous and will thus
- C. for working together, making a company more prosperous, and thus they
- D. for working together to make a company more prosperous, and thus it will
- E. for working together and making a company more prosperous, which will thus

### Questions 269 to 303 - Difficulty: Medium

SC71661.01

269. Desertification, a process in which the biological productivity of the land is sharply degraded by human abuse and natural phenomena, helped cause the famines that have killed hundreds of thousands in recent years.
- A. a process in which the biological productivity of the land is sharply degraded by human abuse and natural phenomena
  - B. a process of the biological productivity of the land being sharply degraded by human abuse and natural phenomena
  - C. a process of human abuse and natural phenomena that sharply degrade the biological productivity of the land
  - D. which is the process of human abuse and natural phenomena sharply degrading the land's biological productivity
  - E. which is the process of human abuse and natural phenomena that sharply degrade the land's biological productivity

SC42661.01

270. Open to the public and operated like conventional hotels, condominium hotels permit buyers to acquire a specific room or suite, as well as a proportionate interest in the rest of the establishment.
- A. condominium hotels permit buyers to acquire a specific room or suite, as well as
  - B. buyers are permitted to acquire a specific room or suite in a condominium hotel, as well as
  - C. a specific room or suite in condominium hotels may be acquired by buyers, as well as acquiring
  - D. condominium hotels permit buyers to acquire a specific room or suite, as well as acquiring
  - E. it is permitted for buyers to acquire a specific room or suite in a condominium hotel, as well as the acquisition of

SC52661.01

271. The methods proposed for reducing the amount of interest to be paid are not able to be used successfully without creating a problem of insufficient cash flow in the future.
- A. are not able to be used successfully without creating a problem of insufficient cash flow in the future
  - B. are not able successfully to be used without creating a problem in the future of insufficient cash flow
  - C. cannot successfully be used without creating a future problem of insufficient cash flow
  - D. cannot be used without succeeding in creating a problem in the future of insufficient cash flow
  - E. cannot be used without succeeding in creating a future problem of insufficient cash flow

272. Despite the Puritan sumptuary laws prohibiting the wearing of bright or elaborate clothing, if you had either a liberal education or an annual income of two hundred pounds one was permitted to display their material prosperity in public.

- A. if you had either a liberal education or an annual income of two hundred pounds one was permitted to display their material prosperity in public
- B. if one had either a liberal education or annual income of two hundred pounds one was permitted the public display of their material prosperity
- C. having either a liberal education or annual income of two hundred pounds would allow one to publicly display their material prosperity
- D. those with either a liberal education or an annual income of two hundred pounds were allowed to display their material prosperity in public
- E. those having either a liberal education or annual income of two hundred pounds were permitted their public display of material prosperity

273. Like Darwin and his fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks's trip with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* inspired and shaped his remarkable career in natural science.

- A. Like Darwin and his fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks's trip with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* inspired and shaped his remarkable career in natural science.
- B. Just as Darwin had a fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks's trip with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* inspired and shaped a remarkable career as a natural scientist.
- C. Like Darwin's fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks's trip with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* inspired and shaped a remarkable career in natural science.
- D. Just as Darwin's fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks sailed with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour*, inspiring and shaping his remarkable career as a natural scientist.
- E. Like Darwin's fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks sailed with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour*, which inspired and shaped a remarkable career in natural science.

274. When more and more factories move out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the job market for the urban poor, have become fewer and fewer.

- A. When more and more factories move out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the job market for the urban poor, have become fewer and fewer.
- B. At the time that more and more factories move out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the job market for the urban poor, become less and less.
- C. When more and more factories move out of the cities each year, then manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the urban poor's job market, become less and less.
- D. Since more and more factories have moved out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the urban poor's job market, have become less and less.
- E. As more and more factories move out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the job market for the urban poor, become fewer and fewer.

275. The thousands of volcanic islands and coral atolls of the South Seas have a total population of about four million, but the paucity of natural resources does not permit such economic development that would be needed by them to support more population.

- A. does not permit such economic development that would be needed by them to support more population
- B. does not permit economic development such as is needed for supporting a larger number
- C. does not permit the economic development needed to support a larger population
- D. do not permit the economic development needed to support a larger population
- E. do not permit needed economic development for supporting a larger number of people

SC03661.01

276. In contrast with a dark surface and its tendency toward heat absorption, a large expanse of snow and ice reflects incoming radiation into space.

- A. In contrast with a dark surface and its tendency toward heat absorption
- B. Contrasted with a dark surface's tendency to absorb heat
- C. Since it is in contrast to a dark surface and its tendency to absorb heat
- D. Contrasted to the tendency of a dark surface to absorb heat
- E. In contrast to a dark surface, which tends to absorb heat

SC37620.01

277. The greatest road system built in the Americas prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus was the Incan highway, which, over 2,500 miles long and extending from northern Ecuador through Peru to southern Chile.

- A. Columbus was the Incan highway, which, over 2,500 miles long and extending
- B. Columbus was the Incan highway, over 2,500 miles in length, which had extended
- C. Columbus, the Incan highway, which was over 2,500 miles in length and extended
- D. Columbus, the Incan highway, being over 2,500 miles in length, was extended
- E. Columbus, the Incan highway was over 2,500 miles long, extending

SC99250.01

278. Due to poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, researchers have determined that there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, and thus the leopards are many times as rare as China's giant pandas.

- A. Due to poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, researchers have determined that there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, and thus the leopards are many times as rare as
- B. Due to poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, researchers have determined, making them many times more rare than
- C. There are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild due to poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, researchers have determined, which makes the leopards many times more rare compared to
- D. Researchers have determined that, because of poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, thus making them many more times as rare as

- E. Researchers have determined that, because of poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, and thus the leopards are many times more rare than

SC04215

279. Developed by Pennsylvania's Palatine Germans about 1750, Conestoga wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and they had a floor curved upward on either end so as to prevent cargo from shifting on steep grades.

- A. wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and they had a floor curved upward on either end so as to prevent
- B. wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and with a floor that was curved upward at both ends to prevent
- C. wagons, which had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and floors curved upward on their ends so that they prevented
- D. wagons had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and a floor that was curved upward at both ends to prevent
- E. wagons had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and floors curving upward at their ends so that it prevented

SC60440.01

280. The current economic downturn has significantly reduced advertising income both for business journals as well as general consumer magazines, especially if focusing on technology.

- A. has significantly reduced advertising income both for business journals as well as general consumer magazines, especially if focusing
- B. has significantly reduced advertising income both for business journals and for general consumer magazines, especially those focusing
- C. significantly reduced advertising income for both business journals and for general consumer magazines, especially when focused
- D. reduced both business journals' and general consumer magazines' advertising income significantly, especially if focused
- E. reduced advertising income significantly for both business journals, as well as for general consumer magazines, especially those focusing

SC01002

281. The reason many people consider the Mediterranean island to be ungovernable is because that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and neutralize all written laws.

- A. is because that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and neutralize
- B. is the inhabitants long ago learned distrusting and neutralizing
- C. was because of the inhabitants long ago learning to distrust and to be neutralizing
- D. is that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and to neutralize
- E. was on account of the inhabitants long ago learning to distrust and neutralize

SC28801.01

282. Though there is some overlap with the two concepts market economy and laissez faire, several important differences between them must be borne in mind.



- A. with the two concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire*, several important differences between them must be borne in mind
- B. between the two concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire*, several important differences must be borne in mind
- C. spanning the two concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire*, one must bear several important differences between them in mind
- D. among the two concepts of *market economy* and *laissez faire*, there are several important differences among them that must be borne in mind
- E. with the two concepts of *market economy* and *laissez faire*, one must bear in mind several important differences

SC71061.01

283. Because of the erratic pattern of sales increases this year, retailers and analysts hesitate to predict five-year trends in retail sales during the months that have historically been the most profitable.
- A. Because of the erratic pattern of sales increases this year, retailers and analysts hesitate to predict
  - B. With the erratic pattern of this year's sales increases, retailers and analysts are hesitant in predicting
  - C. This year, due to the erratic pattern of increasing sales, there is some hesitation among retailers and analysts in predicting
  - D. The erratic pattern of sales increases have made retailers and analysts hesitate this year to predict
  - E. This year's erratic pattern of increasing sales have made retailers and analysts hesitate to predict

SC89941.01

284. Proceeding without a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, like the firm had agreed to last year, it would surely have proven to be a disaster in the face of the skilled and resolute opposition involved this time.
- A. Proceeding without a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, like the firm had agreed to last year, it would surely have proven to be a disaster
  - B. Proceeding without a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, as the firm agreed last year to do, would surely have proven to be a disaster
  - C. Going ahead without the presence of a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, like the firm had agreed last year to do, would surely have proven disastrous
  - D. To proceed without the presence of a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, as the firm had agreed to last year, would surely have proven disastrous
  - E. Going ahead without their having a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, as they agreed to last year, it would surely have proven to be a disaster for the firm

SC03916

285. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer fibers and is less likely to leave an unsightly scar.
- A. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer

- B. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut having been made along these so-called Langer's lines severs less
- C. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines severs fewer
- D. With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever less
- E. With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer

SC01639

286. The completion in 1925 of the Holland Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and was hailed as the decade's \$48 million engineering masterpiece.
- A. Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and
  - B. Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways and permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour, it
  - C. Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways and permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour,
  - D. Tunnel linked Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and
  - E. Tunnel linked Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour,

SC03315

287. The World Wildlife Fund has declared that global warming, a phenomenon that most scientists agree is caused by human beings' burning of fossil fuels, will create havoc among migratory birds by harming their habitats as a result of altering the environment.
- A. by harming their habitats as a result of altering the environment
  - B. by altering the environment to the extent of it harming their habitats
  - C. by altering the environment in ways harmful to their habitats
  - D. from the fact that their habitats will be harmed by the environment being altered
  - E. from the fact that the environment will be altered and this will harm their habitats

SC05244

288. Tropical bats play an important role in the rain forest ecosystem, aiding in the dispersal of cashew, date, and fig seeds; pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help the producing of tequila by pollinating agave plants.
- A. pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help the producing of
  - B. pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly helping to produce
  - C. pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and they indirectly help to produce
  - D. they pollinate banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help producing
  - E. they pollinate banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; indirectly helping the producing of

SC04346

289. A recent court decision has qualified a 1998 ruling that workers cannot be laid off if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will be safe, provided that their performance

remains satisfactory.

- A. if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will
- B. if they are given reason for believing that their jobs would still
- C. having been given reason for believing that their jobs would
- D. having been given reason to believe their jobs to
- E. given reason to believe that their jobs will still

SC04874

290. Of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and OKeh.

- A. Of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and OKeh.
- B. Three most prominent record companies of all the ones that were involved in early jazz were Columbia, Victor, and OKeh.
- C. Columbia, Victor, and OKeh were, of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three of them that were most prominent.
- D. Columbia, Victor, and OKeh were three most prominent of all the record companies involved in early jazz.
- E. Out of all the record companies that were involved in early jazz, three of them that were the most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and OKeh.

SC01451

291. Since 1992, in an attempt to build up the Atlantic salmon population in each of the seven rivers in which salmon still spawn, state officials in Maine have stocked them with fry raised in hatcheries from eggs produced by wild fish found in that particular river.

- A. them
- B. the river
- C. the rivers
- D. each river
- E. that river

SC02382

292. On the tournament roster are listed several tennis students, most all of which play as good as their instructors.

- A. most all of which play as good
- B. most all of whom play as good
- C. almost all of which play as well
- D. almost all of whom play as good
- E. almost all of whom play as well

SC07143

293. In 1974 a large area of the surface of Mercury was photographed from varying distances, which revealed a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon's.

- A. which revealed a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon's
- B. to reveal a degree of cratering similar to the Moon

- C. revealing a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon
- D. and revealed cratering similar in degree to the Moon
- E. that revealed cratering similar in degree to that of the Moon

SC46270.02

294. The survival of a rare New Zealand species of mistletoe that produces spectacular sprays of scarlet flowers is threatened both because their leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and also because their flowers are pollinated by two species of birds whose populations are in decline.
- A. is threatened both because their leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and also because their
  - B. is threatened both because its leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and because its
  - C. is threatened both because its leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and also its
  - D. are threatened both because its leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and its
  - E. are threatened both because their leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and because their

SC05894

295. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.
- A. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.
  - B. The report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and they announced the first in a series of price cuts that they intend to increase sales further.
  - C. Surpassing Wall Street's estimates, the report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, and, for the purpose of increasing sales further, they announced the first in a series of price cuts.
  - D. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and announcing the first in a series of price cuts for the purpose of further increasing sales.
  - E. The computer company, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, reported strong second-quarter earnings, while announcing that to increase sales further there would be the first in a series of price cuts.

SC01562

296. Long overshadowed by the Maya and Aztec civilizations, historians are now exploring the more ancient Olmec culture for the legacy it had for succeeding Mesoamerican societies.
- A. historians are now exploring the more ancient Olmec culture for the legacy it had for succeeding Mesoamerican societies
  - B. historians' exploration is now of the more ancient Olmec culture's legacy to the Mesoamerican societies succeeding them
  - C. the legacy of the more ancient Olmec culture to the Mesoamerican societies that succeeded them is what historians are now exploring

- D. the more ancient Olmec culture is now being explored by historians for its legacy to succeeding Mesoamerican societies
- E. the Olmec culture is more ancient and had a legacy to succeeding Mesoamerican societies that historians are now exploring

SC02370

297. The bank holds \$3 billion in loans that are seriously delinquent or in such trouble that they do not expect payments when due.
- A. they do not expect payments when
  - B. it does not expect payments when it is
  - C. it does not expect payments to be made when they are
  - D. payments are not to be expected to be paid when
  - E. payments are not expected to be paid when they will be

SC01435

298. A researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
- A. A researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
  - B. A researcher claims that a tornado, if of a given size and strength, is likely both proportionately and in absolute numbers to cause more deaths in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
  - C. A researcher claims that, with a tornado of a given size and strength, it is likely to cause more death, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern rather than in the northeastern region of the United States.
  - D. If a tornado is of a given size and strength, a researcher claims, it is more likely, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, to cause death if it is in the southeastern region of the United States rather than in the northeastern region.
  - E. Both proportionately and in absolute numbers, a researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths in the southeastern region of the United States rather than in the northeastern.

SC04603

299. Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved from the previous year, only look less appetizing than their round and red supermarket cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are more flavorful.
- A. cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are
  - B. cousins, often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
  - C. cousins, often green and striped, or they have plenty of bumps and bruises, although they are
  - D. cousins; they are often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
  - E. cousins; they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but they are

SC05381

300. In the textbook publishing business, the second quarter is historically weak, because revenues are low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare for the coming school year.

- A. low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare
- B. low and their marketing expenses are high as they prepare
- C. low with higher marketing expenses in preparation
- D. low, while marketing expenses are higher to prepare
- E. low, while their marketing expenses are higher in preparation

SC01485

301. Because of the sharp increases in the price of gold and silver, the value of Monica Taylor's portfolio rose as her daughter-in-law's dropped.

- A. as her daughter-in-law's dropped
- B. while her daughter-in-law's has dropped
- C. as there was a drop in her daughter-in-law's
- D. while that of her daughter-in-law's dropped
- E. as it dropped for her daughter-in-law's

SC02791

302. Ms. Chambers is among the forecasters who predict that the rate of addition to arable lands will drop while those of loss rise.

- A. those of loss rise
- B. it rises for loss
- C. those of losses rise
- D. the rate of loss rises
- E. there are rises for the rate of loss

SC00987

303. In keeping with her commitment to her Christian faith, Sojourner Truth demonstrated as a public speaker a dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery as well as for women to be emancipated.

- A. a dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery as well as for women to be emancipated
- B. her being dedicated to both the nonviolent abolishing of slavery as well as for women's emancipation
- C. a dedication to both the nonviolent abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women
- D. that she was dedicated both to abolishing slavery nonviolently and to emancipate women
- E. her dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery and emancipation of women

### Questions 304 to 348 - Difficulty: Hard

SC01972

304. Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and they occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.

- A. Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and they occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.

- B. Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos, surviving on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
- C. Occupying a small fraction of the species' former range, the Malay peninsula and the islands of Sumatra and Borneo are where fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive.
- D. Occupying a small fraction of the species' former range, fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.
- E. Surviving on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, less than 400 Sumatran rhinos occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.

SC11068

305. Certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place; one reason is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.
- A. Certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place; one reason is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.
  - B. If used repeatedly in the same place, one reason that certain pesticides can become ineffective is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.
  - C. If used repeatedly in the same place, one reason certain pesticides can become ineffective is suggested by the finding that much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes are found in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than those that are free of such chemicals.
  - D. The finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals is suggestive of one reason, if used repeatedly in the same place, certain pesticides can become ineffective.
  - E. The finding of much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in those that are free of such chemicals suggests one reason certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place.

SC11854

306. While some academicians believe that business ethics should be integrated into every business course, others say that students will take ethics seriously only if it would be taught as a separately required course.
- A. only if it would be taught as a separately required course
  - B. only if it is taught as a separate, required course
  - C. if it is taught only as a course required separately
  - D. if it was taught only as a separate and required course
  - E. if it would only be taught as a required course, separately

SC08272

307. Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends on whether the changes that their management has proposed will be fully implemented.



- A. Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends on whether the changes that their management has proposed will be fully implemented.
- B. Whether they scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or whether they discontinue their business with us altogether depends on the changes their management has proposed, if fully implemented or not.
- C. Their either scaling back their orders in the future to pre-2003 levels, or their outright termination of business with us, depends on their management's proposed changes being fully implemented or not.
- D. Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends if the changes that their management has proposed become fully implemented.
- E. They will either scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels, or they will stop doing business with us altogether dependent on whether the changes their management has proposed will be fully implemented, or not.

SC00975

308. Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had no prime ministers not coming from a landed family.

- A. Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had no prime ministers not coming
- B. Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had had no prime ministers who have not come
- C. Until Disraeli in 1868, there were no prime ministers in Great Britain who have not come
- D. It was not until 1868 that Great Britain had a prime minister—Disraeli—who did not come
- E. It was only in 1868 and Disraeli that Great Britain had one of its prime ministers not coming

SC02011

309. Around 1900, fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay area landed more than seventeen million pounds of shad in a single year, but by 1920, overfishing and the proliferation of milldams and culverts that have blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less than four million pounds.

- A. that have blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less
- B. that blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less
- C. that blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams reduced landings to a lower amount
- D. having blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams reduced landings to less
- E. having blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to an amount lower

SC04492

310. By offering lower prices and a menu of personal communications options, such as caller identification and voice mail, the new telecommunications company has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced them to offer competitive prices.

- A. has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced them

- B. has not only captured customers from other phone companies, but it also forced them
- C. has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced these companies
- D. not only has captured customers from other phone companies but also these companies have been forced
- E. not only captured customers from other phone companies, but it also has forced them

SC06132

311. After suffering \$2 billion in losses and 25,000 layoffs, the nation's semiconductor industry, which makes chips that run everything from computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears to have made a long-awaited recovery.

- A. computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears to have
- B. computers, spy satellites, and dishwashers, appears having
- C. computers, spy satellites, and dishwashers, appears that it has
- D. computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears that it has
- E. computers and spy satellites as well as dishwashers, appears to have

SC04588

312. Over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, monkeys and marmosets have a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans, above which the sensitivity begins to differ.

- A. Over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, monkeys and marmosets have a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans
- B. Compared to humans, the hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets are remarkably similar over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz
- C. Compared to humans over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, the hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets is remarkably similar
- D. The hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets, when compared to humans over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, is remarkably similar
- E. The hearing sensitivity of monkeys, marmosets, and humans is remarkably similar over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz

SC03998

313. The computer company has announced that it will purchase the color-printing division of a rival company for \$950 million, which is part of a deal that will make it the largest manufacturer in the office color-printing market.

- A. million, which is part of a deal that will make
- B. million, a part of a deal that makes
- C. million, a part of a deal making
- D. million as a part of a deal to make
- E. million as part of a deal that will make

SC03289

314. Kudzu, an Asian vine that has grown rampantly in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s to thwart soil erosion, has overrun many houses and countless acres of roadside.

- A. that has grown rampantly in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s to thwart

- B. that has grown rampantly in the southern United States, since it was introduced in the 1920s for thwarting
- C. that has grown rampant in the southern United States since it was introduced in the 1920s to thwart
- D. growing rampant in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s for thwarting
- E. growing rampantly in the southern United States, since it was introduced in the 1920s to thwart

SC01712

315. Unable to build nests or care for their young, a female cowbird lays up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and thrushes.
- A. a female cowbird lays up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including
  - B. a female cowbird will use the nests of other birds to lay up to 40 eggs a year, including those of
  - C. female cowbirds use the nests of other birds to lay up to 40 eggs a year, including those of
  - D. female cowbirds lay up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including
  - E. up to 40 eggs a year are laid by female cowbirds in the nests of other birds, including

SC01954

316. Bluegrass musician Bill Monroe, whose repertory, views on musical collaboration, and vocal style were influential on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from his own.
- A. were influential on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from
  - B. influenced generations of bluegrass artists, also inspired many musicians, including Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from
  - C. was influential to generations of bluegrass artists, was also inspirational to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music was different significantly in comparison to
  - D. was influential to generations of bluegrass artists, also inspired many musicians, who included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, the music of whom differed significantly when compared to
  - E. were an influence on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, including Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music was significantly different from that of

SC12645

317. In many of the world's regions, increasing pressure on water resources has resulted both from expanding development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a concern going forward.
- A. both from expanding development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a concern going forward
  - B. both from expanding development or changes in climate, and pollution, so that future supplies in some of the more arid areas are a concern

- C. from expanding development, changes in climate, and also from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a matter of concern going forward
- D. from expanding development, changes in climate, and pollution, so that future supplies in some of the more arid areas are a concern
- E. from expansion of development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that supplies in some of the more arid areas are a future concern

SC01747

318. The computer company's present troubles are a result of technological stagnation, marketing missteps, and managerial blunders so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it.

- A. so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it
- B. so that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct
- C. in that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them
- D. that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct
- E. that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them

SC11880

319. The root systems of most flowering perennials either become too crowded, which results in loss in vigor, and spread too far outward, producing a bare center.

- A. which results in loss in vigor, and spread
- B. resulting in loss in vigor, or spreading
- C. with the result of loss of vigor, or spreading
- D. resulting in loss of vigor, or spread
- E. with a resulting loss of vigor, and spread

SC11910

320. In theory, international civil servants at the United Nations are prohibited from continuing to draw salaries from their own governments; in practice, however, some governments merely substitute living allowances for their employees' paychecks, assigned by them to the United Nations.

- A. for their employees' paychecks, assigned by them
- B. for the paychecks of their employees who have been assigned
- C. for the paychecks of their employees, having been assigned
- D. in place of their employees' paychecks, for those of them assigned
- E. in place of the paychecks of their employees to have been assigned by them

SC05216

321. Industry analysts said that the recent rise in fuel prices may be an early signal of the possibility of gasoline and heating oil prices staying higher than usually through the end of the year.

- A. of the possibility of gasoline and heating oil prices staying higher than usually through
- B. of the possibility that gasoline and heating oil prices could stay higher than usual throughout
- C. of prices of gasoline and heating oil possibly staying higher than usually through
- D. that prices of gasoline and heating oil could stay higher than they usually are throughout

E. that prices of gasoline and heating oil will stay higher than usual through

SC07141

322. The Anasazi settlements at Chaco Canyon were built on a spectacular scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were connected by a complex regional system of roads.

- A. scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were
- B. scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each,
- C. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each that had been
- D. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms and with each
- E. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each had been

SC07066

323. Even though the overall consumer price index did not change in April, indicating the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen over the last several months.

- A. April, indicating the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen
- B. April, indicating that any general inflation or deflation were absent, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- C. April and indicated that absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- D. April, having indicated the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- E. April, which indicated that any general inflation or deflation were absent, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen

SC12460

324. Despite Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during the Tokugawa shogunate produced an almost explosive expansion of commerce.

- A. Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during the Tokugawa shogunate
- B. the relative isolation of Japan from world trade at the time and the Tokugawa shogunate's prolonged peace, it
- C. being relatively isolated from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during Japan's Tokugawa shogunate
- D. Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time during the Tokugawa shogunate, prolonged peace
- E. its relative isolation from world trade then, prolonged peace in Japan during the Tokugawa shogunate

SC02333

325. Government officials announced that restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river resulted from the intermittent showers that had fallen throughout the area the day before.

- A. restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river

- B. restricting the use of water would continue because there had not been any appreciative increase in the river's level that
- C. the use of water would continue to be restricted because not any appreciable increase in the river's level had
- D. restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciable increase in the level of the river had
- E. using water would continue being restricted because not any appreciable increase in the level of the river

SC04732

326. According to United States census data, while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home.

- A. while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- B. there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home in 1975; in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- C. in 1975 about one-third of mothers with young children worked outside the home; in 2000, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home
- D. even though in 1975 there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000
- E. with about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000

SC04672

327. Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.

- A. Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.
- B. Clouds form by the sun's warmth evaporating the water in the oceans, which rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.
- C. Warmed by the sun, ocean water evaporates, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form clouds.
- D. The water in the oceans evaporates, warmed by the sun, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust, which forms clouds.
- E. Ocean water, warmed by the sun, evaporates and rises high into the atmosphere, which then condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form as clouds.

SC02664

328. Schistosomiasis, a disease caused by a parasitic worm, is prevalent in hot, humid climates, and it has become more widespread as irrigation projects have enlarged the habitat of the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycle.

- A. the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycle
- B. the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts in part of their life cycle

- C. freshwater snails which become the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycles
- D. freshwater snails which become the hosts of the parasite during the parasite's life cycles
- E. parasite's hosts, freshwater snails which become their hosts during their life cycles

SC07754

329. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was making the case for women's equality long before the cause had a name: Born in the mid-seventeenth century in San Miguel Nepantla, Mexico, the convent was the perfect environment for Sor Juana to pursue intellectual pursuits, achieving renown as a mathematician, poet, philosopher, and playwright.
- A. the convent was the perfect environment for Sor Juana to pursue intellectual pursuits, achieving
  - B. Sor Juana found the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits, and she went on to achieve
  - C. the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits for Sor Juana; going on to achieve
  - D. Sor Juana found the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits; achieving
  - E. the convent was, Sor Juana found, the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits, and she went on to achieve

SC14406

330. By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, in 1797–1798 Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him to arrive at an astonishingly accurate figure for the weight of the earth.
- A. By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, in 1797–1798 Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him
  - B. In 1797–1798, by devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him
  - C. Henry Cavendish devised an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employed uncommonly precise measurements, and in 1797–1798 was able
  - D. Having devised an instrument from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employment of uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish in 1797–1798 was able
  - E. By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish was able in 1797–1798

SC08285

331. The growth projected for these storms in different computerized weather models varies widely.
- A. projected for these storms in different computerized weather models varies widely
  - B. for these storms is projected in different computerized models of weather to vary widely
  - C. of these storms, projected in different computerized weather models, vary widely
  - D. projected for these storms, which vary widely in different computerized weather models
  - E. that varies widely for these storms are projected in different computerized weather models

SC02131



332. By using a process called echolocation to analyze the echoes of the high-pitched sounds they produce, bats can determine not only the distance to an object, but they also can determine its shape and size and the direction in which it is moving.

- A. can determine not only the distance to an object, but they also can determine
- B. not only can determine the distance to an object but also
- C. can determine not only the distance to an object but also
- D. not only can determine its distance from an object but also
- E. can determine not only their distance from an object, but they can also determine

SC06205

333. Carbon dioxide, which traps heat in the atmosphere and helps regulate the planet's surface temperature, is constantly being exchanged between the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other.

- A. exchanged between the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other
- B. exchanged, on the one hand, between the atmosphere and the oceans and terrestrial plants, on the other
- C. exchanged between, on the one hand, the atmosphere, with the oceans and terrestrial plants, on the other
- D. exchanged, on the one hand, among the oceans and terrestrial plants, and the atmosphere, on the other
- E. exchanged among the oceans and terrestrial plants on the one hand and the atmosphere on the other

SC01990

334. Floating in the waters of the equatorial Pacific, an array of buoys collects and transmits data on long-term interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, interactions that affect global climate.

- A. atmosphere, interactions that affect
- B. atmosphere, with interactions affecting
- C. atmosphere that affects
- D. atmosphere that is affecting
- E. atmosphere as affects

SC04344

335. Sixty-five million years ago, according to some scientists, an asteroid bigger than Mount Everest slammed into North America, which, causing plant and animal extinctions, marks the end of the geologic era known as the Cretaceous Period.

- A. which, causing plant and animal extinctions, marks
- B. which caused the plant and animal extinctions and marks
- C. and causing plant and animal extinctions that mark
- D. an event that caused plant and animal extinctions, which marks
- E. an event that caused the plant and animal extinctions that mark

SC02338

336. Although the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, it had not been announced until February 1968.

- A. Although the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, it had not been announced until February 1968.
- B. Although not announced until February 1968, in the summer of 1967 graduate student Jocelyn Bell observed the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted.
- C. Although observed by graduate student Jocelyn Bell in the summer of 1967, the discovery of the first sighted pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, had not been announced before February 1968.
- D. The first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was observed in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, but the discovery was not announced until February 1968.
- E. The first sighted pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, was not announced until February 1968, while it was observed in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell.

SC02766

337. Sound can travel through water for enormous distances, prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of boundaries in the ocean created by water layers of different temperatures and densities.

- A. prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of
- B. prevented from having its acoustic energy dissipated by
- C. its acoustic energy prevented from dissipating by
- D. its acoustic energy prevented from being dissipated as a result of
- E. preventing its acoustic energy from dissipating by

SC10996

338. Last year, land values in most parts of the pinelands rose almost so fast, and in some parts even faster than what they did outside the pinelands.

- A. so fast, and in some parts even faster than what they did
- B. so fast, and in some parts even faster than, those
- C. as fast, and in some parts even faster than, those
- D. as fast as, and in some parts even faster than, those
- E. as fast as, and in some parts even faster than what they did

SC03010

339. The North American moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them.

- A. moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them
- B. moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
- C. moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing them must leap over or go around them

- D. moose has long legs, enabling it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
- E. moose has long legs that enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing it must leap over or go around them

SC07885

340. Early administrative decisions in China's Ming Dynasty eventually caused a drastic fall in tax revenues, a reduction in military preparedness, the collapse of the currency system, and failed to make sufficient investment in vital transportation infrastructure.
- A. the collapse of the currency system, and failed
  - B. the collapse of the currency system, and failing
  - C. and the collapse of the currency system, also failed
  - D. the collapse of the currency system, as well as failing
  - E. and the collapse of the currency system, as well as a failure

SC11017

341. Seismologists studying the earthquake that struck northern California in October 1989 are still investigating some of its mysteries: the unexpected power of the seismic waves, the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the temblor.
- A. the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the temblor
  - B. the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and strange electromagnetic signals were detected hours before the temblor
  - C. the upward thrust threw one man straight into the air, and hours before the temblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected
  - D. one man was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and hours before the temblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected
  - E. one man who was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and strange electromagnetic signals that were detected hours before the temblor

SC10878

342. The type of behavior exhibited when an animal recognizes itself in a mirror comes within the domain of “theory of mind,” thus is best studied as part of the field of animal cognition.
- A. of “theory of mind,” thus is best
  - B. “theory of mind,” and so is best to be
  - C. of a “theory of mind,” thus it is best
  - D. of “theory of mind” and thus is best
  - E. of the “theory of mind,” and so it is best to be

SC11054

343. Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka are concentrated in the monsoon months, June to September, and the skies are generally clear for the rest of the year.
- A. Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka

- B. Unlike the United States farmers who can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- C. Unlike those of the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, most parts of Sri Lanka's rains
- D. In comparison with the United States, whose farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- E. In the United States, farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, but in most parts of Sri Lanka, the rains

SC01564

344. In preparation for the prediction of a major earthquake that will hit the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services for identifying earthquake damage and to pinpoint the most affected areas within two hours of the event.
- A. In preparation for the prediction of a major earthquake that will hit the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services for identifying
  - B. In preparing for the prediction that a major earthquake will hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network that will identify
  - C. In preparing for a major earthquake that is predicted to hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network to identify
  - D. To prepare for the prediction of a major earthquake hitting the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services to identify
  - E. To prepare for a major earthquake that is predicted to hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network that will identify

SC06727

345. Once numbering in the millions worldwide, it is estimated that the wolf has declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, some 11,000 of them to be found in the lower 48 United States and Alaska.
- A. it is estimated that the wolf has declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, some
  - B. the wolf is estimated to have declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, with approximately
  - C. the wolf has declined to an estimate of 200,000 in 57 countries, some
  - D. wolves have declined to an estimate of 200,000 in 57 countries, with approximately
  - E. wolves have declined to an estimated 200,000 in 57 countries, some

SC11926

346. As business grows more complex, students majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly successful in the job market.
- A. majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly
  - B. who major in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are becoming more and more
  - C. who majored in specialized areas such as those of finance and marketing are being increasingly

D. who major in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming more and more

E. having majored in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are being increasingly

SC04682

347. Created in 1945 to reduce poverty and stabilize foreign currency markets, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have, according to some critics, continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—but neglected their intended beneficiaries in the developing world.

A. continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—but neglected

B. continually struggled as they try to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—while neglecting that of

C. continually struggled to meet their major shareholders’ expectations—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—but neglected that of

D. had to struggle continually in trying to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—while neglecting that of

E. struggled continually in trying to meet their major shareholders’ expectations—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—and neglecting

SC11934

348. Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage, but if the insurance company is able to prove excessive loss due to owner negligence, it may decline to renew the policy.

A. Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,

B. Unlike with auto insurance, the frequency of claims do not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,

C. Unlike the frequency of claims for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,

D. Unlike the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,

E. Unlike with the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage is not affected by the frequency of claims,

## 6.8 Answer Key

234. C

235. A

236. C

237. E

238. E

239. E

240. C

241. D

242. E

243. D  
244. B  
245. E  
246. C  
247. E  
248. C  
249. B  
250. A  
251. C  
252. E  
253. E  
254. C  
255. D  
256. B  
257. B  
258. E  
259. A  
260. B  
261. B  
262. C  
263. A  
264. C  
265. C  
266. A  
267. C  
268. B  
269. A  
270. A  
271. C  
272. D  
273. C  
274. E  
275. C  
276. E  
277. E  
278. E  
279. D

280. B  
281. D  
282. B  
283. A  
284. B  
285. C  
286. C  
287. C  
288. B  
289. A  
290. A  
291. D  
292. E  
293. C  
294. B  
295. A  
296. D  
297. C  
298. A  
299. E  
300. A  
301. D  
302. D  
303. C  
304. D  
305. A  
306. B  
307. A  
308. D  
309. B  
310. C  
311. A  
312. E  
313. E  
314. C  
315. D  
316. B



- 317. D
- 318. D
- 319. D
- 320. B
- 321. E
- 322. B
- 323. A
- 324. A
- 325. D
- 326. C
- 327. C
- 328. A
- 329. B
- 330. E
- 331. A
- 332. C
- 333. A
- 334. A
- 335. E
- 336. D
- 337. C
- 338. D
- 339. E
- 340. E
- 341. A
- 342. D
- 343. E
- 344. C
- 345. E
- 346. B
- 347. A
- 348. D

## 6.9 Answer Explanations

**The following discussion of Sentence Correction is intended to familiarize you with the most efficient and effective approaches to these kinds of questions. The particular questions in this chapter are generally representative of the kinds of Sentence Correction questions you will encounter on the GMAT™ exam.**

## Questions 234 to 268 - Difficulty: Easy

\*SC01545

234. With respect to most species of animals, they are evenly divided in right- or left-handedness, unlike humans.
- A. With respect to most species of animals, they are evenly divided in right- or left-handedness, unlike humans.
  - B. With respect to right- or left-handedness, most species of animals are evenly divided, unlike in humans.
  - C. Unlike humans, most species of animals are evenly divided with respect to right- or left-handedness.
  - D. Unlike in humans, most species of animals with respect to right- or left-handedness are evenly divided.
  - E. Unlike humans, with respect to right- or left-handedness, in most species of animals it is evenly divided.

### Rhetorical Construction; Parallel Construction

The sentence contrasts humans with other species with respect to the distribution of left-handedness and right-handedness. Issues include use of the correct prepositions and the correct placement of component phrases such as *unlike humans*.

- A. This is wordy because the phrase beginning *with respect to* is redundant, given the pronoun *they*, which refers to *most species of animals*. Placing the phrase *unlike humans* at the end of the sentence tends to blunt the force of the comparison between humans and other animals.
- B. The *in* preceding *humans* makes the sentence incorrect. Because the intended contrast is between humans and most species of animals, the reference to humans would be better placed closer to the phrase *most species of animals*.
- C. **Correct.** The start of the sentence immediately highlights the contrast between humans and most animal species. The adverbial phrase *with respect to right- or left-handedness* is placed adjacent to the verbal phrase that it modifies (*are evenly divided*).
- D. The *in* preceding *humans* makes the sentence incorrect. Placing the adverbial phrase *with respect to right- or left-handedness* immediately following *animals* is confusing; it would be better placed immediately following the verbal phrase that it modifies (*are evenly divided*).
- E. To make the intended contrast clear, the reference to humans should be adjacent to (and parallel to) the reference to most species of animals. But the use of *in* in one case but not in the other makes the references nonparallel. For clarity, the adverbial phrase *with respect to right- or left-handedness* should follow the verbal phrase that it modifies (*are evenly divided*).

**The correct answer is C.**

SC07435

235. Using digital enhancements of skull fragments from five prehistoric hominids dating to more than 350,000 years ago, anthropologists argue that these human ancestors probably had hearing similar to that of people today.
- A. anthropologists argue that these human ancestors
  - B. anthropologists argue, so these human ancestors
  - C. anthropologists argue, these human ancestors

- D. these human ancestors, anthropologists argue,
- E. these human ancestors are argued by anthropologists to have

### Logical Predication; Diction

The verb *argue* here, because it expresses the idea of arguing for a position or theory, should be followed directly by a clause introduced by *that*, without a pause. Verb forms ending with *-ing* with understood subjects, like the one beginning this sentence, must have their subject supplied elsewhere—preferably by the subject of the main clause.

- A. **Correct.** *Argue* is followed immediately by a *that* clause, and the subject of *using* is supplied by *anthropologists*.
- B. *Argue* is not directly followed by a *that* clause; moreover, by continuing with *so ...*, the sentence does not coherently express the intended idea.
- C. *Argue* is not directly followed by a *that* clause.
- D. The subject of the main clause, *these human ancestors*, will illogically be taken as the subject of *using*.
- E. The subject of the main clause, *these human ancestors*, will illogically be taken as the subject of *using*.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC14890

236. The interior minister explained that one of the village planning proposal's best characteristics was their not detracting from the project's overall benefit by being a burden on the development budget.
- A. one of the village planning proposal's best characteristics was their not detracting
  - B. one of the village's planning proposal's best characteristics were its not taking
  - C. one of the best characteristics of the village's planning proposal was that it did not detract
  - D. a best characteristic of the village planning proposal was, it did not take
  - E. among the village planning proposal's best characteristics, one was, it did not detract

### Agreement; Rhetorical Construction

The noun phrase beginning with *one* is singular, as is one of its constituent parts, *the village planning proposal*, so any pronouns for which it is the antecedent should be singular; furthermore, any verb for which the noun phrase beginning with *one ...* is the subject should be in the singular. The verb *detract* is more appropriate to the thought being expressed than *take*.

- A. The plural pronoun *their* has a singular noun phrase as its antecedent, namely, *the village planning proposal*. (It is illogical to take the antecedent of *their* to be *best characteristics*.)
- B. The plural verb *were* does not agree with the singular subject. Also, the verb *taking* should be replaced by the verb *detracting*.
- C. **Correct.** The verb is correctly in the singular form.
- D. *A best characteristic* is awkward; the idea is better phrased as *one of the best characteristics*. Also the verb *take* should be replaced by the verb *detract*.
- E. Instead of the awkward sequence *one was, it did not*, a better choice would be *was that it did not*.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC02940

237. Like ants, termites have an elaborate social structure in which a few individuals reproduce and the rest are serving the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or they battle intruders.
- A. are serving the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or they battle
  - B. are serving the colony in that they tend juveniles, gather food, build the nest, or battle
  - C. serve the colony, tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or by battling
  - D. serve the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, by building the nest, or by battling
  - E. serve the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or battling

**Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction**

The sentence most effectively uses parallel structure to contrast two types of termites in the social structure of termite colonies: those who reproduce, and those who serve the colony in a number of ways. The progressive verb form *are serving* should be changed to simple present tense *serve* to parallel *reproduce*. In the final list of responsibilities, parallelism demands that all assume the gerund form as objects of the preposition: *by tending ... gathering ... building ... or battling*.

- A. The progressive verb form *are serving* is inappropriate for this general claim about termite behavior. It should parallel the previous verb *reproduce*. It is unnecessary to introduce a new clause *or they battle intruders*, because *battling* is another way some termites serve the colony and should therefore be expressed as another object of the preposition *by*.
- B. *In that they* is an awkward and wordy construction—a poor substitute for *by* in this context.
- C. The preposition *by* clarifies *how* the termites serve their colony and should govern all of the task descriptions, not just the final one.
- D. There is no need to repeat the preposition *by*, because all tasks can be described in a series of parallel objects of the same preposition. To violate parallel structure by omitting the preposition before one gerund but repeating it for the rest confuses the reader.
- E. **Correct.** The sentence uses proper parallel structure and is clear and concise.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC01519

238. Global warming is said to be responsible for extreme weather changes, which, like the heavy rains that caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding throughout the state of California, and the heat wave in the northeastern and midwestern United States, which was also the cause of a great amount of damage and destruction.
- A. which, like the heavy rains that caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding throughout the state of California,
  - B. which, like the heavy rains that throughout the state of California caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding,
  - C. like the heavy flooding that, because of rains throughout the state of California, caused more than \$2 billion in damages,

- D. such as the heavy flooding that led to rains throughout the state of California causing more than \$2 billion in damages,
- E. such as the heavy rains that led to flooding throughout the state of California, causing more than \$2 billion in damages,

### Grammatical Construction: Logical Predication

This sentence introduces the claim that global warming is considered to be the cause of extreme weather changes and then illustrates these changes with two examples introduced by the phrase *such as*. The correct causal sequence of events in the first example is heavy rain, which caused *significant damage and flooding*. The relative pronoun *which*, referring to *changes*, is lacking a verb to complete the relative clause.

- A. The relative pronoun, *which*, is without a verb. The phrase *which, like the heavy rains* incorrectly suggests that the *extreme weather* is something different from the *heavy rains* and the *heat wave*, and that each of these three phenomena separately caused damage and destruction.
- B. Like answer choice A, the relative pronoun has no verb to complete the phrase, and the sequence of events in the first example positions costly destruction and flooding as two separate or unrelated results of the rain.
- C. The causal sequence in the first example is confusing, suggesting, somewhat implausibly, that heavy flooding occurred on its own but caused damage only because of the rain.
- D. The sequential logic of the first example is confused—indicating, implausibly, that flooding caused heavy rain and that the rain, but not the flooding, caused more than \$2 billion in damages.
- E. **Correct.** This version of the sentence correctly uses the phrase *such as* to introduce the two examples of extreme weather changes, and it correctly identifies the sequence of events in the first example.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC02548

239. Hundreds of species of fish generate and discharge electric currents, in bursts or as steady electric fields around their bodies, using their power either to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or also for communicating and navigating.
- A. either to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or also for communicating and navigating
  - B. either for finding and attacking prey, defend themselves, or for communication and navigation
  - C. to find and attack prey, for defense, or communication and navigation
  - D. for finding and attacking prey, to defend themselves, or also for communication and navigation
  - E. to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or to communicate and navigate

### Idiom; Verb Form

The sentence explains that fish discharge electric currents for several purposes, which are most efficiently and effectively described in a parallel structure: *to find and attack, to defend, or to communicate and navigate*. The use of *either* is inappropriate in this sentence because more than two uses of electric currents are listed; idiomatic usage requires *either* to be followed by *or* to identify alternatives, not by *also*.

- A. *Either* inappropriately introduces a list of more than two alternatives, and it should not be followed by *or also*; parallelism requires that *for communicating and navigating* be changed to *to communicate and navigate*.
- B. *Defend* is not parallel with the list of gerunds, leaving the reader to wonder how to make sense of *defend themselves*.
- C. The lack of parallelism obscures the relationships among the items in the series; it is especially confusing to list an infinitive phrase (*to find ...*), an object of a preposition (*for defense*), and nouns with no grammatical connection to the verb phrase (*communication and navigation*).
- D. This answer choice also violates parallelism by mixing an infinitive with objects of the preposition *for*. *Or also* is an unidiomatic, contradictory expression.
- E. **Correct.** The different ways in which the various species of fish use their electric power are correctly expressed in a series of parallel infinitives.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC05367

240. Native to South America, when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being so similar to the Bambarra groundnut, a popular indigenous plant.

- A. when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
- B. peanuts having been introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
- C. peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
- D. peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
- E. peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and having been quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were

### **Grammatical Construction; Logical Predication**

The opening adjectival phrase *Native to South America* must be followed immediately by the noun it modifies: *peanuts*. The sentence makes two main points about peanuts—they were introduced to Africa and they were quickly adopted there. The most efficient way to make these points is to make *peanuts* the subject of two main verbs: *were introduced* and *were ... adopted*.

- A. *When* incorrectly intervenes between the opening adjectival phrase and the noun it modifies, and it is also unnecessary because *early in the sixteenth century* explains when. *Because of being* is wordy and indirect.
- B. This version of the sentence has no main verb, since *having been introduced* and *quickly adopted* both introduce adjectival phrases.
- C. **Correct.** The sentence is properly structured and grammatically correct.
- D. This version of the sentence has no main verb because *introduced* and *adopted* both function as adjectives.
- E. This version of the sentence has no main verb because *introduced* and *having been ... adopted* function as adjectives.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC03552

241. It stood twelve feet tall, weighed nine thousand pounds, and wielded seven-inch claws, and *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth, may have been the largest hunting mammal ever to walk the Earth.
- A. It stood twelve feet tall, weighed nine thousand pounds, and wielded seven-inch claws, and *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth,
  - B. It stood twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, *Megatherium americanum* was a giant ground sloth and
  - C. The giant ground sloth *Megatherium americanum*, having stood twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, it
  - D. Standing twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth,
  - E. Standing twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, it wielded seven-inch claws, and the giant ground sloth *Megatherium americanum*

**Grammatical Construction; Parallelism**

The point of the sentence is to describe several features of *Megatherium americanum*, to identify this creature as a giant ground sloth, and to speculate about its status as the largest hunting mammal in Earth's history. *Megatherium americanum* is therefore the sole subject of the sentence. When its features are presented as parallel adjective phrases and its common identification is presented as an appositive, a single main verb *may have been* is all that is required to complete the sentence. When the conjunction *and* constructs a compound sentence, the subjects *it* and *ground sloth* or *Megatherium americanum* appear to name separate entities.

- A. The compound sentence structure suggests that *it* and *Megatherium americanum* are two separate entities, making it unclear what, if anything, the pronoun refers to.
- B. Like answer choice A, *it* and *Megatherium americanum* appear to name different entities. This is a run-on sentence; the comma after *claws* is not sufficient to join the two main clauses in a single sentence. The series describing the sloth is also nonparallel.
- C. The present-perfect tense of the first participial phrase in the series (*having stood*) is not parallel with the (timeless) present tense of the other two participials. The introduction of the main subject *it* leaves *ground sloth* without a verb.
- D. **Correct.** The series of present-tense participial phrases describes the main subject, *Megatherium americanum*, which is clarified by the common name expressed as an appositive.
- E. The identity of *it* is ambiguous, and the second subject of the compound sentence *giant ground sloth* appears to name something other than *it*. This makes the sentence ungrammatical.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC04083

242. Studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this that an epidemic of malaria struck in the empire's waning days.
- A. Studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this



- B. In studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this
- C. Scientists recovered DNA evidence from studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, being able to deduce from this
- D. Skeletons unearthed near Rome allowed scientists to recover DNA evidence, and they were able to deduce from it
- E. Scientists studying skeletons unearthed near Rome recovered DNA evidence from which they were able to deduce

### Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence explains that scientists recovered DNA evidence from skeletons, revealing evidence of malaria. As the sentence is written, the participial phrase *studying skeletons* is misplaced; grammatically it modifies the subject of the main clause, thus illogically indicating that the *evidence* studied the skeletons.

- A. The participial phrase *studying skeletons* illogically modifies *evidence*.
- B. The participial phrase *studying skeletons* illogically modifies *evidence*.
- C. The sentence incorrectly states that DNA evidence was recovered from *studying skeletons* rather than from the skeletons; the phrase *being able to deduce from this* is awkward and wordy.
- D. The construction *skeletons ... allowed scientists* gives the action of the sentence to the skeletons rather than the scientists; the antecedent of the pronoun *they* is ambiguous, possibly referring either to *scientists* or to *skeletons*.
- E. **Correct.** *Scientists* is the subject of the main clause, and *studying skeletons* correctly modifies *scientists*.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC01594

243. Butterflies come in more than 17,000 species, displaying a wing pattern unique to each one.
- A. displaying a wing pattern unique to each one
  - B. displaying a unique wing pattern in each
  - C. each uniquely displaying a wing pattern
  - D. each of which displays a unique wing pattern
  - E. each of which uniquely displays a wing pattern

### Diction; Logical Predication

As well as noting the surprisingly large number of butterfly species, the sentence probably seeks to make the point that no two species have the same wing pattern. Which of the suggested ways of conveying this information is clearest and unambiguous?

- A. In a conversational context, the thought underlying this version would probably be successfully understood by most listeners. However, the participle *displaying* modifies *butterflies*, not *species*. Thus the sentence as written seems to say, illogically, that each butterfly displays a wing pattern unique to each one.
- B. The phrase *in each* is illogical: what cannot have been intended in the given sentence is that all 17,000 species display a single wing pattern.
- C. This produces nonsense: all butterflies presumably display some wing pattern; it is not clear, however, what it could mean to “uniquely” display a wing pattern.

D. **Correct.** In the given phrase, the *which* refers to *17,000 species*; it conveys exactly the same information as the following sentence: *Each of 17,000 species displays a unique wing pattern.* Both convey the information that no two of the species have the same wing pattern.

E. It is not clear what it could mean to “uniquely” display a wing pattern.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC04652

244. A March 2000 Census Bureau survey showed that Mexico accounted for more than a quarter of all foreign-born residents of the United States, the largest share for any country to contribute since 1890, when about 30 percent of the country’s foreign-born population was from Germany.

A. the largest share for any country to contribute

B. the largest share that any country has contributed

C. which makes it the largest share for any country to contribute

D. having the largest share to be contributed by any country

E. having the largest share to have been contributed by any country

### **Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction**

This sentence claims that the 2000 Census showed that at the time Mexico’s contribution to the foreign-born population of United States residents exceeded that of any other country since 1890. It makes the comparison in an appositive that modifies *more than a quarter of all foreign-born residents of the United States*.

A. The phrase *for any country to contribute* makes the sentence wordy and indirect.

B. **Correct.** This form of the appositive is the most efficient way to express the comparison. Depending on when the sentence was written and what the writer intended to express, the verb form could be either *had contributed* or *has contributed*. The use of *has contributed* implies that, from the perspective of the sentence, the comparison between German-born U.S. residents and those from other countries still holds true.

C. The antecedents of the relative pronoun *which* and the pronoun *it* are ambiguous. Along with the prepositional phrase, the pronouns contribute wordiness and indirection.

D. This construction is awkward, wordy, and indirect, and the use of the present tense of the infinitive is inappropriate.

E. This construction is awkward, wordy, and indirect.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC01579

245. Recently declassified information from military satellites in orbit thousands of miles above the Earth show the planet continually bombarded by large meteoroids that explode with the power of atomic bomb blasts.

A. show the planet continually bombarded by

B. show continual bombarding of the planet by

C. show a continual bombardment of the planet from

D. shows continually that the planet is bombarded from

E. shows that the planet is continually bombarded by

## Agreement; Idiom

The sentence indicates that information shows the planet to be continually bombarded by meteors. However, the plural verb *show* incorrectly corresponds to the word *satellites* in the prepositional phrase *from military satellites*, rather than to the singular subject *information*. The correct combination of subject and verb is *information shows*.

- A. The singular subject *information* does not agree with the plural verb *show*.
- B. The singular subject *information* does not agree with the plural verb *show*. The verbal noun *bombarding* (rather than *bombardment*) is awkward and unnecessary.
- C. The singular subject *information* does not agree with the plural verb *show*. *Bombardment from* is an unidiomatic way of expressing the intended relationship. This construction appears to indicate, illogically, that someone or something located on the large, exploding meteoroids is sending the bombardment to Earth.
- D. *Continually* should modify *bombarded*, not *shows*. *Bombardment from* is an unidiomatic way of expressing the intended relationship. This construction appears to indicate, illogically, that someone or something located on the large, exploding meteoroids is sending the bombardment to Earth.
- E. **Correct.** The singular subject *information* agrees with the singular verb *shows*.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC04026

246. Child development specialists believe that, in confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited.

- A. that, in confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited
- B. that, in their confinement much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited in babies
- C. that confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can inhibit muscle development
- D. that babies, if confined much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can inhibit muscle development
- E. that strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can, if babies are confined to them much of the time, result in muscle development being inhibited

## Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The point of the sentence is that confining babies can inhibit muscle development. As it is written, however, *muscle development* is the subject of the sentence, and the sentence appears to be saying that muscle development confines babies much of the time. Furthermore, the passive construction *can be inhibited* could even be seen as illogically suggesting that inhibiting development is the purpose of confinement. The sentence can be expressed more clearly and concisely by making *confining* the subject of the verb *can inhibit*: *confining babies ... can inhibit muscle development*.

- A. The intended meaning of the sentence is obscured. The sentence appears to indicate that muscle development confines babies much of the time, which surely is not what is intended.
- B. The antecedent of *their* should be *babies*, but given that *babies* comes far after the pronoun, the reader is liable to take the antecedent of *their* to be *child development specialists*.

- C. **Correct.** The sentence clearly and concisely indicates that *confining babies ... can inhibit muscle development*.
- D. The word *babies* is the subject of the verb *can inhibit*, suggesting incorrectly that babies inhibit their own or someone else's muscle development.
- E. This sentence uses an awkward and wordy construction to indicate that the sites of confinement *can result in muscle development being inhibited*, when in fact the confinement itself is the cause.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC01482

247. Together with Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary, the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the first underwater park in the United States, provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers, which includes more than 500 species of fish and 55 varieties of coral.
- A. provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers, which includes
  - B. provide for underwater explorers 165 square nautical miles of marine life, which include
  - C. provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers and includes
  - D. provides 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers and including
  - E. provides underwater explorers with 165 square nautical miles of marine life, including

#### **Agreement; Grammatical Construction**

The sentence mentions two marine sites, but the grammatical subject of the sentence refers to only one of them, so the use of the plural verb *provide* is incorrect. The antecedent of *which* is unclear; for example, it cannot be *explorers*, since the singular verb *includes* indicates that its subject *which* must also be singular. Thus, the antecedent must be the singular noun phrase *marine life*. However, the sentence would be clearer and less awkward if this antecedent were placed closer to *which*.

- A. This cannot be correct, given the problems explained above.
- B. The plural *provide* is incorrect. The plural verb *include* indicates that one of the preceding noun phrases, e.g., *165 square nautical miles*, or *underwater explorers*, should be the antecedent, but neither of these readings would convey a coherent meaning.
- C. The plural *provide* is incorrect, as the subject is singular (*Key Largo Marine Sanctuary* is not part of the subject). Stating that the park (as opposed to the marine life) “includes” 500 species does not seem to capture the intended meaning.
- D. The portion that precedes *and* here is correct; however, *and including* creates a grammatically incorrect sentence fragment.
- E. **Correct.** The use of a participial phrase introduced by *including* avoids the need to use a relative clause introduced by *which*, but serves the same function as would a relative clause with antecedent *marine life*.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC01481

248. While Hollywood makes films primarily for entertainment, the motion picture was not first developed to entertain, but it was to allow detailed analysis of animal motion.
- A. was not first developed to entertain, but it was
  - B. was developed not first to entertain, but it was

- C. was first developed not to entertain, but
- D. did not first develop for entertainment, but
- E. did not first develop for entertainment, but it was

### Grammatical Construction; Parallelism

The sentence expresses, in an awkward and unclear manner, the thought that the initial development of the motion picture was for science rather than for entertainment. One flaw in the given sentence concerns the placement of *not*; another flaw is that the pronoun *it* has no clear antecedent (its antecedent does not seem to be *the motion picture*, for example).

- A. The placement of *not* suggests that it is intended to negate a verbal phrase *was first developed*, but this makes no sense in context. As explained, the pronoun *it* lacks a clear antecedent.
- B. As explained, the pronoun *it* lacks a clear antecedent. Only if *first* meant “primarily” could the phrase *not first to entertain* make some sense in context.
- C. **Correct.** This accurately conveys the claim that the intended purpose of the motion picture when it was first developed was not entertainment but something else, i.e., scientific observation. The parallelism between *to entertain* and *to allow* removes unnecessary wordiness.
- D. The placement of *not* is inappropriate, given the intended meaning. The parallelism mentioned earlier is missing here.
- E. The word *not* seems, misleadingly, to negate the verb *first developed*, which would fail to convey the intended sense of the given sentence. The antecedent of *it* is unclear. The parallelism explained earlier is missing here.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC01069

249. The personal income tax did not become permanent in the United States until the First World War; before that time the federal government was dependent on tariffs to be their main source of revenue.

- A. the federal government was dependent on tariffs to be their main source of revenue
- B. the federal government had depended on tariffs as its main source of revenue
- C. tariffs were what the federal government was dependent on to be its main source of revenue
- D. the main source of revenue for the federal government was dependent on tariffs
- E. for their main source of revenue, tariffs were depended on by the federal government

### Agreement; Logical Predication

The First World War is designated as past tense in the opening clause of this sentence. The relationship between that time and whatever happened earlier can be most clearly indicated by using the past-perfect tense for the earlier events. [*T*] *he federal government* is a singular subject of the second clause, so a singular pronoun, *its* rather than *their*, must refer to it. The phrase *was dependent on* causes unnecessary wordiness, as does the passive construction in answer choice E.

- A. The plural pronoun *their* inappropriately refers to the singular noun *government*.
- B. **Correct.** The pronoun *its* agrees with the singular subject *government*, and the past perfect, active verb *had depended* refers clearly to government activity prior to the First World War.

- C. This version of the sentence is wordy because of the inverted word order that makes the subject of the second clause an object of the preposition *on*.
- D. This version of the sentence nonsensically makes *source* the subject of the verb *was* [dependent on].
- E. The plural possessive pronoun *their* does not agree with its singular antecedent *government*. In fact, because of the placement of *tariffs* immediately after the opening prepositional phrase, *their* seems at first to refer to *tariffs*, which is illogical. The passive verb form *were depended on* is wordy and indirect.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC02628

250. In 1776 Adam Smith wrote that it is young people who have “the contempt of risk and the presumptuous hope of success” needed to found new businesses.
- A. who have
  - B. with
  - C. having
  - D. who are those with
  - E. who are the ones to have

### **Grammatical Construction; Rhetorical Construction**

This sentence identifies which people have the attitudes needed to be successful entrepreneurs, according to the economist Adam Smith. The main clause *it is young people* is followed by a relative clause that modifies *young people* and defines the attributes important to their ability to found businesses: caring little about risk and being extremely optimistic about succeeding. The use of the idiomatic construction *it is ... who* is a way of placing primary emphasis on the question that Smith addressed with the quoted words.

- A. **Correct.** The relative clause beginning *who have* grammatically and concisely identifies the relevant attitudes that *young people* have.
- B. In this version, the relative clause modifying *young people* is replaced with a prepositional phrase, introduced by *with*. This clause appears to modify *young people* restrictively. Thus, the sentence simply identifies a subcategory of young people (those with *the contempt of risk ...*) and does not clearly explain which *people* have the attitudes that Smith identifies.
- C. Replacing the relative clause with a participial phrase introduced by *having* makes the sentence incomplete, since the point of the sentence is to explain which people *have* the attitudes that Smith identifies.
- D. Inserting the phrase *are those with* makes the sentence awkward and wordy.
- E. The word group *are the ones to have* is less concise than the simple verb *have* and fails to convey the meaning that is clearly intended.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC04198

251. Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports and because automakers have started using it to make the huge engines in sport utility vehicles and other light trucks.
- A. Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports and because automakers have started using

- B. Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports, in addition to automakers that have started to use
- C. Prices for palladium have soared as Russia has restricted exports and automakers have started using
- D. Prices for palladium have soared as Russia has been restricting exports, in addition to automakers starting to use
- E. Prices for palladium have soared because Russia is restricting exports, as well as automakers that have started using

### Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence indicates that a rapid increase in palladium prices is related to a restriction in Russian exports and to the fact that automakers have started using palladium to make engines. It makes sense to see the increase in palladium prices as being a result of the other two factors, and the sentence should clearly suggest this link. Furthermore, the grammatical construction of the sentence should display parallelism. For instance, if the phrase *Russia restricting exports* is used, then the parallel phrase *automakers having started* should be used so as to create a parallel construction. On the other hand, if the clause *Russia has restricted exports* is used, then the clause *automakers have started* should be paired with it to create a parallel structure.

- A. The use of the word *with* before *Russia restricting exports* does not clearly indicate the causal link between this restriction and the price increases. Furthermore, *with Russia restricting exports* is not appropriately parallel with *because automakers have started using*.
- B. The use of the word *with* before *Russia restricting exports* does not clearly indicate the causal link between this restriction and the price increases. Also, *with Russia restricting exports* is not appropriately grammatically parallel with *automakers that have started to use*.
- C. **Correct.** The use of the word *as* suggests a possible causal link between the price increases and the combination of Russia's restriction of exports and automakers' use of palladium in the manufacture of engines. The sentence also displays an appropriate grammatical parallelism among *Prices for palladium have soared*, *Russia has restricted exports*, and *automakers have started using*.
- D. There is not an appropriate grammatical parallelism between *Russia has been restricting exports* and *automakers starting to use*.
- E. There is not an appropriate grammatical parallelism between *Russia is restricting exports* and *automakers that have started using*.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC01543

252. Variability in individual physical traits both are determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between these factors.

- A. both are determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between
- B. are both determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, as well as interaction among
- C. both is determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between
- D. is determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, as well as interaction among



E. is determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between

### Agreement; Grammatical Construction

In discussing the factors that produce variations in individuals' physical traits, the sentence uses the structure *both ... and ...* unnecessarily and incorrectly: this structure can coordinate exactly two elements of a sentence, whereas here, three elements (genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between them) are named. The preposition *by* is more idiomatic than *through* with *determined*. The subject of the sentence is the noun phrase *variability in ... traits*, so the verb of which it is subject must be singular, whereas *are* is plural. The preposition *among* (unlike *between*) is normally used to indicate some relationship involving more than two elements.

- A. This has multiple problems, as explained above. Replacing *both are determined through* with the phrase *is determined by* would greatly improve the overall structure of the given sentence.
- B. The verb *are* is plural but should be singular, since its subject is singular. The word *both* should be omitted. Introducing *as well as* into the sentence without certain other changes is not an improvement; the phrase is not substitutable for *and* without further changes elsewhere in the sentence.
- C. The word *both* in this case raises the expectation that exactly two elements would be coordinated, but this does not occur here.
- D. The preposition *through* is unidiomatic with *determined*. The phrase *as well as* cannot be used in the same way as *and* can (in this case, to coordinate three elements in a series).
- E. **Correct.** The singular verb *is* has *variability* as its subject. Three elements in a series are coordinated, using two commas plus *and*. The preposition *between* is correctly used to refer to a relationship involving two sets of factors.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC06613

253. In his *Uses of Enchantment* (1976), it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are an instructive reflection of a child's natural and necessary "killing off" of successive phases in his or her own development.

- A. it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are
- B. it was the assertion of psychologist Bruno Bettelheim that what is apparently the cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually is
- C. psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that what is apparently the cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually is
- D. psychologist Bruno Bettelheim asserted that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are
- E. psychologist Bruno Bettelheim asserted that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales is actually

### Agreement; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence attributes to psychologist Bruno Bettelheim a particular view regarding the nature of fairy tales. The construction *it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that* lacks the clarity and directness of the more active construction *Bruno Bettelheim asserted that*. The subject of the subordinate clause containing *nature of many fairy tales actually*

*are* is the singular noun *nature*, not the plural noun in the prepositional phrase *of fairy tales*. Thus, the verb of that clause should be *is*, not *are*.

- A. *It was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that* is wordy and awkward. Presumably this phrase is intended to be equivalent to *Bettelheim asserted that* (just as *it is my opinion that* is another way of saying *I believe that*). However, given the surrounding structure of the sentence, *it* appears to refer to some unnamed entity or condition that occurs in Bettelheim's book, and the entire sequence *was ... development* appears to be predicated of the subject *it*. The plural verb *are* does not agree with the singular subject *nature*.
- B. *It was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that* is wordy and awkward. Presumably this phrase is intended to be equivalent to *Bettelheim asserted that* (just as *it is my opinion that* is another way of saying *I believe that*). However, given the surrounding structure of the sentence, *it* appears to refer to some unnamed entity or condition that occurs in Bettelheim's book, and the entire sequence *was ... development* appears to be predicated of the subject *it*. The plural verb *are* does not agree with the singular subject *nature*.
- C. According to the most plausible parsing of the sentence, everything that follows *asserted that* is intended to express Bettelheim's assertion. On that interpretation, though, the sentence is ungrammatical; the subject of the main clause, *assertion*, is not paired with a verb. If the verb *is* were paired with the subject *assertion*, the sentence would be nonsensical.
- D. The plural verb *are* does not agree with the singular subject *nature*.
- E. **Correct.** The construction *Bruno Bettelheim asserted* gives vigor to the main clause, and the singular verb *is* agrees with the subject *nature* in the subordinate clause.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC06012

254. After weeks of uncertainty about the course the country would pursue to stabilize its troubled economy, officials reached a revised agreement with the International Monetary Fund, pledging the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent.
- A. the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent
  - B. the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline than originally promised and keeping inflation below the ten percent figure
  - C. to enforce substantially greater budget discipline than originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent
  - D. to enforce substantially greater budget discipline than that which was originally promised and keeping inflation less than the ten percent figure
  - E. to enforce substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation less than ten percent

### **Logical Predication; Parallelism**

This sentence explains the two-part strategy an unnamed country agreed to pursue in order to stabilize its economy. Nominalization (*the enforcement of ...*) and an incorrect form of comparison (*as that which was ...*) in the account of the first strategy causes excessive wordiness and indirection and makes the account of the first strategy nonparallel with the account of the second strategy. To reduce wordiness and achieve parallelism, both strategies

pledged by the country should be presented in infinitive form (*to enforce ... and to keep ...*). The sentence also needs to employ the correct comparative form *greater discipline than ....*

- A. The two strategies (*the enforcement of* and *keeping*) are not presented in parallel form; the nominalized presentation of the first strategy is wordy and indirect, and the comparative form is incorrect.
- B. The two strategies (*the enforcement of* and *keeping*) are not presented in parallel form.
- C. **Correct.** The comparative form is correct, and the two strategies are presented in parallel form, as infinitives completing the verb *pledged*.
- D. The two strategies are not presented in parallel form, and the comparative form is unnecessarily wordy.
- E. The comparative form is incorrect and wordy.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC01596

255. A new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles is called POLAR, giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.

- A. A new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles is called POLAR, giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
- B. A new satellite called POLAR that is giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles.
- C. Scientists are getting their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, from a new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles called POLAR.
- D. Sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles, a new satellite called POLAR is giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
- E. Sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles, scientists' best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, is coming from a new satellite called POLAR.

### **Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction**

The point of the sentence is that a *new satellite* is *giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere*. As the sentence is written, the participial phrase *giving scientists ... magnetosphere* illogically modifies the preceding clause *A new ... is called POLAR*, suggesting illogically that the naming of the satellite is what provides scientists with a look at the magnetosphere. The sentence can be constructed more clearly with *satellite* as the subject of the main clause and *is giving* as its verb.

- A. The participial phrase *giving scientists ... magnetosphere* illogically modifies the whole preceding clause, rather than *satellite*.
- B. The subject *satellite* has no corresponding verb that would create an independent clause; the word *that* introduces a subordinate clause, and the overall result is merely a sentence fragment.
- C. The modifier *called POLAR* is awkwardly placed too far away from the word *satellite*, which it is intended to modify; in its current incorrect position, it appears to modify

*altitudes.*

- D. **Correct.** The sentence is constructed clearly with *satellite* and *is giving* as the subject and verb of the main clause, and the modifiers are placed appropriately near the words they are meant to modify.
- E. *Sweeping* incorrectly modifies *look*, and the main subject *look* is awkwardly paired with the verb *is coming from*.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC05787

256. The treasury market dropped in response to a decrease in the value of the dollar and to continued concern that the economy might be growing as fast as to accelerate inflation and drive interest rates higher.

- A. that the economy might be growing as fast as
- B. that the economy might be growing fast enough
- C. with the economy's possibly growing so fast as
- D. with the possibility of the economy growing fast enough so as
- E. with the possibility of the economy possibly growing fast enough

**Idiom; Rhetorical Construction**

This sentence expresses a possible condition related to the relative speed of the economy's growth. The possible condition is expressed succinctly through the modal verb *might* in the subordinate clause *that the economy might be growing*. However, the correct idiom for expressing the relative speed is *fast enough to precipitate* negative economic consequences—not *as fast as*.

- A. *As fast as* is not the correct idiom.
- B. **Correct.** The possible condition is expressed succinctly using the modal verb *might*, and idioms are used correctly.
- C. *Concern with* is not the correct idiom; the phrases *economy's possibly growing* and *so fast as to* are wordy and awkward.
- D. *Concern with* is not the correct idiom; the phrase *possibility of the economy growing fast enough so as to* is wordy and awkward.
- E. *Concern with* is not the correct idiom; *possibility* and *possibly* are unnecessarily and awkwardly repetitive.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC03724

257. Despite a growing population, in 1998 the United States used 38 billion fewer gallons of water a day when comparing it to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier.

- A. day when comparing it to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier
- B. day than it did during the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier
- C. day than were used almost 20 years earlier, which had been the all-time high consumption
- D. day, compared to almost 20 years earlier, that having been the all-time high consumption

- E. day, which is in comparison to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier

### Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

When making a direct comparison (in this case, with *fewer*), the standard way to express the object of comparison is with *than*. Here, the sentence uses *fewer ... when comparing it to*, which not only is unidiomatic, but also creates an illogical predication: *United States* is the only possible subject for the verb *comparing* (surely the sentence doesn't mean to say the United States used 38 billion fewer gallons at the time it was making some comparison!). Also, what is the antecedent of *it* here? Grammatically, there is no clear candidate.

- A. Instead of using *fewer ... than*, this version uses the unidiomatic *fewer ... when comparing it to*, which also introduces a logical predication problem.
- B. **Correct.** *Fewer than* is correct, and this version of the sentence has no logical predication problems.
- C. This has a logical predication problem: because the relative clause beginning with *which* immediately follows *almost 20 years earlier*, it seems that the time period is being described as having been *the all-time high consumption*.
- D. *Fewer than* is preferable to *fewer ... compared to*; also, there is a logical predication problem: because the phrase beginning with *that* immediately follows *almost 20 years earlier*, it seems that the time period is being described as having been *the all-time high consumption*.
- E. This is awkwardly and confusingly worded. Rather than comparing the United States' water usage in 1998 to its water usage nearly 20 years earlier, this appears illogically to compare the United States' water usage in 1998 to a period of time, namely *the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier*.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC01600

258. A federal advisory panel proposes expanding a national computerized file to permit law-enforcement agencies to track people under criminal investigation but have not yet been charged.
- A. under criminal investigation but
- B. under criminal investigation, but who
- C. under criminal investigation, but they
- D. who are under criminal investigation, but they
- E. who are under criminal investigation but

### Parallelism; Grammatical Construction

The sentence describes a proposal to allow law-enforcement agencies to track people who have not been charged with a crime but are under investigation. However, the description of the group is flawed, in that the two defining properties—not having been charged; being under investigation—are not expressed in a parallel form: the verb *have been charged* lacks a grammatically correct subject.

- A. The adjectival phrase *under criminal investigation*, modifying *people*, is nonparallel to *have not yet been charged*; the latter is a mere sentence fragment.
- B. The required parallelism is lacking here. The word *but* introduces a sentence fragment.

- C. The required parallelism is lacking here: we have an adjectival phrase, and the coordinate conjunction *but* introducing what appears to be an independent clause. It is unclear what the antecedent of the pronoun *they* is.
- D. The required parallelism is lacking here: we have a relative clause, followed by the coordinate conjunction *but* introducing what appears to be an independent clause. It is structurally unclear what the antecedent of the pronoun *they* is.
- E. **Correct.** The relative pronoun *who* has *people* as its antecedent and introduces a complex relative clause containing two parallel verbal phrases correctly coordinated with the conjunction *but*.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC03779

259. Analysts believe that whereas bad decisions by elected leaders can certainly hurt the economy, no administration can really be said to control or manage all of the complex and interrelated forces that determine the nation's economic strength.
- A. no administration can really be said to control
  - B. no administration can be said that it really controls
  - C. that no administration can really be said to control
  - D. that no administration can really be said that it controls
  - E. that it cannot be said that any administration really controls

### **Grammatical Construction; Verb Form**

The point of this sentence is to explain analysts' common two-part belief about the limited power of elected officials to control a national economy. It presents this belief as the direct object in the main clause, [*a*] *analysts believe*, and introduces it with the subordinating conjunction *that*, which governs both the positive dependent clause (*decisions ... can hurt*) introduced by *whereas*, and the subsequent negative independent clause (*no administration can ... be said to control ...*). The additional appearances of *that* in some of the versions of the sentence are ungrammatical.

- A. **Correct.** Introduced by the subordinating conjunction *that*, the complex clause succinctly contrasts leaders' powers to hurt the economy with their inability to control all economic forces.
- B. The idiom *can be said to* would be appropriate, but *no administration can be said that it* is ungrammatical.
- C. The repetition of *that* is ungrammatical, since both clauses are governed by the initial appearance of *that* after [*a*] *analysts believe*.
- D. This version of the sentence combines the mistakes explained in answer choices B and C.
- E. The repetition of *that* is ungrammatical, since both clauses are governed by the first appearance of *that*. The appearance of *it* makes the sentence unnecessarily wordy and convoluted.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC03146

260. Nearly unrivaled in their biological diversity, coral reefs provide a host of benefits that includes the supply of protein for people, protecting shorelines, and they contain biochemical sources for new life-saving medicines.

- A. coral reefs provide a host of benefits that includes the supply of protein for people, protecting shorelines,
- B. coral reefs provide a host of benefits: they supply people with protein, they protect the shorelines,
- C. coral reefs provide a host of benefits that include supplying protein for people, as well as shoreline protection,
- D. a coral reef provides a host of benefits; they supply protein for people, the protecting of shorelines,
- E. a coral reef provides a host of benefits, including protein for people, protecting shorelines,

### Parallelism; Agreement

When listing several items (here, benefits of coral reefs), they should be expressed in a parallel way, such as by using all noun phrases or all full clauses. Also, pronoun subjects in one clause that refer to the subject of a preceding clause should agree in number.

- A. The three items after *includes* are not parallel (*the supply; protecting shorelines; they contain*).
- B. **Correct.** The three items after *benefits* are parallel (*they supply; they protect; they contain*). The subject of the next clause (*they*) is correctly plural given that its antecedent is *coral reefs*.
- C. The three items after *include* are not parallel: *supplying, shoreline protection, they contain*.
- D. The three items after *benefits* are not parallel (*they supply; the protecting of; they contain*), and in the next clause *they* is the incorrect pronoun given that the antecedent here is the singular *a coral reef*.
- E. The three items after *benefits* are not parallel (*protein; protecting; they contain*), and in the next clause *they* is the incorrect pronoun given that the antecedent here is the singular *a coral reef*.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC12367

261. Literacy opened up entire realms of verifiable knowledge to ordinary men and women having been previously considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves.
- A. having been previously considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves
  - B. who had previously been considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves
  - C. previously considered incapable of discerning truth for himself or herself
  - D. of whom it had previously been considered they were incapable of discerning truth for themselves
  - E. who had previously been considered incapable of discerning truth for himself or herself

### Rhetorical Construction; Agreement

The phrase beginning with *having been* modifies the noun phrase *ordinary men and women*. In cases like this, it is best to use a full relative clause, starting with *that* or a relative pronoun such as *which* or *who*, instead of a clause with the *-ing* form of the verb. Also, *themselves* is the correct form of a reflexive pronoun to refer back to the plural noun phrase *ordinary men and women*.

- A. A phrase starting with the *-ing* verb form, instead of with *that* or *who*, is awkward in this context.
- B. **Correct.** A relative clause correctly beginning with *who* is used, and *themselves* is the correct form for the reflexive pronoun.
- C. *Himself or herself* is not the correct form for the plural reflexive pronoun.
- D. Though the relative and reflexive pronouns are grammatically correct, the relative clause (the clause that starts with *of whom*) is unnecessarily long and complex.
- E. *Himself or herself* is not the correct form for the plural reflexive pronoun.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC01915

262. In early Mesopotamian civilization, castor oil served not only as a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion and it was a construction lubricant for sliding giant stone blocks over wooden rollers.
- A. not only as a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion and it was a construction
  - B. as not only a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion, and it was a construction
  - C. not only as a laxative but also as a skin-softening lotion and as a construction
  - D. as not only a laxative but as a skin-softening lotion and in construction, as a
  - E. not only as a laxative, but a skin-softening lotion and in construction, a

### **Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction**

The sentence indicates three uses for castor oil. The first two are correctly joined using the correlative conjunction *not only, but also*. However, the three uses are not listed in parallel grammatical form. The sentence would be better with three adverb phrases beginning with *as*: *as a laxative, as a skin-softening lotion, and as a construction lubricant*.

- A. The three uses for castor oil are not listed in parallel grammatical form since the first is an adverb phrase, the second is a noun phrase, and the third is an independent clause, which is ungrammatically conjoined to the preceding part of the sentence without an intervening comma.
- B. The three uses for castor oil are not listed in parallel grammatical form since the first two are noun phrases and the third is an independent clause.
- C. **Correct.** The three uses for castor oil are listed as parallel adverb phrases, and the correlative conjunction *not only, but also* is constructed correctly.
- D. The three uses for castor oil are not listed in parallel grammatical form. The placing of *not only* after *as* is incorrect; the phrase *in construction* is also incorrectly placed.
- E. The word *as* is missing from the second and third elements of the correlative conjunction, so the three uses for castor oil are not listed correctly in parallel grammatical form.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC06935

263. An analysis of tree bark all over the globe shows that chemical insecticides have often spread thousands of miles from where they were originally used.
- A. that chemical insecticides have often spread thousands of miles from where they were originally used
  - B. that chemical insecticides have spread, often thousands of miles from their original use



- C. chemical insecticides, having often spread thousands of miles from where they were used originally
- D. chemical insecticides, often spreading thousands of miles from where their original use
- E. chemical insecticides, often spreading thousands of miles from where they were originally used

### Grammatical Construction; Diction

To express the intended meaning, *shows* can be followed by a clause beginning with *that*. Another option would be to use the special clause type *show* + noun phrase + *ing* verb form, such as *show chemical insecticides spreading many miles*—but there should be no pause in the middle of a construction of this latter type. If there is such a pause, then *chemical insecticides* becomes the direct object of *show*, and the following verb-*ing* phrase is an awkward attempt at a modifier of this object. Note also that if something spreads, it spreads from a place or an entity; other ways of expressing this idea in the answer choices are awkward or illogical. Verbs without overt subjects (such as *spreading* here) normally are to be understood as having the same subject as the main clause.

- A. **Correct.** *Show* is correctly followed by a *that* clause, and a place is correctly identified (*from where*) as the source of the spread.
- B. *Show* is followed by a *that* clause, but insecticides are illogically said to have spread from a use, rather than from a place.
- C. *Show* can sometimes take a direct object (here, *chemical insecticides*). However, the construction used here makes *analysis* the subject of *having*. Thus it appears to say, illogically, that the analysis shows that the analysis itself has spread from where the insecticides were used.
- D. *Show* can sometimes take a direct object (here, *chemical insecticides*). However, the construction used here makes *analysis* the subject of *spreading*. Thus, it appears to say, illogically, that the analysis shows that the analysis itself often spreads from where the insecticides were used. Also, *where their original use* is grammatically incorrect (*where they were originally used* is a correct alternative).
- E. *Show* can sometimes take a direct object (here, *chemical insecticides*). However, the construction used here makes *analysis* the subject of *spreading*. Thus, it appears to say, illogically, that the analysis shows that the analysis itself often spreads from where the insecticides were used.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC02241

264. According to the Economic Development Corporation of Los Angeles County, if one were to count the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that is bigger than that of Australia, Mexico, or the Netherlands.
- A. if one were to count the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that is
  - B. if the Los Angeles metropolitan area is counted as a separate nation, it has the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that being
  - C. if the Los Angeles metropolitan area were a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product,
  - D. were the Los Angeles metropolitan area a separate nation, it will have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, which is

- E. when the Los Angeles metropolitan area is counted as a separate nation, it has the world's eleventh largest gross national product, thus

### Diction; Verb Form

The point of this sentence is to explain the implications of a contrary-to-fact state of affairs (Los Angeles metropolitan area as a nation). The subjunctive verb form is needed (*were ... would have*). To attribute this proposed state of affairs to the calculations of an anonymous agent (*one*) causes unnecessary wordiness. The implication of the hypothetical situation is that the Los Angeles area would have the eleventh-largest gross national product (GNP) in the world, a GNP that is further described as larger than the GNP of any of three nations named. This descriptive information is most efficiently presented as a terminal adjective phrase.

- A. By introducing the subject *one*, the opening clause becomes unnecessarily wordy and indirect. The relative clause at the end of the sentence causes additional wordiness. The present indicative verb form *is* in the phrase *that is bigger than ...* is inconsistent with the conditional context established earlier in the sentence (*were ... would*). Since Los Angeles is not a nation, its *national* product is purely hypothetical and contrary to fact.
- B. Because the *if* clause introduces a situation that is contrary to fact, the verbs *is counted* and *has* should be subjunctive and conditional, respectively (*were counted* and *would have*). The relative pronoun phrase *that being* is awkward, wordy, and repetitive.
- C. **Correct.** The subjunctive mood of the verbs is appropriate to the contrary-to-fact situation being described, and the terminal adjective phrase without an introductory relative pronoun is an appropriate way of making the comparison among GNPs.
- D. Although the opening subjunctive verb is appropriate, it must be followed by a conditional verb in the main clause; the relative clause at the end of the sentence, beginning with *which is*, is indirect and wordy. Like answer choice A, *is* is not the most appropriate verb form to express a counterfactual condition.
- E. The verbs *is counted ... has* are incorrect for describing a contrary-to-fact situation. Beginning the final adjective phrase with the word *thus* makes the relationship of the phrase to the rest of the sentence unclear.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC51661.01

265. Some sociologists claim to have found a direct link from the appearance of news stories about violence to the rate of homicide.
- A. from the appearance of news stories about violence to
- B. between the appearance of news stories about violence to
- C. between the appearance of news stories about violence and
- D. with the appearance of news stories about violence to
- E. with the appearance of news stories about violence and

### Idiom; Logical Predication

The sentence's use of the form *a direct link from X to Y* is unidiomatic; the correct idiom would be of the form *a direct link between X and Y*. Because of the inappropriate use of *from*, the sentence initially sets up the expectation that the claim the sociologists make is that they became aware of a direct link from the appearance of news stories about violence.

- A. The sentence uses the unidiomatic form *a direct link from X to Y*.
- B. The sentence uses the unidiomatic form *a direct link between X to Y*.

- C. **Correct.** The sentence uses the correct idiomatic form *direct link between X and Y*.
- D. The sentence uses the unidiomatic form *a direct link with X to Y*.
- E. The sentence uses the unidiomatic form *a direct link with X and Y*.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC61661.01

266. Government statistics on the size of foreign investment in real estate are inconclusive because neither federal nor state laws require disclosure of foreign ownership, and the Commerce Department, in its public tallies, does not categorize the owners.
- A. are inconclusive because neither federal nor state laws require
  - B. are inconclusive because neither the federal nor state laws requires
  - C. are inconclusive because neither federal laws or state laws require
  - D. is inconclusive because neither the federal or state laws requires
  - E. is inconclusive because neither federal laws nor state laws require

### **Idiom; Agreement**

The sentence uses the correct idiomatic form *neither X nor Y*. Also, *statistics* is plural, so *are* is correct; similarly, *laws* is plural so *require* is correct.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence uses the correct idiomatic form *neither X nor Y*; *are* and *require* correctly match their subjects in number, *statistics* and *laws*, respectively.
- B. The sentence uses the idiomatic form *neither X nor Y*, but lacks parallelism in that it matches *the federal* and *state*; it should either match *federal* with *state* or *the federal* with *the state*. Also, because *laws* is plural, the verb should be *require*, not *requires*.
- C. The sentence uses the unidiomatic form *neither X or Y*.
- D. The sentence uses the unidiomatic form *neither X or Y*; it also lacks parallelism in that it matches *the federal* and *state*; it should either match *federal* with *state* or *the federal* with *the state*. Also, because *statistics* is plural, the verb should be *are*, not *is*, and because *laws* is plural, the verb should be *require*, not *requires*.
- E. Because *statistics* is plural, the verb should be *are*, not *is*.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC81661.01

267. In the United States one of the earliest challengers of the economic principle of free trade was Alexander Hamilton, who in 1791 advocated government policies that would encourage indigenous manufacturing and to protect it from competition from British exports.
- A. and to protect it
  - B. but protecting it
  - C. while protecting it
  - D. for protecting them
  - E. to protect them

### **Verb Form; Agreement; Parallelism**

The point of the sentence is that Alexander Hamilton challenged free trade by advocating government policies that would encourage indigenous manufacturing and, at the same time, protect this manufacturing from competition from British exports. Some of the answer

choices use the plural pronoun *them*, but the antecedent of the pronoun is *manufacturing*, which is singular, so the singular pronoun *it* should be used. As given, the sentence correctly uses the singular pronoun *it*, but, because the sentence's predicate is a compound predicate, in which two verb phrases are conjoined by the word *and*, the same verb form should be used, which is not the case here.

- A. Because the predicate is compound, with verb phrases conjoined by *and*, the verb forms should be the same; thus, *to protect* is incorrect. The pronoun *it* is correct, however, as its antecedent is *manufacturing*.
- B. Because the predicate is compound, with verb phrases conjoined by *but*, the verb forms should be the same; thus, *to protect* is incorrect. The pronoun *it* is correct, however, as its antecedent is *manufacturing*.
- C. **Correct.** The sentence is well expressed. The pronoun *it* is correct as its antecedent is *manufacturing*, and the use of the participle phrase *while protecting it from competition from British imports* (the subject, *indigenous manufacturing*, is given earlier and need not be repeated) appropriately conveys the idea that Hamilton advocated policies that protected the manufacturing at the same time as they encouraged its development.
- D. The use of *them* is incorrect. Since it is plural the antecedent cannot be the singular *indigenous manufacturing*, though that would appear to be the intended antecedent (the idea underlying the sentence is that Hamilton, in a challenge to the principle of free trade, sought both to encourage and protect indigenous manufacturing). To take either of the plural nouns *government policies* or *earliest challengers* as the antecedent renders the sentence illogical, as does the use of the preposition *for*. Although it might make sense to think that encouraging indigenous manufacturing would protect the United States, *United States*, like *manufacturing*, is singular, and so cannot serve as the antecedent of *them*.
- E. As with answer choice D, there is no plural noun that is a logically plausible antecedent for the plural pronoun *them*.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC94920.02

268. Some business experts think that allowing employees to buy their employer's stock for a set price, no matter how high the stock rises, will give the employees a powerful incentive to work together, making a company more prosperous, which will thus increase the return to shareholders.
- A. to work together, making a company more prosperous, which will thus
  - B. to work together to make a company more prosperous and will thus
  - C. for working together, making a company more prosperous, and thus they
  - D. for working together to make a company more prosperous, and thus it will
  - E. for working together and making a company more prosperous, which will thus

### **Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction**

The sentence describes the thinking of *some business experts* concerning a recommended policy. Those experts claim that allowing employees to purchase their company's stock at a set price (even if its market value is much higher at the time of purchase) would incentivize employees to work together. They further claim that this would increase shareholder returns. One weakness of the sentence concerns the phrase *making a company more prosperous*. The sentence structure seems to indicate that *allowing their employees to buy ...* will merely give

employees an incentive to work together (something they probably do already out of necessity) and that by providing such an incentive, the policy will make a company more prosperous. But it is difficult to see why a policy that merely encourages employees to work together would make the company more prosperous. The sentence would be more clear if [*to make*] *the company more prosperous* were part of what the employees have an incentive to do. The structure also makes the intended referent of *which* somewhat unclear.

- A. As explained above, the structure of the sentence makes its meaning unclear and potentially puzzling.
- B. **Correct.** This version makes the sentence clearer. It expresses purpose using the adverbial infinitive phrase *to make a company more prosperous*, modifying *to work together*. The noun phrase *allowing ... rises* that is the subject of the verb *will give* carries over to the parallel verb *will ... increase*; the two verb phrases are correctly conjoined by *and*.
- C. The phrase *for working together* is not idiomatic with *incentive*; *incentive to work together* is more standard and more effectively expresses the relationship between the incentive and the goal. As explained above, the occurrence of the phrase *making a company more prosperous* between commas makes the sentence potentially misleading and puzzling. Finally, it is unclear what the pronoun *they* refers to. The fact that *they* is the subject of the present tense verb *increase* suggests that *they* refers to *business experts*, which is also the subject of the present tense verb *think*, but this gives a nonsensical reading.
- D. The prepositional phrase *for working together* is not idiomatic with *incentive*. It is somewhat unclear what the pronoun *it* refers to; it could refer to *allowing ... rises*, to *a power incentive*, or to *a company*.
- E. The prepositional phrase *for working together and ... prosperous* is not idiomatic with *incentive*. Also, it is unclear what the antecedent of *which* is.

**The correct answer is B.**

### Questions 269 to 303 - Difficulty: Medium

SC71661.01

269. Desertification, a process in which the biological productivity of the land is sharply degraded by human abuse and natural phenomena, helped cause the famines that have killed hundreds of thousands in recent years.
- A. a process in which the biological productivity of the land is sharply degraded by human abuse and natural phenomena
  - B. a process of the biological productivity of the land being sharply degraded by human abuse and natural phenomena
  - C. a process of human abuse and natural phenomena that sharply degrade the biological productivity of the land
  - D. which is the process of human abuse and natural phenomena sharply degrading the land's biological productivity
  - E. which is the process of human abuse and natural phenomena that sharply degrade the land's biological productivity

### Rhetorical Construction; Agreement; Logical Predication

The purpose of the underlined phrase is to clarify what *desertification* is. The sentence's description of it as *a process in which the biological diversity of the land is sharply degraded by human abuse and natural phenomena* clearly expresses the intended meaning.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence as worded is clear and to the point.
- B. By saying that *desertification is a process of the biological productivity of the land ...*, this version is potentially ambiguous because it is unclear which noun (*process*, *productivity*, *land*) the participial phrase *being ... phenomena* modifies.
- C. As is the case in answer choice B, this does not clearly indicate that *desertification* simply is a process that consists in the sharp degradation of the biological productivity of the land by human abuse and natural phenomena. Furthermore, because *natural phenomena* is plural, there is an ambiguity: it is unclear whether the subject of the verb *degrade* is both *human abuse* and *natural phenomena*, or simply *natural phenomena*. Also, *process* at least arguably should be the antecedent of the relative pronoun *that*, in which case the verb should be *degrades*.
- D. It is unclear whether *degrading* modifies both *human abuse* and *natural phenomena* or only *natural phenomena*.
- E. Because *natural phenomena* is plural, there is an ambiguity: it is unclear whether the subject *that* of the verb *degrade* has *human abuse and natural phenomena* as antecedent, or simply *natural phenomena*. Also, *process* arguably should be the antecedent, in which case the verb should be *degrades*.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC42661.01

270. Open to the public and operated like conventional hotels, condominium hotels permit buyers to acquire a specific room or suite, as well as a proportionate interest in the rest of the establishment.
- A. condominium hotels permit buyers to acquire a specific room or suite, as well as
  - B. buyers are permitted to acquire a specific room or suite in a condominium hotel, as well as
  - C. a specific room or suite in condominium hotels may be acquired by buyers, as well as acquiring
  - D. condominium hotels permit buyers to acquire a specific room or suite, as well as acquiring
  - E. it is permitted for buyers to acquire a specific room or suite in a condominium hotel, as well as the acquisition of

### **Logical Predication; Verb Form**

The sentence as worded is the best choice. Clearly, the sentence is intended to characterize *condominium hotels* as being *open to the public and operated like conventional hotels*, yet some of the incorrect answer choices illogically predicate the opening description of *buyers* or *a specific room or suite*. Furthermore, some of the incorrect answer choices are either ungrammatical or awkwardly worded (in some cases through unnecessary use of a passive-voice verb form), or they illogically indicate that *a specific room or suite*, rather than *buyers*, may be acquiring *a proportionate interest in the rest of the establishment* of *a specific room or suite*.

- A. **Correct.** The opening description correctly modifies *condominium hotels*, and the rest of the sentence is well formed.
- B. The opening description should modify *condominium hotels*, not *buyers*, as it does here.
- C. The opening description should modify *condominium hotels*, not *a specific room or suite in condominium hotels*, as it does here. Also, clearly it is the *buyers* who may acquire *a proportionate interest in the rest of the establishment*. As worded here, the sentence

seems to say that a specific room or suite in a condominium hotel may be acquiring a proportional interest in the rest of the establishment, which is absurd.

- D. The use of the present participle, *acquiring*, is ungrammatical; the infinitive, *to acquire*, should have been used.
- E. The opening description should modify *condominium hotel*; here it modifies *it*. Also, as worded, the sentence says *it is permitted for buyers to acquire ... the acquisition of a proportionate interest in the rest of the establishment*, which is awkward and redundant.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC52661.01

271. The methods proposed for reducing the amount of interest to be paid are not able to be used successfully without creating a problem of insufficient cash flow in the future.

- A. are not able to be used successfully without creating a problem of insufficient cash flow in the future
- B. are not able successfully to be used without creating a problem in the future of insufficient cash flow
- C. cannot successfully be used without creating a future problem of insufficient cash flow
- D. cannot be used without succeeding in creating a problem in the future of insufficient cash flow
- E. cannot be used without succeeding in creating a future problem of insufficient cash flow

### **Diction; Rhetorical Construction**

The wording is unnecessarily awkward. Also, “able” suggests agency, which is not appropriate with the subject *methods*. The phrase *cannot be used* would be preferable to *are not able to be used*.

- A. The wording is awkward, as explained.
- B. The wording is awkward, as explained above and because of the phrase *in the future of insufficient cash flow*.
- C. **Correct.** This version uses the preferable *cannot successfully be used* and is otherwise clearly and concisely worded.
- D. *Cannot be used without succeeding in creating a problem* is badly worded. Surely the point of the sentence is that the methods cannot be used successfully without creating a future problem of insufficient cash flow; as worded, this version seems to suggest that successfully creating a cash flow problem is a prerequisite for being able to use the methods. Also, *in the future of insufficient cash flow* is awkward.
- E. As explained above, this version seems to suggest that successfully creating a cash flow problem is a prerequisite for being able to use the methods.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC62661.01

272. Despite the Puritan sumptuary laws prohibiting the wearing of bright or elaborate clothing, if you had either a liberal education or an annual income of two hundred pounds one was permitted to display their material prosperity in public.

- A. if you had either a liberal education or an annual income of two hundred pounds one was permitted to display their material prosperity in public

- B. if one had either a liberal education or annual income of two hundred pounds one was permitted the public display of their material prosperity
- C. having either a liberal education or annual income of two hundred pounds would allow one to publicly display their material prosperity
- D. those with either a liberal education or an annual income of two hundred pounds were allowed to display their material prosperity in public
- E. those having either a liberal education or annual income of two hundred pounds were permitted their public display of material prosperity

### **Diction; Agreement; Rhetorical Construction**

The use of *you* is strange, because the sentence is discussing a set of laws that were in place long before the time of the reader. Also, the sentence shifts from *you* to *one*. *One* would be preferable throughout, given that the sentence concerns laws in place long ago. Finally, the use of *their* does not agree in number with *one*. Although in some contexts it is acceptable to use *their* as a singular possessive adjective, it should not be used along with *one* (*one's* would be preferable), and its use in this sentence creates an ambiguity: is its antecedent intended to be *one* or is its antecedent intended to be the plural noun *laws*?

- A. This version fails for the reasons explained above.
- B. The use of *their* is incorrect; in this instance, it can simply be deleted.
- C. The use of *their* is incorrect.
- D. **Correct.** The use of *those* is preferable to *you*. *Their* is acceptable here because *those* is plural.
- E. The force of *their* is unclear. It could, for example, convey a presumption that the people designated by the subject *those ... pounds* would all actually display material prosperity, rather than merely be permitted to do so.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC72661.01

273. Like Darwin and his fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks's trip with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* inspired and shaped his remarkable career in natural science.

- A. Like Darwin and his fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks's trip with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* inspired and shaped his remarkable career in natural science.
- B. Just as Darwin had a fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks's trip with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* inspired and shaped a remarkable career as a natural scientist.
- C. Like Darwin's fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks's trip with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour* inspired and shaped a remarkable career in natural science.
- D. Just as Darwin's fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks sailed with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour*, inspiring and shaping his remarkable career as a natural scientist.
- E. Like Darwin's fruitful voyage on the *Beagle*, Banks sailed with Captain Cook on the *Endeavour*, which inspired and shaped a remarkable career in natural science.

### **Parallelism; Diction; Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication**

Absent relevant context or detailed knowledge about the relevant history, the given sentence seems open to more than one interpretation. Such ambiguity indicates a rhetorical-construction failure. On one interpretation, the given sentence seems aimed at comparing Banks's sea voyage and Darwin's with respect to the influence those voyages had on scientific careers—but the given sentence and its alternatives vary in how successfully this comparison



is executed. For example, the comparison in the given sentence is presented loosely and somewhat illogically: Bank's trip is compared with "Darwin and his fruitful voyage." In some variants, *just as* is used instead of *like*. These uses of *just as* fail to make clear the comparison intended. The word *like* is a preposition that is normally followed by a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun that it governs; *just as* is normally used as a conjunction, introducing a subordinate clause. Failure to take this distinction into account is a diction error.

- A. This is ambiguous and for that reason fails rhetorically. The comparison between Banks's trip and "Darwin and his fruitful voyage" is drawn loosely and somewhat illogically.
- B. The comparison articulated here is between two disparate facts: Darwin had a fruitful voyage, and Banks's trip inspired and shaped a scientific career. The expected parallelism between two sea voyages is absent. The conjunction *just as* is used idiomatically, however.
- C. **Correct.** This version articulates the comparison more clearly than any of the other versions. It conveys that Banks's voyage resembled Darwin's voyage in one respect: each inspired and shaped a scientific career. The preposition *like* is used to indicate the resemblance.
- D. The phrase *just as* is normally used as a conjunction, introducing a subordinate clause; here the clause, made explicit, is: *Just as Darwin's fruitful voyage on the Beagle [did].* The verb *did* is implicit. However, this reading creates a nonsensical parallelism that, taken strictly, represents Darwin's fruitful voyage as having sailed with Captain Cook—a logical-predication issue. A separate point is that the participial phrase *inspiring ... scientist*, which modifies *Banks*, represents Banks as inspiring his own scientific career—probably not the intended meaning.
- E. The phrase *like ... Beagle* is a prepositional phrase and is nonparallel with the main clause *Banks sailed ... Endeavor*. This failure of parallelism impairs the expression of the intended comparison, which is between Darwin's voyage and Banks's. The structure of the sentence also involves a logical-predication error in that it indicates (absurdly) a similarity between a person (Banks) and Darwin's voyage.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC82661.01

274. When more and more factories move out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the job market for the urban poor, have become fewer and fewer.

- A. When more and more factories move out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the job market for the urban poor, have become fewer and fewer.
- B. At the time that more and more factories move out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the job market for the urban poor, become less and less.
- C. When more and more factories move out of the cities each year, then manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the urban poor's job market, become less and less.
- D. Since more and more factories have moved out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the urban poor's job market, have become less and less.
- E. As more and more factories move out of the cities each year, manufacturing jobs, historically the first step into the job market for the urban poor, become fewer and fewer.

**Verb Form; Diction**

The verb tenses of the sentence should match. *When more and more factories move out* dictates that the verb predicated of *manufacturing jobs* should be *become*, not *have become*. For *have become* to be correct, the sentence would need to begin with *When more and more factories have moved out*. Some of the answer choices incorrectly have *less and less*; because manufacturing jobs are countable, *fewer and fewer* is correct (as it is in the underlined portion of the sentence).

- A. *Have become* is incorrect. The tense should match that in *when more and more factories move out*; thus, *become* would be correct.
- B. This version of the sentence is unnecessarily wordy (e.g., *at the time that*) and incorrectly uses *less and less* rather than *fewer and fewer*.
- C. This version of the sentence incorrectly uses *less and less* rather than *fewer and fewer*. The use of *then* after the first comma is unnecessary and unidiomatic.
- D. This version of the sentence incorrectly uses *less and less* rather than *fewer and fewer*.
- E. **Correct.** The verb *become* has the same tense as the phrasal verb *move out* and *fewer and fewer* is correct.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC92661.01

275. The thousands of volcanic islands and coral atolls of the South Seas have a total population of about four million, but the paucity of natural resources does not permit such economic development that would be needed by them to support more population.

- A. does not permit such economic development that would be needed by them to support more population
- B. does not permit economic development such as is needed for supporting a larger number
- C. does not permit the economic development needed to support a larger population
- D. do not permit the economic development needed to support a larger population
- E. do not permit needed economic development for supporting a larger number of people

### **Diction; Agreement; Rhetorical Construction**

The use of *that* in *does not permit such economic development that would be needed* is incorrect. *That* should be replaced with *as*. However, even if this correction were made, the sentence would still be poorly worded. The antecedent of *them* (*volcanic islands and coral atolls*) is too far separated from the pronoun, and the use of the passive voice (*would be needed by them*) lacks the clarity and rhetorical force the active voice would have provided (*they would need*). That said, it would be preferable to avoid the *such ... as* form entirely. *Does not permit the economic development needed to support a larger population* conveys the same idea more succinctly.

- A. The sentence has the problems explained above.
- B. *Such as is needed* is awkward; *a larger number* is unclear.
- C. **Correct.** This version clearly and concisely conveys the intended idea.
- D. The subject of the verb is *paucity*, which is singular; thus, *do* is incorrect and should be replaced with *does*.
- E. The subject of the verb is *paucity*, which is singular; thus, *do* is incorrect and should be replaced with *does*; also, *needed economic development for supporting a larger number of people* is awkward.

**The correct answer is C.**

276. In contrast with a dark surface and its tendency toward heat absorption, a large expanse of snow and ice reflects incoming radiation into space.

- A. In contrast with a dark surface and its tendency toward heat absorption
- B. Contrasted with a dark surface's tendency to absorb heat
- C. Since it is in contrast to a dark surface and its tendency to absorb heat
- D. Contrasted to the tendency of a dark surface to absorb heat
- E. In contrast to a dark surface, which tends to absorb heat

### Idiom; Parallelism

When *contrast* follows *in*, *contrast* functions as a noun; the appropriate preposition to use after *contrast* when it functions as a noun is *to*; *with* is the preferred preposition to use after *contrast* only when *contrast* functions as a verb. Thus, the sentence's use of *in contrast with* is incorrect. Also, the logical contrast would be between *a dark surface* and *a large expanse of snow and ice*, not between both *a dark surface and its tendency toward heat absorption* and *a large expanse of snow*.

- A. *In contrast with* is not idiomatic; the correct preposition to use when *contrast* functions as a noun is *to*. Also, the logical contrast to make would be between *a dark surface* and *a large expanse of snow and ice*, not between both *a dark surface and its tendency toward heat absorption* and *a large expanse of snow*.
- B. The appropriate contrast is between *a dark surface* and *a large expanse of snow and ice*, not, as it is here, between *a dark surface's tendency to absorb heat* and *a large expanse of snow and ice*.
- C. Because of its use of *since*, this version illogically states that the reason a large expanse of snow and ice reflects incoming radiation into space is that it is in contrast to a dark surface and its tendency to absorb heat.
- D. The preferred preposition to use with *contrasted* (and with *contrast* whenever it is used as a verb rather than as a noun) is *with*, not *to*, which is used here. Also, *a large expanse of snow and ice* is illogically contrasted with *the tendency of a dark surface to absorb heat*.
- E. **Correct.** *In contrast to* is the correct idiom; *a large expanse of snow and ice* is logically contrasted with *a dark surface*.

**The correct answer is E.**

277. The greatest road system built in the Americas prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus was the Incan highway, which, over 2,500 miles long and extending from northern Ecuador through Peru to southern Chile.

- A. Columbus was the Incan highway, which, over 2,500 miles long and extending
- B. Columbus was the Incan highway, over 2,500 miles in length, which had extended
- C. Columbus, the Incan highway, which was over 2,500 miles in length and extended
- D. Columbus, the Incan highway, being over 2,500 miles in length, was extended
- E. Columbus, the Incan highway was over 2,500 miles long, extending

### Grammatical Construction; Verb Form

The sentence begins with a long noun phrase *the greatest ... Columbus*, a description that we are told refers to the Incan highway. The sentence also aims to tell us the length of this highway and what regions it passed through. One issue in the sentence concerns correct sentence formation. A related issue concerns the appropriate verb form to be used.

- A. The formation of the relative clause introduced by *which* is faulty, mainly because of its present-participle verb form *extending*. A relative clause giving a correct completion of the sentence would have been *which was over 2,500 miles long and extended ... Chile*.
- B. This has two flaws present in the phrase *which had extended*. The relative pronoun *which* could be read as having the immediately preceding noun *length*, rather than *highway*, as its antecedent. Also, the complex verb form *had extended*, which normally refers to a time preceding a past time mentioned in the sentence, is incorrect here; the simple past *extended* is needed.
- C. The passage, if completed with this wording, would lack a main verb and therefore would not be a sentence, as opposed to a very long noun phrase followed by a relative clause.
- D. A glaring flaw here is use of the passive verb form *was extended* instead of the active and intransitive verb form *extended*. This conveys an unintended meaning, i.e., that the highway was initially 2,500 miles long but was later made even longer. Another flaw is the unnecessary and awkward use of the participle *being*.
- E. **Correct.** Completing the passage with this wording gives a sentence with *the Incan highway* as its subject. The noun phrase *the greatest ... Columbus* provides a description of the Incan highway. The participial phrase beginning with *extending* modifies the sentence subject, thereby providing a further description of the highway.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC99250.01

278. Due to poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, researchers have determined that there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, and thus the leopards are many times as rare as China's giant pandas.

- A. Due to poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, researchers have determined that there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, and thus the leopards are many times as rare as
- B. Due to poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, researchers have determined, making them many times more rare than
- C. There are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild due to poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, researchers have determined, which makes the leopards many times more rare compared to
- D. Researchers have determined that, because of poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, thus making them many more times as rare as
- E. Researchers have determined that, because of poaching and increased cultivation in their native habitats, there are fewer than 100 Arabian leopards left in the wild, and thus the leopards are many times more rare than

### **Grammatical Construction; Diction**

The sentence contains three errors. The adverbial phrase *due to ... habitats* is so positioned as to appear to modify the verb *have determined*—thus making the possessive adjective *their* seem, incorrectly, to refer to *researchers*. The comparison indicated by *many times as rare*

as is intended to indicate that one group is rarer than another, a meaning properly conveyed by a comparative adjective—either *rarer* or *more rare*—plus *than*.

- A. This fails to give a correct sentence, for the reasons explained above.
- B. This wording is awkward in part because of the placement of *researchers have determined*. It also contains a subtle error in failing to indicate clearly that the researchers ascertained not only the reduction in the number of leopards but also the causes of this reduction.
- C. The phrasing is ambiguous and awkward. The reason the remaining leopards are “left in the wild” is surely not due to poaching or increased cultivation; the determinations made by the researchers have surely not made the leopards rarer—and one can assume that the writer of the passage did not intend to state otherwise. Another point: the comparison indicated by *more rare* would normally be completed by use of *than*, not *compared to*.
- D. The phrase *many more times as rare as* is not the correct way to indicate that the Arabian leopards are much more rare than giant pandas. Also, the participial phrase *making them* can be read as an awkwardly placed modifier of the sentence subject *researchers*, which would convey the nonsensical idea that the researchers made the leopards rarer.
- E. **Correct.** This version is the only one that avoids all the errors explained above.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC04215

279. Developed by Pennsylvania’s Palatine Germans about 1750, Conestoga wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and they had a floor curved upward on either end so as to prevent cargo from shifting on steep grades.

- A. wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and they had a floor curved upward on either end so as to prevent
- B. wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and with a floor that was curved upward at both ends to prevent
- C. wagons, which had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and floors curved upward on their ends so that they prevented
- D. wagons had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and a floor that was curved upward at both ends to prevent
- E. wagons had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and floors curving upward at their ends so that it prevented

### **Logical Predication; Parallelism; Grammatical Construction**

The main subject of this sentence is *Conestoga wagons* and the main verb is *had*. The opening participial phrase describes the origin of the wagons, and the rest of the sentence describes the features they possessed. These features must be presented in parallel form as objects of the verb *had*. The sentence first presented is a fragment; the prepositional phrase *with ...* leaves the subject *Conestoga wagons* without a verb. When the verb *had* finally appears, a new subject *they* has been unnecessarily introduced.

- A. The subject *wagons* is without a verb. The introduction of a new subject *they* is unnecessary. Given the absence of *had* after *wagons* and of a comma after *prairie*, it is also ungrammatical.
- B. This version of the sentence has no main verb for the subject *wagons*.

- C. As in answer choices A and B, this version of the sentence fails to provide a main verb for the subject *wagons*.
- D. **Correct.** The main verb *had* completes the subject *wagons* and accommodates the two direct objects, *wheels* and *a floor*. The comma after *prairie* helps to clarify that *floors* is a direct object of *had*, parallel with *high wheels*.
- E. The referent for *it* is ambiguous.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC60440.01

280. The current economic downturn has significantly reduced advertising income both for business journals as well as general consumer magazines, especially if focusing on technology.

- A. has significantly reduced advertising income both for business journals as well as general consumer magazines, especially if focusing
- B. has significantly reduced advertising income both for business journals and for general consumer magazines, especially those focusing
- C. significantly reduced advertising income for both business journals and for general consumer magazines, especially when focused
- D. reduced both business journals' and general consumer magazines' advertising income significantly, especially if focused
- E. reduced advertising income significantly for both business journals, as well as for general consumer magazines, especially those focusing

### **Idiom; Grammatical Construction; Parallelism**

The sentence contains errors related to the use of *both* to signal coordination of two elements of the sentence. The correct idiom is *both ... and*; the phrase *as well as* is not interchangeable with *and*. Moreover, the elements meant to be coordinated are prepositional phrases, the first one being *for business journals*—but the preposition *for* is incorrectly omitted in the second element to be coordinated, a failure of required parallelism. The structure of the sentence suggests that the phrase *especially if focusing on technology* modifies the subject of the sentence, *the current economic downturn*. However, this is not the intended meaning. What is intended is a reference to a subclass of magazines (those that focus on technology).

- A. This contains multiple errors: incorrect coordination using *both*; omission of *for* in the second coordinated element; and a misplaced modifier *especially if focusing on technology*.
- B. **Correct.** This sentence correctly uses the idiom *both ... and* to coordinate two prepositional phrases and uses a well-structured participial phrase to identify a subclass of the class of general consumer magazines.
- C. The position of *for*, preceding rather than following *both*, is incorrect. This misleadingly suggests that just two business journals are being referred to and fails by incorrectly coordinating two structurally dissimilar elements, i.e., a noun phrase (*both business journals*) and a prepositional phrase (*for general consumer magazines*). The phrase *especially when focused ...* seems to modify the sentence subject, but in context that reading fails to capture the intended meaning.
- D. The phrase *especially if focused ...* seems to modify the sentence subject, but in context that reading fails to capture the intended meaning. The simple-past verb *reduced* instead of the past-perfect form *has reduced* does not go well with the reference to a “current”

economic downturn. The past-perfect form indicates a past action that is carrying over to the present, and this meaning would be more appropriate.

- E. This variant makes it appear that just two unnamed business journals are being referred to, contrary to the clearly intended meaning of the sentence. The simple-past verb *reduced* instead of the past-perfect form *has reduced* does not go well with the reference to a “current” economic downturn.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC01002

281. The reason many people consider the Mediterranean island to be ungovernable is because that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and neutralize all written laws.

- A. is because that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and neutralize
- B. is the inhabitants long ago learned distrusting and neutralizing
- C. was because of the inhabitants long ago learning to distrust and to be neutralizing
- D. is that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and to neutralize
- E. was on account of the inhabitants long ago learning to distrust and neutralize

**Verb Form; Grammatical Construction**

The sentence provides a reason for why “many people” consider a certain Mediterranean island to be “ungovernable.” It has the form *X is Y*, with *X* a noun phrase that refers to the reason in terms of what is being explained. *Y* provides the explanation.

- A. This sentence has two words next to one another that would each, by itself, have the same function. Each of *because* and *that* could serve alone to introduce the explanation and is provided by portion *Y*. Furthermore, in addition to introducing a redundancy, the two words together make the sentence ungrammatical. Removing any one of these words would resolve this issue.
- B. If the word *that* were inserted between *is* and *the*, then it would be more immediately clear, when reading this sentence, where the explanation begins (immediately after the word *that*). Furthermore, *learned distrusting and neutralizing all written laws* should be *learned to distrust and to neutralize all written laws*.
- C. In this sentence, the verb *consider* needs to agree with *was*. As it stands, *consider* pertains to the present while *was* pertains to the past.
- D. **Correct.** This sentence follows recommendations made in connection with answer choice A.
- E. As in answer choice C, the verb *consider* needs to agree with *was*.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC28801.01

282. Though there is some overlap with the two concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire*, several important differences between them must be borne in mind.

- A. with the two concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire*, several important differences between them must be borne in mind
- B. between the two concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire*, several important differences must be borne in mind
- C. spanning the two concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire*, one must bear several important differences between them in mind

- D. among the two concepts of *market economy* and *laissez faire*, there are several important differences among them that must be borne in mind
- E. with the two concepts of *market economy* and *laissez faire*, one must bear in mind several important differences

### Idiom; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence's unidiomatic use of *there is some overlap with the two concepts* misleadingly sets up the expectation that there is some third thing that overlaps with the concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire*, whereas the sentence is merely intending to say that those two concepts overlap with one another. The sentence would be clearer and more idiomatic if it instead said *there is some overlap between the two concepts*. Because the sentence uses *with* rather than *between* in the first clause, the sentence must indicate that the differences in question are between these two concepts by using the awkward locution *several important differences between them*.

- A. The sentence should use *between* rather than *with*, allowing it to avoid having to use the awkward phrase *several important differences between them*.
- B. **Correct.** The sentence uses the idiomatic phrase *overlap between the two*; the second clause is well expressed.
- C. The use of *overlap spanning the two* is unidiomatic; *one must bear several important differences between them in mind* is awkward.
- D. When talking of just two things, *between* rather than *among* should be used; *there are several important differences among them that must be borne in mind* is awkward and wordy.
- E. *Between* rather than *with* should be used; the use of *with* improperly sets up an expectation that the sentence is discussing an overlap between the two concepts *market economy* and *laissez faire* and some third thing.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC71061.01

283. Because of the erratic pattern of sales increases this year, retailers and analysts hesitate to predict five-year trends in retail sales during the months that have historically been the most profitable.
- A. Because of the erratic pattern of sales increases this year, retailers and analysts hesitate to predict
  - B. With the erratic pattern of this year's sales increases, retailers and analysts are hesitant in predicting
  - C. This year, due to the erratic pattern of increasing sales, there is some hesitation among retailers and analysts in predicting
  - D. The erratic pattern of sales increases have made retailers and analysts hesitate this year to predict
  - E. This year's erratic pattern of increasing sales have made retailers and analysts hesitate to predict

### Diction; Idiom; Agreement

The intended idea of the sentence is that this year's erratic pattern of sales increases has made retailers and analysts hesitant to make any prediction regarding a particular trend. This idea is well expressed by using *because of*. Furthermore, the correct answer, unlike some of



the other answer choices, uses the appropriate idiom *hesitant to* rather than *hesitant in* and has no agreement error between subject and verb.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence's use of *Because of* appropriately conveys the idea that the erratic pattern of sales increases explains why the retailers and analysts are hesitant to make a prediction. The sentence uses the correct idiom *hesitate to* and has no agreement errors.
- B. The use of *with* is less effective than *because of* in the correct answer; the meaning is conveyed less clearly than in answer choice A. Also, *hesitant in predicting* is awkward and unidiomatic.
- C. *Due to* effectively communicates that the erratic pattern of increasing sales helps explain the retailers' and analysts' hesitation to make a prediction, but the sentence employs the awkward, wordy, and unidiomatic *hesitation ... in predicting*.
- D. *The erratic pattern ...* is singular, so the verb should be *has*. The placement of the adverbial phrase *this year* would be more appropriate immediately following *increases*.
- E. *The erratic pattern ...* is singular, so the verb should be *has*.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC89941.01

284. Proceeding without a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, like the firm had agreed to last year, it would surely have proven to be a disaster in the face of the skilled and resolute opposition involved this time.
- A. Proceeding without a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, like the firm had agreed to last year, it would surely have proven to be a disaster
  - B. Proceeding without a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, as the firm agreed last year to do, would surely have proven to be a disaster
  - C. Going ahead without the presence of a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, like the firm had agreed last year to do, would surely have proven disastrous
  - D. To proceed without the presence of a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, as the firm had agreed to last year, would surely have proven disastrous
  - E. Going ahead without their having a definite plan for upcoming labor negotiations, as they agreed to last year, it would surely have proven to be a disaster for the firm

### **Diction; Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication**

Although in informal speech and writing, *like* is sometimes used as a conjunction as it is here, this use in more formal writing is controversial and is generally frowned on; using *as* instead of *like* would be preferable in this sentence. The phrase *proceeding without a definite plan for the upcoming labor negotiations* can function either as a gerund phrase, in which case it functions as a noun, or as a participle phrase, in which case it functions as an adjective. As worded here, the phrase may seem to function as an adjective, modifying *it*. However, what is meant by the sentence is that the act of proceeding without a definite plan would have proven to be a disaster, in which case the word *it* should be removed and the phrase in question should be taken to be a gerund phrase that acts as the subject for the verb *would have proven*.

- A. The sentence is flawed in the ways explained above.
- B. **Correct.** This version correctly uses *as* rather than *like*, and concisely uses the phrase beginning with *proceeding* as the subject of the sentence.
- C. *Without the presence of a definite plan* is wordier than necessary; *without a definite plan* would be preferable. *As* would be preferable to *like*.

- D. *Without the presence of a definite plan* is wordier than necessary; *without a definite plan* would be preferable.
- E. *Without their having a definite plan* is wordy; *without a definite plan* would be preferable. The word *it* should be removed as described in connection with answer choice A.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC03916

285. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer fibers and is less likely to leave an unsightly scar.
- A. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer
- B. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut having been made along these so-called Langer's lines severs less
- C. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines severs fewer
- D. With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever less
- E. With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer

### Agreement; Diction

This sentence explains a causal connection between the alignment of collagen fibers and the impact of a particular type of surgical cut. *Because* is appropriate to express that causal relationship. The singular verb in the phrase *is less likely to leave* requires a singular subject (*cut*) and must be coordinated with another singular verb (*severs*). Because *fibers* are countable, the correct modifier is *fewer* rather than *less*.

- A. The plural subject *cuts* does not agree with the singular verb *is*.
- B. The verb form *having been made* is inconsistent with the present tense verb *severs*; *less* inappropriately modifies countable *fibers*.
- C. **Correct.** The adverbial conjunction *because* accurately captures the causal relationship expressed by the sentence. The singular subject *cut* agrees with the singular verbs *severs* and *is*, and *fewer* appropriately modifies countable *fibers*.
- D. The preposition *with* does not capture the causal relationship expressed by the sentence; the plural subject *cuts* does not agree with the singular verbs (*severs* and *is*); and *less* is an inappropriate modifier for countable *fibers*.
- E. As in answer choice D, the preposition *with* fails to capture the causal relationship between alignment of fibers and scarring. The plural verb *sever* does not agree with the singular subject *cut* and the subsequent singular verb *is*.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC01639

286. The completion in 1925 of the Holland Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and was hailed as the decade's \$48 million engineering masterpiece.

- A. Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and
- B. Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways and permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour, it
- C. Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways and permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour,
- D. Tunnel linked Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and
- E. Tunnel linked Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour,

### Grammatical Construction; Parallelism

The sentence (not a properly grammatical sentence as it stands) reports that the completion of the Holland Tunnel was hailed as an engineering masterpiece. Parenthetically, it seeks to describe characteristics of the tunnel that made it useful and perhaps help explain its enthusiastic reception. Questions to consider include: what is the proper antecedent of the relative pronoun *which*? And how would the tunnel's two major characteristics be best described?

- A. The relative pronoun *which* is adjacent to *New Jersey's highways*, but contextually, *the completion of the Holland Tunnel* (or perhaps *the Holland Tunnel*) seems to be the pronoun's antecedent. The relative clause has two verbal phrases *permitted ...* and *was hailed ...* coordinated with *and*. However, there is no properly grammatical sentence here, since there is no independent clause.
- B. The participial phrases *linking ... highways* and *permitting ... hour* are parallel and coordinated by *and*. This portion is correct and describes two characteristics of the tunnel. However, the addition of the pronoun *it* makes what precedes it into a mere sentence fragment, so there is no properly grammatical sentence here.
- C. **Correct.** The complex phrase *linking ... hour* correctly exhibits parallelism between two participial phrases and modifies *the Holland Tunnel*. The phrase functions parenthetically, and the sentence as a whole has a coherent grammatical structure.
- D. The antecedent of the relative pronoun *which* is unclear and makes this version fail. Is it *New Jersey's highways*, the whole preceding clause, or *the completion of the Holland Tunnel*? The relative pronoun is the subject both of *permitted* and of *was hailed* in the complex relative clause and must have the same antecedent in both cases. As the subject of *was hailed*, the pronoun's antecedent is *the completion of the Holland Tunnel*. As the subject of *permitted*, the pronoun cannot grammatically have that as its antecedent. Thus the complex relative clause *which permitted ... masterpiece* is grammatically incoherent.
- E. This version makes *was hailed ... masterpiece* into a mere sentence fragment, not properly coordinated with the remainder of the sentence.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC03315

287. The World Wildlife Fund has declared that global warming, a phenomenon that most scientists agree is caused by human beings' burning of fossil fuels, will create havoc among migratory birds by harming their habitats as a result of altering the environment.
- A. by harming their habitats as a result of altering the environment
  - B. by altering the environment to the extent of it harming their habitats

- C. by altering the environment in ways harmful to their habitats
- D. from the fact that their habitats will be harmed by the environment being altered
- E. from the fact that the environment will be altered and this will harm their habitats

### Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence describes a declaration by the World Wildlife Fund that global warming will “create havoc” among migratory birds in certain respects, which are specified in the underlined portion. The underlined portion thus needs to specify, in a clear and focused fashion, how, according to the World Wildlife Fund, global warming will create havoc for the birds.

- A. The description in this answer choice of the effects of global warming among migratory birds is convoluted and confusing. First, the sentence as written does not specify who or what is altering the environment. Second, given the reasonable guess that it is global warming that is or will harm the environment, the order of the listing of the causal elements is confusing. According to the sentence, global warming will alter the environment and then this altering will harm the habitat of birds. However, although this sentence accurately describes what causes what, the elements are listed in an order that does not correspond to the order of causation (“global warming” is followed by “harming the habitats,” which is followed by “altering the environment”).
- B. This sentence uses the word *extent*, followed by a condition, *it harming their habitats*, intended to imply a certain level of *extent*. The extent is great enough to harm the habitat of the birds. However, as worded, the sentence does not provide a clear condition on the level of extent. For example, in *it harming their habitat*, it is not clear what *it* refers to. The word *it* could refer to the environment or to the extent of change to the environment.
- C. **Correct.** This sentence clearly specifies how global warming will “create havoc” for the birds.
- D. This sentence, like answer choice A, is convoluted and confusing, in part because, when reading the sentence, it is unnecessarily difficult to understand what is supposed to be causing what. Note that, although the meaning of this answer choice is more or less the same as that of answer choice C, this sentence in answer choice D is much more difficult to process.
- E. This sentence is unnecessarily wordy and difficult to process. Answer choice C is a much better choice.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC05244

288. Tropical bats play an important role in the rain forest ecosystem, aiding in the dispersal of cashew, date, and fig seeds; pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help the producing of tequila by pollinating agave plants.

- A. pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help the producing of
- B. pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly helping to produce
- C. pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and they indirectly help to produce
- D. they pollinate banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help producing
- E. they pollinate banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; indirectly helping the producing of

### Parallelism; Diction

The sentence indicates three ways in which tropical bats play an important role in the rainforest ecosystem, but it does not express these three ways by using appropriately parallel

grammatical constructions. The first two ways mentioned—*aiding in the dispersal of cashew, date, and fig seeds* and *pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees*—are expressed using participial phrases (which function as adjectives), whereas the third is expressed as part of a compound predicate—*and indirectly help the producing of tequila by pollinating agave plants* (also note that *the producing of* involves a poor choice of words, and would be better expressed by writing *to produce* or perhaps *with the production of*).

- A. The phrases beginning with *aiding*, *pollinating*, and *help* are not appropriately parallel grammatical constructions. Also *the producing of* is awkward and would be better worded as *to produce* or *with the production of*.
- B. **Correct.** This sentence has an appropriate grammatical parallelism and involves no questionable word choices.
- C. The construction of the sentence is not appropriately parallel.
- D. The construction of the sentence is not appropriately parallel and *producing* is a questionable choice of words (*to produce* would be better).
- E. The construction of the sentence is not appropriately parallel and *the producing of* is a questionable choice of words (*to produce* or perhaps *with the production of* would be better).

**The correct answer is B.**

SC04346

289. A recent court decision has qualified a 1998 ruling that workers cannot be laid off if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will be safe, provided that their performance remains satisfactory.

- A. if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will
- B. if they are given reason for believing that their jobs would still
- C. having been given reason for believing that their jobs would
- D. having been given reason to believe their jobs to
- E. given reason to believe that their jobs will still

### **Verb Form; Idiom**

This sentence asserts that a court decision has qualified a 1998 ruling. It then goes on to explain the series of conditions stipulated by that ruling: workers cannot be laid off if they have been given (prior) reason to believe that continued satisfactory job performance will (always) ensure that their jobs are safe. To express these complicated temporal relationships, the present tense passive verb *cannot be laid off* describes the assurance provided by the ruling; the present-perfect, passive verb describes the prior condition *have been given ...*, and the future tense verb *will be* describes the outcome the workers can expect. The idiom *reason to believe* succinctly describes the assurance given to workers.

- A. **Correct.** The sequence of conditions makes sense, and the idiom is correct.
- B. The present tense *are given* fails to clarify that the assurance of job security must precede the workers' confidence that they cannot be laid off. The phrase *reason for believing* (singular, with no article) is unidiomatic and in this context is inappropriate.
- C. This version appears to be presenting *having been given reason ...* as a restrictive modifier of *laid off*. This makes the sentence very awkward and hard to make sense of, and it obscures the requisite nature of the condition (that workers had been given prior reason to think their jobs were safe). *Reason for believing* is unidiomatic.

- D. Without a comma after *off*, it is unclear what *having been given reason ...* modifies; the string of infinitive phrases is awkward and confusing.
- E. As in answer choice D, it is unclear what the participial phrase (in this case, *given reason to believe*) is supposed to modify.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC04874

290. Of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and Okeh.

- A. Of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and Okeh.
- B. Three most prominent record companies of all the ones that were involved in early jazz were Columbia, Victor, and Okeh.
- C. Columbia, Victor, and Okeh were, of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three of them that were most prominent.
- D. Columbia, Victor, and Okeh were three most prominent of all the record companies involved in early jazz.
- E. Out of all the record companies that were involved in early jazz, three of them that were the most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and Okeh.

### Diction; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence aims to emphasize the special prominence of just three specific companies, as opposed to all other companies. Where *three most prominent companies* is not preceded by a definite article, it is unidiomatic. To indicate that these three were more prominent than any others, it should say *the three most prominent companies*. If the intention were, instead, to indicate that these companies were merely among a number of highly prominent ones, it should say *three of the most prominent companies*. Also, in general, one should avoid relative clause constructions when simple adjectives can express the same idea more simply.

- A. **Correct.** *The three ...* is used, and *prominent* modifies the understood *companies* in a concise way.
- B. *The* is omitted before *three*, and *of all the ones that were involved* is inferior to a simpler expression such as *of all the ones involved*.
- C. *The three of them that were most prominent* is long and awkward; *the three most prominent* is shorter and simpler.
- D. *The* is omitted before *three*.
- E. Not only is *the* omitted, but *three of them that were the most prominent* is too long and complex, compared to *the three most prominent*.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC01451

291. Since 1992, in an attempt to build up the Atlantic salmon population in each of the seven rivers in which salmon still spawn, state officials in Maine have stocked them with fry raised in hatcheries from eggs produced by wild fish found in that particular river.

- A. them
- B. the river
- C. the rivers

- D. each river
- E. that river

### Rhetorical Construction; Diction

The meaning that the sentence was intended to convey is clear, but because the plural *them* is discordant with the singulars *each* and *that particular river*, the sentence fails to express its intended meaning coherently.

- A. The earlier part of the sentence uses the phrase *each of the seven rivers*, so the plural *them* is inappropriate.
- B. The phrase *the river* is singular but can refer only to a particular river, whereas *each* refers to the individual rivers in the group of seven.
- C. The plural *the rivers* does not match the singular *each* in the earlier part of the sentence.
- D. **Correct.** The phrase *each river* is consistent with the earlier reference to “each of the seven rivers.”
- E. Although *that river* is singular, it can only refer to a particular river, but no particular river is referred to in the earlier part of the sentence.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC02382

292. On the tournament roster are listed several tennis students, most all of which play as good as their instructors.
- A. most all of which play as good
  - B. most all of whom play as good
  - C. almost all of which play as well
  - D. almost all of whom play as good
  - E. almost all of whom play as well

### Idiom; Diction

The standard formal, written word to express a quantity just short of everything is *almost*, not *most*. With animate entities such as people, *who(m)* is preferred over *which*. For all but a few exceptional verbs, adverbial modifiers (*well*) are correct as opposed to adjectival ones (*good*).

- A. None of *most*, *which*, or *good* are the preferred forms.
- B. *Most* and *good* are not the correct standard forms.
- C. Although *almost* and *well* are fine, *which* is not.
- D. Although *almost* and *whom* are fine, *good* is not.
- E. **Correct.** All of *almost*, *whom*, and *well* are correct.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC07143

293. In 1974 a large area of the surface of Mercury was photographed from varying distances, which revealed a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon's.
- A. which revealed a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon's
  - B. to reveal a degree of cratering similar to the Moon
  - C. revealing a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon

- D. and revealed cratering similar in degree to the Moon
- E. that revealed cratering similar in degree to that of the Moon

### Logical Predication; Parallelism

This sentence's second clause, expressing what the imaging of Mercury showed, must be linked to the first clause in a grammatically correct way. This is best done either by an appositive relative clause (requiring the relative marker *which*), or by a clause starting with a nonfinite verb (*to reveal* or *revealing*). Also, whatever is said to be similar to a degree of cratering (on Mercury) should also be a degree of cratering (on the Moon); this must be expressed clearly.

- A. The use of *which* is correct, but *that of the Moon's* is inferior to *that of the Moon*, because the possessive 's and *that of the* redundantly express the same idea. *That of the Moon's* appears to refer, illogically, to cratering of some unspecified thing that belongs to the Moon, not cratering of the Moon itself.
- B. *To reveal* is acceptable, but *to the Moon* incorrectly compares a physical entity (the Moon) to a degree of cratering.
- C. **Correct.** *Revealing* is a good way to start the second clause, and *to that of the Moon* properly contrasts two degrees of cratering.
- D. *And* is incorrect as a way to introduce the second clause; *to the Moon* makes the wrong sort of comparison.
- E. *That* is not the correct way to introduce an appositive relative clause. *That* is typically used restrictively, whereas the comma preceding it makes the ensuing clause nonrestrictive. This leaves the meaning unclear.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC46270.02

294. The survival of a rare New Zealand species of mistletoe that produces spectacular sprays of scarlet flowers is threatened both because their leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and also because their flowers are pollinated by two species of birds whose populations are in decline.
- A. is threatened both because their leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and also because their
  - B. is threatened both because its leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and because its
  - C. is threatened both because its leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and also its
  - D. are threatened both because its leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and its
  - E. are threatened both because their leaves are extremely tasty to a voracious opossum species and because their

### Idiom; Agreement

The antecedent of *their* is *a rare New Zealand species of mistletoe*, which is singular. Therefore, *their*, which is a plural pronoun, is incorrect. *Its* would be the appropriate pronoun to use here. An additional problem with this sentence is that *both ... and also* is unidiomatic. Either *both* or *also* should be deleted.

- A. As explained above, *their* is incorrect. Because the antecedent is the singular noun phrase *a rare New Zealand species of mistletoe*, the appropriate possessive pronoun is



*its*. Furthermore, *both because ... and also because* is unidiomatic.

- B. **Correct.** This version correctly uses *its* to agree in number with the singular noun phrase *a rare New Zealand species of mistletoe*, and uses the appropriate idiom, *both because ... and because*.
- C. This version's *both because ... and also* is unidiomatic. *Also* should be replaced with *because*.
- D. The plural verb *are* does not agree with the singular subject, *the survival of a rare New Zealand species of mistletoe*. Furthermore, this version is unidiomatic. The appropriate idiom is *both because ... and because*. This version lacks the second occurrence of *because*.
- E. This version has two agreement problems: First, *The survival of a rare New Zealand species of mistletoe* is the subject and is singular, and so the verb *are*, which should be used only with a plural subject, is inappropriate; *is* would be the correct pronoun to use here. Second, *their* is incorrect. The antecedent is the singular noun phrase *a rare New Zealand species of mistletoe*; the appropriate possessive pronoun to use would be *its*.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC05894

295. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.

- A. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.
- B. The report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and they announced the first in a series of price cuts that they intend to increase sales further.
- C. Surpassing Wall Street's estimates, the report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, and, for the purpose of increasing sales further, they announced the first in a series of price cuts.
- D. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and announcing the first in a series of price cuts for the purpose of further increasing sales.
- E. The computer company, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, reported strong second-quarter earnings, while announcing that to increase sales further there would be the first in a series of price cuts.

### Logical Predication; Idiom

The point of the sentence is to describe two actions of the computer company: its earnings report and its announcement of a price cut. To present this information most efficiently, the sentence requires a singular subject "the computer company" and compound verbs (*reported* and *announced*). To indicate that it is the company's earnings and not the report that surpassed Wall Street's estimates, the relative clause *that surpassed ...* must immediately follow *earnings*.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence makes clear that the company is responsible for reporting its earnings and announcing its sales plan; the placement of the relative clause *that surpassed ...* makes it clear that the company's earnings, not the report, surpassed Wall Street's estimate.

- B. Because this compound sentence opens the first clause with the subject *the report*, and relegates the computer company to the position of object of a preposition, the referent of the subject of the second clause *they* is obscured—particularly since *they* is plural and the intended referent *company* is singular. The function of *that* in the final clause is ambiguous and confusing.
- C. The placement of the opening modifier *surpassing ...* makes it modify *report* rather than *estimate*. The plural pronoun *they* does not agree with its intended antecedent, *company*.
- D. *Surpassing ...* and the parallel phrase *announcing ...* both appear to modify the entire opening clause, representing parallel functions of the company's report of its earnings.
- E. The placement of *surpassing ...* makes that phrase modify *reported ...*. The conjunction *while* indicates that the announcement and the report occurred simultaneously. The phrase *there would be ...* introduces unnecessary wordiness and indirection.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC01562

296. Long overshadowed by the Maya and Aztec civilizations, historians are now exploring the more ancient Olmec culture for the legacy it had for succeeding Mesoamerican societies.
- A. historians are now exploring the more ancient Olmec culture for the legacy it had for succeeding Mesoamerican societies
  - B. historians' exploration is now of the more ancient Olmec culture's legacy to the Mesoamerican societies succeeding them
  - C. the legacy of the more ancient Olmec culture to the Mesoamerican societies that succeeded them is what historians are now exploring
  - D. the more ancient Olmec culture is now being explored by historians for its legacy to succeeding Mesoamerican societies
  - E. the Olmec culture is more ancient and had a legacy to succeeding Mesoamerican societies that historians are now exploring

### **Logical Predication; Idiom**

The sentence notes that historians are exploring the contributions of the ancient Olmec culture to societies that came after it. The sentence structure is flawed, however.

- A. The sentence's initial phrase is, nonsensically, predicated of *historians* rather than of *Olmec culture*. The wording *for the legacy it had for* is verbose, the repetition of *for* is awkward, and the second *for* is unidiomatic with *legacy*.
- B. The sentence's initial phrase *long ... civilizations* is, nonsensically, predicated of *exploration*. The wording *is now of* is unnecessarily awkward (for example, the phrase *now focuses on* would not be so).
- C. The context suggests that the sentence's initial phrase *long ... civilizations* is more likely meant to be predicated of a noun phrase referring to another civilization (or culture), thus making *the legacy* be the subject of the sentence (as opposed to *the more ancient Olmec culture*). The relative *what* and its antecedent are too widely separated from each other; also, the construction *is what ...* is unnecessarily awkward.
- D. **Correct.** This version is logically and structurally correct. Making *the more ancient Olmec culture* the subject of the main clause—the most logical subject, given the initial modifying phrase referring to civilizations—has required a change in the verb form, from active to passive. The preposition *to* following *legacy* is idiomatic.

- E. This shifts the emphasis, compared with the given sentence, to how far back in time the Olmec culture existed. Unlike the given sentence, it makes the historians' current preoccupation with the Olmec culture seem secondary. The wording *had a legacy to* is unnecessarily awkward.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC02370

297. The bank holds \$3 billion in loans that are seriously delinquent or in such trouble that they do not expect payments when due.

- A. they do not expect payments when
- B. it does not expect payments when it is
- C. it does not expect payments to be made when they are
- D. payments are not to be expected to be paid when
- E. payments are not expected to be paid when they will be

**Agreement; Logical Predication; Verb Form**

The plural pronoun *they* cannot be used to refer to the singular noun *bank*. The structure of *they do not expect payments when due* is awkward and unclear.

- A. *Bank* requires the singular pronoun *it*, not the plural pronoun *they*. The structure of *when due* creates ambiguity in meaning.
- B. *Payments* is a plural noun, so the singular *it is* is incorrect.
- C. **Correct.** The pronouns and their referents agree, as do subjects and their verbs. The addition of the modifying phrase *to be made* clarifies the meaning of the sentence.
- D. The active voice is preferable here, since the passive voice leaves it unclear who does not expect the payments to be made. *Payments ... to be paid* is redundant. *Are not to be* incorrectly suggests that the writer is prescribing that the payments not be expected.
- E. The active voice is preferable here, since the passive voice leaves it unclear who does not expect the payments to be made. *Payments ... to be paid* is redundant. *Will be* is not the correct verb form.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC01435

298. A researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.

- A. A researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
- B. A researcher claims that a tornado, if of a given size and strength, is likely both proportionately and in absolute numbers to cause more deaths in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
- C. A researcher claims that, with a tornado of a given size and strength, it is likely to cause more death, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern rather than in the northeastern region of the United States.
- D. If a tornado is of a given size and strength, a researcher claims, it is more likely, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, to cause death if it is in the southeastern region of the United States rather than in the northeastern region.

- E. Both proportionately and in absolute numbers, a researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths in the southeastern region of the United States rather than in the northeastern.

### Grammatical Construction; Diction

The sentence clearly and correctly reports a researcher's claim about the relative incidence of fatalities from a tornado of any given size in two different regions of the United States. It states that the incidence of fatalities in the southeastern region would be greater both in number and as a percentage of the affected population than would the incidence in the northeastern region. Some issues to note about the erroneous sentences are: use of *rather than* instead of simply *than*; use of the singular *death* instead of the plural; the placement of the adverbial phrase *both proportionately ... numbers*; and the use of *if*-statements.

- A. **Correct.** This sentence expresses a complex thought clearly and coherently while avoiding errors related to the issues mentioned.
- B. The researcher's claim is not that a tornado of a certain magnitude is likely to cause more fatalities in the southeastern than in the northeastern region; rather the claim is that a tornado of any given magnitude will cause more deaths in the southeastern region than in the northeastern.
- C. This sentence is unnecessarily awkward because of the adverbial phrase beginning *with* and the use of *it* to refer to *a tornado*. The singular *death* does not go well with the mention of numbers, which indicates the counting of individual deaths. The number of deaths in one region is being compared with the number in another; for that purpose, *rather than* is unidiomatic, as opposed to *than*.
- D. Beginning the sentence with this *if*-clause suggests that the claimed likelihood of variation in regional incidence of fatalities is conditional on the tornado being of a certain minimum size and strength. Nothing suggests that this is the claim that the given sentence meant to attribute to the researcher. Also, the matter at issue is not whether there would be any death (singular) but rather what the incidence of fatalities (plural) would be in each of two different regions. Another error is that the placement of the adverbial phrase *both proportionately ... numbers* makes it function as a modifier of the verbal phrase *is more likely*.
- E. The placement of the adverbial phrase *both proportionately ... numbers* seems nonsensically to make it modify the verb *claims*, and does not reflect the intended meaning of the given sentence. The use of *rather than* instead of *than* is an incorrect usage for the comparison intended.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC04603

299. Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved from the previous year, only look less appetizing than their round and red supermarket cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are more flavorful.

- A. cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are
- B. cousins, often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
- C. cousins, often green and striped, or they have plenty of bumps and bruises, although they are
- D. cousins; they are often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
- E. cousins; they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but they are

## Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

The sentence is intended to say that, although heirloom tomatoes may appear to be less appetizing than the round, red supermarket variety, the often green and striped or bumpy and bruised heirloom tomatoes actually are more flavorful. Any version of the sentence in which *green and striped*, *have bumps and bruises*, or *are more flavorful* appear to modify *round and red supermarket cousins* is ill-formed.

- A. In this version of the sentence, *often green and striped*, *have plenty of bumps and bruises*, and *are more flavorful* all illogically appear to modify *round and red supermarket cousins* rather than *heirloom tomatoes*.
- B. In this version of the sentence as well, *often green and striped*, *with plenty of bumps and bruises*, and *although more flavorful* all illogically appear to modify *round and red supermarket cousins* rather than *heirloom tomatoes*.
- C. In this version of the sentence, *often green and striped* illogically appears to modify *round and red supermarket cousins* rather than *heirloom tomatoes*.
- D. Although in this version *green and striped* and *with plenty of bumps and bruises* clearly, and correctly, modify *heirloom tomatoes*, the *or* in *they are often green and striped*, or *with plenty of bumps and bruises* is unnecessary and awkward. Furthermore, the final clause is ungrammatical and should say *although they are more flavorful*.
- E. **Correct.** In this version of the sentence, *green and striped*, *with plenty of bumps and bruises*, and *are more flavorful* clearly, and correctly, modify *heirloom tomatoes*, and the phrases in the sentence are appropriately parallel with one another.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC05381

300. In the textbook publishing business, the second quarter is historically weak, because revenues are low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare for the coming school year.

- A. low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare
- B. low and their marketing expenses are high as they prepare
- C. low with higher marketing expenses in preparation
- D. low, while marketing expenses are higher to prepare
- E. low, while their marketing expenses are higher in preparation

## Parallelism; Logical Predication

This sentence is correctly written. It uses parallel structure to give two reasons why textbook publishers have weak second quarters: *revenues are low* and *expenses are high*. The construction *as companies prepare for the coming school year* is clear, as opposed to the awkward constructions using the ambiguous plural pronouns *they* and *their*.

- A. **Correct.** This sentence uses the parallel forms *are low ... are high* and employs the unambiguous *companies* as the subject of *prepare*.
- B. *Their* seems illogically to refer to *revenues*. The subject of *prepare* is the ambiguous *they*.
- C. *Higher* is not parallel to *low*, and it gives no indication of what the comparison is supposed to be (Higher than what?). This construction makes it appear, illogically, that the low revenues have higher marketing expenses.

- D. *Higher* is not parallel to *low* and is illogical. The infinitive construction *to prepare ...* is awkward.
- E. *Higher* is not parallel to *low* and is illogical since no comparison is being made; *their* has no clear referent.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC01485

301. Because of the sharp increases in the price of gold and silver, the value of Monica Taylor's portfolio rose as her daughter-in-law's dropped.
- A. as her daughter-in-law's dropped
- B. while her daughter-in-law's has dropped
- C. as there was a drop in her daughter-in-law's
- D. while that of her daughter-in-law's dropped
- E. as it dropped for her daughter-in-law's

### **Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction**

The sentence attempts to explain two opposing trends in portfolio value: the value of one person's portfolio rose as the value of another person's portfolio dropped. Note, however, that the sentence as given here refers to a rise in value and a drop in a portfolio: this indicates a failure in required parallelism. The comparison, properly expressed, would mention *the value of Monica Taylor's portfolio* and *the value of her daughter-in-law's portfolio*.

- A. This is incorrect because it refers to the daughter-in-law's portfolio, not to the value of her portfolio.
- B. The conjunction *while* is appropriate here, but the sentence lacks the parallelism needed to clearly compare the opposing trends in portfolio value.
- C. This is wordy and lacks the required parallelism already mentioned.
- D. **Correct.** The phrase *that of her daughter-in-law's* is a way of referring to the value of her daughter-in-law's portfolio. The antecedent of *that* is *the value*. The phrase *Monica Taylor's portfolio* is parallel to *her daughter-in-law's portfolio*; each involves a noun with a possessive that functions adjectivally. The word *portfolio* is understood, not explicit.
- E. Lacking the parallelism noted, this is unnecessarily awkward. Structurally, the pronoun *it* can logically have as antecedent either *the value of Monica Taylor's portfolio* or *Monica Taylor's portfolio*, but neither of these readings yields a correct sentence.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC02791

302. Ms. Chambers is among the forecasters who predict that the rate of addition to arable lands will drop while those of loss rise.
- A. those of loss rise
- B. it rises for loss
- C. those of losses rise
- D. the rate of loss rises
- E. there are rises for the rate of loss

### **Logical Predication; Parallelism**

The forecaster is making predictions about two different rates. The forecast changes in the rates can be compared using the construction *the rate of x will drop while the rate of y rises*; *x* and *y* should be parallel.

- A. There is no referent for *those*.
- B. *It* refers to *the rate of addition*, creating a nonsensical statement.
- C. There is no referent for *those*. *Of losses* should be singular to parallel *of addition*.
- D. **Correct.** This sentence uses a construction that clearly states the predicted changes in the rates; the rates are expressed in parallel ways.
- E. *There are rises for* is wordy and unidiomatic.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC00987

303. In keeping with her commitment to her Christian faith, Sojourner Truth demonstrated as a public speaker a dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery as well as for women to be emancipated.

- A. a dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery as well as for women to be emancipated
- B. her being dedicated to both the nonviolent abolishing of slavery as well as for women's emancipation
- C. a dedication to both the nonviolent abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women
- D. that she was dedicated both to abolishing slavery nonviolently and to emancipate women
- E. her dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery and emancipation of women

### **Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction**

The sentence describes Sojourner Truth's dedication, as a public speaker, to the nonviolent abolition of slavery and to the emancipation of women. It thus provides a list of two things that Sojourner Truth was dedicated to: the nonviolent abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women. Although there are various ways of describing this list, the two elements need to be described in a parallel fashion.

- A. This sentence begins the description of the list with the beginning of the construction *both to ... and to*. If implemented properly, this construction will describe the elements of the list in parallel. However, as the sentence is written, the second element of the list, *as for women to be emancipated*, is not parallel to the first element, *to the nonviolent abolition of slavery*.
- B. This sentence, with *to* before *both*, begins the description of the list with a somewhat different construction than answer choice A does. In this case, *the nonviolent abolishing of slavery* needs to be made parallel with *for women's emancipation*. As written, the sentence presents a severe case of lack of parallelism.
- C. **Correct.** This sentence correctly implements the construction *to both ... and ....* In particular, *the nonviolent abolition of slavery* is parallel to *the emancipation of women*.
- D. This sentence begins the description of the list with the same construction as in answer choice A, *both to ... and to ....* In this case, *abolishing slavery nonviolently* is not parallel to *emancipate women*.
- E. This sentence uses the same construction as answer choices A and D: *both to ... and to ....* In this case, *to the nonviolent abolition of slavery* is not parallel to *emancipation of*

women. If *to the* were inserted immediately before *emancipation of women*, then the parallelism issue would be resolved.

**The correct answer is C.**

### Questions 304 to 348 - Difficulty: Hard

SC01972

304. Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and they occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
- A. Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and they occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
  - B. Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos, surviving on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
  - C. Occupying a small fraction of the species' former range, the Malay peninsula and the islands of Sumatra and Borneo are where fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive.
  - D. Occupying a small fraction of the species' former range, fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.
  - E. Surviving on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, less than 400 Sumatran rhinos occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.

#### Diction; Logical Predication

Because the number of Sumatran rhinos has been given, the comparative term *fewer* rather than *less* should be used to account for their numbers. In order to clarify that habitat currently occupied by the rhinos is but a small fraction of their former range, the information about their dwindling habitat is most efficiently presented in an opening participial phrase describing the rhinos, followed by a main clause in which the number of surviving rhinos is the subject, with the predicate explaining where the rhinos currently live. By presenting the information about the population and range of rhinos in two separate independent clauses, the sentence as written does not clarify that the former range of the rhinos once extended beyond the peninsula and the islands.

- A. *Less* is inappropriate for describing the specific number of surviving Sumatran rhinos. The separate independent clauses obscure the fact that the rhinos' range used to extend beyond the peninsula and the two islands. The referent of *they* is unclear.
- B. *Less* is inappropriate for describing the specific number of surviving Sumatran rhinos. By using a nonrestrictive phrase *surviving ...*, the sentence suggests that fewer than 400 rhinos—perhaps only a portion of the total number—occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
- C. The opening participial phrase somewhat illogically modifies *peninsula and ... islands* rather than the rhinos.
- D. **Correct.** The opening participial phrase correctly modifies *fewer than 400 ... rhinos*, a phrase that uses the correct comparative term.
- E. The comparative term *less* is inappropriate for describing the number of rhinos.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC11068

305. Certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place; one reason is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.



- A. Certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place; one reason is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.
- B. If used repeatedly in the same place, one reason that certain pesticides can become ineffective is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.
- C. If used repeatedly in the same place, one reason certain pesticides can become ineffective is suggested by the finding that much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes are found in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than those that are free of such chemicals.
- D. The finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals is suggestive of one reason, if used repeatedly in the same place, certain pesticides can become ineffective.
- E. The finding of much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in those that are free of such chemicals suggests one reason certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place.

### Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence is correctly constructed; it has two independent clauses connected by a semicolon. *If used repeatedly in the same place* clearly and correctly modifies *certain pesticides*.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence is correctly constructed; the modifier *if used repeatedly in the same place* is correctly placed.
- B. *If used repeatedly in the same place* modifies *one reason* when it should modify *certain pesticides*.
- C. *If used repeatedly in the same place* modifies *one reason* when it should modify *certain pesticides*. The absence of *in* in the phrase *than those ...* makes the comparison unclear.
- D. *If used repeatedly in the same place* ambiguously modifies *one reason* when it should clearly modify *certain pesticides*.
- E. The comparison *the finding of much larger populations ... than in those that ...* is improperly constructed in a way that makes *the finding* appear to refer awkwardly to a discovery of larger populations rather than to a research conclusion about the presence of such populations.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC11854

306. While some academicians believe that business ethics should be integrated into every business course, others say that students will take ethics seriously only if it would be taught as a separately required course.
- A. only if it would be taught as a separately required course
  - B. only if it is taught as a separate, required course
  - C. if it is taught only as a course required separately
  - D. if it was taught only as a separate and required course

E. if it would only be taught as a required course, separately

### Rhetorical Construction; Verb Form; Diction

Conditional constructions require specific verb tenses. For a present condition, like this debate between academicians, the subordinate clause introduced by *if* uses the present indicative, and the main clause uses the future tense: *y will happen* (main clause) *only if x happens* (subordinate clause). Logically, the *course* is to be both *separate* and *required*, so the two adjectives should equally modify the noun and thus be separated by a comma: *separate, required course*.

- A. The verb tense in the *if* clause is incorrect. The adverb *separately* should be the adjective *separate*.
- B. **Correct.** This sentence has the correct verb tense, and the two adjectives equally modify the noun.
- C. The placement of *only* distorts the meaning; it should precede *if*. *A course required separately* is unclear.
- D. The verb tense in the *if* clause is incorrect. The placement of *only* distorts the meaning.
- E. The verb tense in the *if* clause is incorrect. The placement of *only* distorts the meaning. The adjective *separate* should be used instead of the adverb *separately* and should precede the noun.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC08272

307. Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends on whether the changes that their management has proposed will be fully implemented.

- A. Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends on whether the changes that their management has proposed will be fully implemented.
- B. Whether they scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or whether they discontinue their business with us altogether depends on the changes their management has proposed, if fully implemented or not.
- C. Their either scaling back their orders in the future to pre-2003 levels, or their outright termination of business with us, depends on their management's proposed changes being fully implemented or not.
- D. Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends if the changes that their management has proposed become fully implemented.
- E. They will either scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels, or they will stop doing business with us altogether dependent on whether the changes their management has proposed will be fully implemented, or not.

### Rhetorical Construction; Diction

This sentence expresses a dependency between two sets of options: the first is scaling back orders versus stopping all business, and the second is fully implementing changes versus not fully implementing changes. In each case, the most succinct way to express the two options is the *whether X (or Y)* construction, which immediately and clearly signals the presence of two opposed options. In linking the two sets of options, *depend* or *dependent* requires the preposition *on*.

- A. **Correct.** Each set of options is expressed concisely with a single *whether*, and *depend* is followed by *on*.
- B. The first set of options is expressed by means of a second, redundant and illogical *whether*; the second set is expressed in an unclear way, unnecessarily delaying the identification of the two options until the very end. *Depends on the changes ... if fully implemented or not* makes the meaning unclear. This could be an awkward way of trying to say that the outcome depends on whether the changes will be made, but it could just as plausibly be an attempt to say that the outcome depends on the changes, regardless of whether the changes will be fully implemented.
- C. Both sets of options are expressed without *whether*, and the first set does not even explicitly say that there is such an option. As a result, the existence of two dependent sets of options is unclear until the end of the sentence.
- D. The first set of options is correctly expressed with *whether*, but the second is not; also, *depend* lacks a following preposition *on*.
- E. Both sets of options are expressed without *whether*, and the first set does not even explicitly signal the existence of options, so the existence of two dependent sets of options is unclear until the end of the sentence.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC00975

308. Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had no prime ministers not coming from a landed family.

- A. Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had no prime ministers not coming
- B. Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had had no prime ministers who have not come
- C. Until Disraeli in 1868, there were no prime ministers in Great Britain who have not come
- D. It was not until 1868 that Great Britain had a prime minister—Disraeli—who did not come
- E. It was only in 1868 and Disraeli that Great Britain had one of its prime ministers not coming

### **Verb Form; Idiom**

This sentence explains how Disraeli marked a turning point in British history: he was the first prime minister who did not come from the landed gentry. The placement of the double negative is crucial. While *no prime ministers not coming from ...* is hard to untangle, [*n*]ot until ... that Great Britain had a prime minister who did not come ... separates the negatives into separate clauses, making them easier to decode. An appropriate way to express the temporal relationship is to use the idiomatic phrase *not until ... that*.

- A. The phrase *no prime ministers not coming* is unnecessarily confusing. It is also confusing to follow the preposition *until* with two very different types of objects—a date and a person.
- B. As in answer choice A, the double negative and unlike objects of the prepositional phrase starting with *until* are confusing. Additionally, the verb form *have not come*, which is the present-perfect tense, is inappropriate following the past perfect *had had* in this context.
- C. The present-perfect tense (*have not come*) is inappropriate after the past tense *were* in this context. *Until Disraeli* is imprecise and incomplete. *Before Disraeli's term in 1868 ...* or *Until Disraeli became prime minister in 1868* would work.

- D. **Correct.** This version correctly uses the idiomatic construction *not until ... that*, and it correctly uses past tense throughout.
- E. While it makes sense to say that a historical change occurred *in 1868*, it does not make sense to say that it occurred *in Disraeli*. It is unidiomatic to say *had one of its prime ministers not coming*.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC02011

309. Around 1900, fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay area landed more than seventeen million pounds of shad in a single year, but by 1920, overfishing and the proliferation of milldams and culverts that have blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less than four million pounds.
- A. that have blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less
- B. that blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less
- C. that blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams reduced landings to a lower amount
- D. having blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams reduced landings to less
- E. having blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to an amount lower

### Diction; Verb Form

The point of this sentence is to explain how overfishing and interference with shad spawning streams affected the size of shad landings. The sentence makes this point by comparing the sizes of annual landings before and after 1920. The sentence most efficiently compares the poundage of pre- and post-1920 landings with the comparative form [*from*] *more than ... to less than ....*

- A. The present-perfect tense of *have blocked* inappropriately describes an event that caused something to happen before 1920. In addition, *migrations up their spawning streams* is incorrect.
- B. **Correct.** The comparison of poundage is efficiently explained, and the sequence of tenses makes sense. Despite a possible superficial appearance of a comparison between countable things (pounds), *less* is more appropriate than *fewer* for the comparison. The fishermen landed different amounts of fish; they did not land the number of pounds in terms of which those amounts are measured.
- C. The comparative expression *to a lower amount* is unnecessarily wordy. The past-perfect form *had reduced* would make the temporal relationships somewhat clearer than does the past tense *reduced*.
- D. The present-perfect participial phrase, *having blocked ... streams*, should be set off in commas; as it stands, it does not make sense. The past-perfect form *had reduced* would make the temporal relationships somewhat clearer than does the past tense *reduced*.
- E. The present-perfect participial phrase must be set off with commas; the pronoun *their*, which is also in answer choice A, nonsensically refers to *migrations*, and the comparative expression *to an amount lower* is unnecessarily wordy.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC04492

310. By offering lower prices and a menu of personal communications options, such as caller identification and voice mail, the new telecommunications company has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced them to offer competitive prices.
- A. has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced them
  - B. has not only captured customers from other phone companies, but it also forced them
  - C. has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced these companies
  - D. not only has captured customers from other phone companies but also these companies have been forced
  - E. not only captured customers from other phone companies, but it also has forced them

**Parallelism; Verb Form**

The sentence intends to show the effect of the new telecommunications company on the other phone companies. In the original sentence, however, the antecedent of the pronoun *them* is unclear; it may refer to *companies* or to *customers*. If it refers to *customers*, the sentence structure illogically has the new company forcing customers to offer competitive prices.

- A. The referent of *them* is unclear.
- B. The referent of *them* is unclear, and the use of *it* is redundant.
- C. **Correct.** The verbs are parallel in this sentence, and *these companies* is clearly the object of the verb *forced*.
- D. The sentence does not maintain parallelism, unnecessarily changing from active voice (*has captured*) to passive voice (*have been forced*).
- E. The referent of *them* is unclear. *Captured* and *has forced* are not parallel in verb tense, and the use of *it* is redundant.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC06132

311. After suffering \$2 billion in losses and 25,000 layoffs, the nation's semiconductor industry, which makes chips that run everything from computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears to have made a long-awaited recovery.
- A. computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears to have
  - B. computers, spy satellites, and dishwashers, appears having
  - C. computers, spy satellites, and dishwashers, appears that it has
  - D. computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears that it has
  - E. computers and spy satellites as well as dishwashers, appears to have

**Idiom; Grammatical Construction; Verb Form**

This sentence correctly makes use of the idiomatic expression *from ... to ...* to describe the range of products made by the semiconductor industry. The main verb *appears* is intransitive and is most efficiently followed by the infinitive form *to have made*, which introduces a description of the subject, *the semiconductor industry*.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence is grammatically correct and uses the idiomatic expression correctly.
- B. The phrase *everything from* anticipates idiomatic completion with the second preposition *to*; without the *to* it could refer to components coming from the listed items,

but this reading is unlikely; *appears having* is an incorrect verb form and makes the clause ungrammatical.

C. This version is unidiomatic because *from* is not completed by *to*; *appears that it has* is an awkward and incorrect verb form.

D. *Appears that it has* is an incorrect verb form.

E. *As well as* is awkward and imprecise here; it is the wrong completion for the idiomatic expression *from ... to ...*

**The correct answer is A.**

SC04588

312. Over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, monkeys and marmosets have a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans, above which the sensitivity begins to differ.

A. Over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, monkeys and marmosets have a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans

B. Compared to humans, the hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets are remarkably similar over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz

C. Compared to humans over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, the hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets is remarkably similar

D. The hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets, when compared to humans over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, is remarkably similar

E. The hearing sensitivity of monkeys, marmosets, and humans is remarkably similar over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz

### Logical Predication; Agreement

This sentence expresses two ideas: the similarity in monkey, marmoset, and human hearing in the stated frequency range, and the divergence in hearing sensitivity above that range. The second idea is introduced by *above which*. *Above which* should be immediately preceded by the antecedent of *which*, that is, the 100–5,000 Hz range. Also, the subject and verb must agree in number.

A. In this construction, *above which ...* illogically modifies either *humans* or *a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans*, rather than the frequency range.

B. The singular subject in this version, *the hearing sensitivity ...*, is not accompanied by the correct singular verb form (*is*).

C. *Above which* is incorrectly preceded by *similar*, rather than by the expression of the frequency range. The sentence appears, illogically, to compare *humans over a range of frequencies* with monkeys' and marmosets' hearing sensitivity.

D. *Above which* is incorrectly preceded by *similar*, rather than by the expression of the frequency range. The sentence appears, illogically, to compare *humans over a range of frequencies* with monkeys' and marmosets' hearing sensitivity.

E. **Correct.** *Above which* is correctly preceded by *a range of frequencies ...*, and the verb *is* is in its proper singular form.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC03998

313. The computer company has announced that it will purchase the color-printing division of a rival company for \$950 million, which is part of a deal that will make it the largest manufacturer in the office color-printing market.

- A. million, which is part of a deal that will make
- B. million, a part of a deal that makes
- C. million, a part of a deal making
- D. million as a part of a deal to make
- E. million as part of a deal that will make

### Rhetorical Construction; Verb Form

The relative pronoun *which* requires a clear antecedent, but none appears in the original version of the sentence. The company's announcement is entirely geared to the future—it *will* purchase the division as part of a deal that *will* make it the largest manufacturer.

- A. There is no antecedent for the relative pronoun *which*.
- B. Like a relative pronoun, the appositive phrase (*a part ...*) must have a noun or noun phrase as a clear antecedent; the verb *makes* should be future tense.
- C. The appositive phrase requires a clear antecedent; *making* does not indicate future tense.
- D. This sentence is a little awkward (the article *a* in *a part* is unnecessary) and says something rather different; *as a part of a deal to make* suggests that the deal itself includes making the company the *largest manufacturer* rather than its being the outcome of the deal.
- E. **Correct.** The future tense is used throughout and the sentence structure is clear.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC03289

314. Kudzu, an Asian vine that has grown rampantly in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s to thwart soil erosion, has overrun many houses and countless acres of roadside.
- A. that has grown rampantly in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s to thwart
  - B. that has grown rampantly in the southern United States, since it was introduced in the 1920s for thwarting
  - C. that has grown rampant in the southern United States since it was introduced in the 1920s to thwart
  - D. growing rampant in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s for thwarting
  - E. growing rampantly in the southern United States, since it was introduced in the 1920s to thwart

### Idiom; Logical Predication

The sentence describes the destructive, out-of-control growth of the invasive vine kudzu in the southern United States. Because the sentence does not indicate who introduced the vine to that region, the passive construction *it was introduced* should be used instead of *introducing it*.

- A. There is no clear subject for the verb *introducing*. This construction appears to indicate that kudzu introduced itself or some other, unspecified thing.
- B. The adverbial clause *since it was introduced in the 1920s* should not be set off from *has grown rampantly*, which it modifies. Also, *introduced ... for thwarting* is not idiomatic.

*Introduced ... to thwart* is the correct idiom.

- C. **Correct.** The sentence correctly uses the passive construction *it was introduced* and the idiom *was introduced ... to thwart*.
- D. *Since introducing it* illogically indicates that the vine introduced itself. *Introducing ... for thwarting* is unidiomatic.
- E. The adverbial clause *since it was introduced in the 1920s* should not be set off from *has grown rampantly*, which it modifies.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC01712

315. Unable to build nests or care for their young, a female cowbird lays up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and thrushes.
- A. a female cowbird lays up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including
  - B. a female cowbird will use the nests of other birds to lay up to 40 eggs a year, including those of
  - C. female cowbirds use the nests of other birds to lay up to 40 eggs a year, including those of
  - D. female cowbirds lay up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including
  - E. up to 40 eggs a year are laid by female cowbirds in the nests of other birds, including

**Agreement; Logical Predication**

This sentence describes the behavior of female cowbirds, but it begins by referring to the birds in plural (*their young*) and then shifts unexpectedly to singular (*a female cowbird*). The best construction refers to the birds consistently in plural and places modifiers near the words they modify.

- A. The sentence shifts unexpectedly from the plural *their young* to the singular *a female cowbird*.
- B. The sentence shifts unexpectedly from the plural *their young* to the singular *a female cowbird*. The participial phrase *including those of* incorrectly modifies *eggs*, illogically indicating that cowbirds lay the eggs of other birds.
- C. The participial phrase *including those of* incorrectly modifies *eggs*, illogically indicating that cowbirds lay the eggs of other birds.
- D. **Correct.** The sentence consistently refers to *cowbirds* in the plural and places modifiers in the correct location.
- E. The modifier *Unable ... young* incorrectly modifies *eggs*.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC01954

316. Bluegrass musician Bill Monroe, whose repertory, views on musical collaboration, and vocal style were influential on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from his own.
- A. were influential on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from



- B. influenced generations of bluegrass artists, also inspired many musicians, including Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from
- C. was influential to generations of bluegrass artists, was also inspirational to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music was different significantly in comparison to
- D. was influential to generations of bluegrass artists, also inspired many musicians, who included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, the music of whom differed significantly when compared to
- E. were an influence on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, including Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music was significantly different from that of

### Agreement; Rhetorical Construction; Grammatical Construction

The original sentence logically intends to explain that Monroe's work influenced generations of artists in his own musical field and that he inspired many musicians in other musical fields. Who or what influenced or inspired whom must be more clearly stated. Additionally, the original sentence lacks precision, being overly wordy and using phrases that are not idiomatic. Concise and consistent verb forms, as well as the use of subordinate phrases rather than clauses, improve the precision of the sentence.

- A. The phrase *were influential on* is wordy and is not idiomatic; the use of verb forms *were* (the predicate of *repertory*, *views*, and *style*) and *was* (the predicate of *Monroe*) is confusing.
- B. **Correct.** The use of the concise verb forms of *influenced* and *inspired* simplifies and clarifies the sentence. The concise use of *including* avoids the pronoun error and unnecessary wordiness.
- C. The subject and verb do not agree in *repertory*, *views*, and *style ... was* (compound subject with singular verb). *Was influential to* and *different ... in comparison to* are unnecessarily wordy.
- D. There is incorrect subject-verb agreement in *repertory*, *views*, and *style ... was* (compound subject with singular verb). *Was influential to* and in *when compared to* are unnecessarily wordy. *The music of whom* is cumbersome and stilted.
- E. The phrase *were an influence on* is wordy and not idiomatic. The phrases *was also an inspiration to* and *was significantly different* are unnecessarily wordy. The phrase *from that of* is unclear and confusing.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC12645

317. In many of the world's regions, increasing pressure on water resources has resulted both from expanding development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a concern going forward.
- A. both from expanding development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a concern going forward
  - B. both from expanding development or changes in climate, and pollution, so that future supplies in some of the more arid areas are a concern
  - C. from expanding development, changes in climate, and also from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a matter of concern going forward
  - D. from expanding development, changes in climate, and pollution, so that future supplies in some of the more arid areas are a concern

- E. from expansion of development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that supplies in some of the more arid areas are a future concern

### Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence lists three factors that have increased pressure on water resources and expresses concern for future water supplies in arid regions. The preposition *both* creates confusion since it indicates two factors, when the sentence actually lists three. If *expanding development* and *changes in climate* are supposed to be grouped together—implausibly—as a single factor, they should be conjoined by *and*, not separated by commas. The sentence could be constructed most clearly by listing all three factors in parallel form as objects of the preposition *from*: *from expanding development, changes in climate, and pollution*.

- A. The preposition *both* creates confusion since it indicates two factors, when the sentence actually lists three.
- B. *Both* indicates that there are two factors. If the entire disjunction *expanding development or changes in climate* is intended—somewhat implausibly—to be the first of the two factors, the comma before *and pollution* makes its relationship to the preceding portion of the sentence unclear.
- C. Repetition of the preposition *from* disrupts the parallelism of the list and makes the meaning unclear.
- D. **Correct.** The three factors are listed in parallel form as objects of the preposition *from*.
- E. Repetition of the preposition *from* disrupts the parallelism of the list and makes the meaning unclear. *Future* somewhat implausibly modifies *concern* rather than *supplies*.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC01747

318. The computer company's present troubles are a result of technological stagnation, marketing missteps, and managerial blunders so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it.

- A. so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it
- B. so that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct
- C. in that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them
- D. that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct
- E. that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them

### Agreement; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence lists three causes of the company's troubles and asserts that strategies to correct the causes of the problems have failed. The clearest, most efficient way to explain this is to refer to the causes with the relative pronoun *that*, positioning it as an object of the verb *failed to correct*.

- A. The singular pronoun *it* has no clear antecedent; the conjunction *so* typically indicates that a consequence will follow, but this is not the case.
- B. The conjunction *so* is inappropriate because no consequences are given; the verb *correct* has no object.
- C. *In that* is an inappropriate connector because it is not followed by an indication of how the company's troubles result from the three problems listed in the first part of the sentence.

D. **Correct.** The sentence is clearly and efficiently worded, and the referent of the pronoun *that* is clear.

E. Because *attempts* is the subject of the final clause, and *that* is the object of its verb (*have failed to correct*), the pronoun *them* has no function.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC11880

319. The root systems of most flowering perennials either become too crowded, which results in loss in vigor, and spread too far outward, producing a bare center.

A. which results in loss in vigor, and spread

B. resulting in loss in vigor, or spreading

C. with the result of loss of vigor, or spreading

D. resulting in loss of vigor, or spread

E. with a resulting loss of vigor, and spread

### Idiom; Parallelism

This sentence uses the construction *either x or y*; *x* and *y* must be grammatically parallel. In this case, *and spread* must be *or spread*. The antecedent of *which* is unclear; replacing *which results* with *resulting* clarifies the meaning.

A. *Either* is incorrectly followed by *and*; *which* has no clear referent.

B. *Or spreading* is not parallel to *either become*.

C. *With the result of* is wordy and awkward. *Or spreading* is not parallel to *either become*.

D. **Correct.** The phrase *resulting in loss of vigor* concisely modifies the first clause; the *either/or* construction is correct and parallel in this sentence.

E. *Either* is incorrectly followed by *and*; *with a resulting loss* is wordy.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC11910

320. In theory, international civil servants at the United Nations are prohibited from continuing to draw salaries from their own governments; in practice, however, some governments merely substitute living allowances for their employees' paychecks, assigned by them to the United Nations.

A. for their employees' paychecks, assigned by them

B. for the paychecks of their employees who have been assigned

C. for the paychecks of their employees, having been assigned

D. in place of their employees' paychecks, for those of them assigned

E. in place of the paychecks of their employees to have been assigned by them

### Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

It is difficult to tell which parts of this sentence go together because of errors and confusion in the underlined portion. *Living allowances* is the counterpart of *paychecks*, so it is better to say *governments ... substitute living allowances for the paychecks of their employees* because it makes the substitution clearer. This change also makes it easier to correct the modification error that appears in the phrase *assigned by them*, which incorrectly modifies *paychecks* rather than *employees*. The modifying clause *who have been assigned* clearly describes *employees* and fits into the remaining part of the sentence, *to the United Nations*.

- A. *Assigned by them* incorrectly and illogically modifies *paychecks*.
- B. **Correct.** In this sentence, the meaning is clearer, because *paychecks* is separated from *employees*. The relative clause clearly modifies *employees*.
- C. *Having been assigned* illogically modifies *governments*.
- D. The correct construction is *substitutes x for y*, not *substitutes x in place of y*. The construction following *paychecks* is wordy and awkward.
- E. The correct construction is *substitutes x for y*, not *substitutes x in place of y*. The construction following *employees* is wordy and awkward.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC05216

321. Industry analysts said that the recent rise in fuel prices may be an early signal of the possibility of gasoline and heating oil prices staying higher than usually through the end of the year.
- A. of the possibility of gasoline and heating oil prices staying higher than usually through
  - B. of the possibility that gasoline and heating oil prices could stay higher than usual throughout
  - C. of prices of gasoline and heating oil possibly staying higher than usually through
  - D. that prices of gasoline and heating oil could stay higher than they usually are throughout
  - E. that prices of gasoline and heating oil will stay higher than usual through

### Verb Form; Idiom

This sentence describes analysts' prediction about prices for gasoline and heating oil. The speculative nature of the analysts' comments is communicated through the modal verb *may be*, so there is no need to reiterate that idea with the wordy phrase *of the possibility of*. The correct idiom to contrast prices with the norm is *higher than usual*—not *usually*, as written. The correct idiom to indicate the span of time from the present to the end of the year is *through the end of the year*. A simple future tense verb would concisely communicate the analysts' prediction: prices *will stay higher than usual through the end of the year*.

- A. The unnecessary phrase *of the possibility of* makes the sentence wordy; *higher than usually* is not a proper idiom.
- B. The unnecessary phrase *of the possibility that* makes the sentence wordy; *throughout the end of the year* is not a proper idiom.
- C. *Possibly* is redundant with *may* and is not needed to indicate the speculative nature of the prediction; *higher than usually* is not a proper idiom.
- D. The conditional verb tense *could stay* is incorrect since the modal verb *may* has already introduced the concept of possibility; *throughout the end of the year* is not a proper idiom.
- E. **Correct.** The simple future tense verb *will stay* expresses the analysts' prediction, and idioms are used correctly.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC07141

322. The Anasazi settlements at Chaco Canyon were built on a spectacular scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were connected by a complex regional system of roads.

- A. scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were
- B. scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each,
- C. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each that had been
- D. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms and with each
- E. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each had been

### Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

This sentence makes a claim about the scale (size, extent) of the Anasazi settlements and then illustrates that claim with a description of the settlements' structures. The second part of the sentence, introduced by the preposition *with*, describes the structures first in terms of their rooms and then in terms of the roads that connect them together. To describe the noun *structures*, the participial form *connected* should be used, turning the verb into an adjective.

- A. The verb *were connected* has no subject, since *structures* is the object of the preposition *with*.
- B. **Correct.** The sentence is logically coherent and grammatically correct.
- C. The comma preceding *each* makes *each* a subject, but it has no verb, since *that* is the subject of *had been connected*.
- D. This sentence suggests that the scale or size of the settlements is made up of structures, rather than uses the structures as an example of the settlements' grand scale; it also nonsensically indicates that each room is connected by a complex system of roads.
- E. This run-on sentence suffers from a comma splice, as the phrase following the comma is a main clause; the referent of the pronoun *each* is ambiguous.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC07066

323. Even though the overall consumer price index did not change in April, indicating the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen over the last several months.

- A. April, indicating the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen
- B. April, indicating that any general inflation or deflation were absent, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- C. April and indicated that absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- D. April, having indicated the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- E. April, which indicated that any general inflation or deflation were absent, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen

### Rhetorical Construction; Agreement

Coordinated noun phrases in which singular nouns are linked by *or* are considered singular, so when the phrase *any general inflation or deflation* is a subject, it requires a singular verb. One of the answer choices incorrectly uses the word *that*. Another phrasing problem is with *indicating/indicated*. *Indicating* works well as a verb form in the options where it occurs.

- A. **Correct.** *Any general inflation or deflation* is not a subject (it functions as the object of the preposition *of*), so there is no potential agreement problem.

- B. *Were* is incorrect as the agreeing form of *be*; it should be *is*.
- C. If *that* is taken as a demonstrative adjective modifying *absence*, it is inappropriate (the word *the* is required); if it is meant as a subordinating conjunction, it is incorrect because it is not followed by a clause.
- D. *Having indicated* is unclear and unnecessarily long. It appears to say, somewhat illogically, that the indication occurred at some unspecified time prior to the lack of change in April. *Indicating* works well alone and would be a preferable verb form here.
- E. *Were* here could only be meant either as a plural past-tense verb or as a singular subjunctive-mood verb (appropriate only in certain conditional contexts); in either case it is incorrect. Also, *indicating* works well, and the *which*-clause is unnecessary.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC12460

324. Despite Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during the Tokugawa shogunate produced an almost explosive expansion of commerce.

- A. Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during the Tokugawa shogunate
- B. the relative isolation of Japan from world trade at the time and the Tokugawa shogunate's prolonged peace, it
- C. being relatively isolated from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during Japan's Tokugawa shogunate
- D. Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time during the Tokugawa shogunate, prolonged peace
- E. its relative isolation from world trade then, prolonged peace in Japan during the Tokugawa shogunate

### Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

All predicates must have a clear subject; in this sentence, the logical subject of the verb *produced* is *the prolonged peace*. *During* is a concise way to introduce the relevant time period of this peace (the period of the Tokugawa shogunate); the phrase *at the time* clearly refers to the same time period.

- A. **Correct.** The subject of *produced* is clearly and logically identified; *during* succinctly provides the time frame.
- B. The phrase *at the time* leaves it uncertain what time is being referred to. The subject *it* of *produced* does not clearly identify this verb's logical subject, since it is singular yet seems to be intended to refer to two situations previously mentioned, *isolation* and *prolonged peace*.
- C. *Being relatively isolated* is most likely meant to refer to Japan's isolation, but since grammatically it must modify *the prolonged peace* (the subject of the main clause), the sentence would have an illogical and unintended meaning.
- D. If *at the time* is to be used instead of *during*, it should be followed by *of*; the better choice is to simply use *during* by itself.
- E. The use of *then* after *world trade* is awkward and redundant, because *during* later in the sentence supplies the time frame for both Japan's isolation and the period of peace. The structure of the sentence leaves *it(s)* without a clear referent.

**The correct answer is A.**

325. Government officials announced that restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river resulted from the intermittent showers that had fallen throughout the area the day before.
- A. restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river
  - B. restricting the use of water would continue because there had not been any appreciative increase in the river's level that
  - C. the use of water would continue to be restricted because not any appreciable increase in the river's level had
  - D. restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciable increase in the level of the river had
  - E. using water would continue being restricted because not any appreciable increase in the level of the river

### Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication; Verb Form

This sentence explains the rationale behind a governmental announcement made at some point in the past. The most efficient way to express the meaning of the announcement is to use *restrictions* as the subject of the clause introduced by *that* and to use a negative subject (*no appreciable increase*) and a positive verb in the subordinate clause that follows.

- A. It makes no sense to say that a hypothetical increase in river level is *appreciative*. The past tense of the verb *resulted* in this context does not as clearly express the temporal relationships between the announcement and the other events as would the past perfect *had resulted*.
- B. The use of *there* and the negative verb make the dependent clause unnecessarily wordy and indirect; the relative pronoun *that* appears to refer nonsensically to *level*. It makes no sense to say that a hypothetical increase in river level is *appreciative*.
- C. By making *use of water* instead of *restrictions* the subject of the *that* clause, this version of the sentence necessitates the use of a wordy and indirect passive infinitive phrase *to be restricted*. The sentence becomes even more wordy and convoluted with the introduction of an awkward, unidiomatic negative subject (*not any appreciable increase*) of the dependent clause.
- D. **Correct.** The sentence is direct and efficient, and the past-perfect verb *had resulted* appropriately expresses the sequence of events.
- E. The phrase *using water ... being restricted* is wordy and imprecise, and the unidiomatic negative subject (*not any appreciable increase*) of the dependent clause introduces further indirection and wordiness. The past tense of the verb *resulted* in this context does not as clearly express the temporal relationships between the announcement and the other events as would the past perfect *had resulted*.

**The correct answer is D.**

326. According to United States census data, while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home.
- A. while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home

- B. there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home in 1975; in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- C. in 1975 about one-third of mothers with young children worked outside the home; in 2000, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home
- D. even though in 1975 there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000
- E. with about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000

### Idiom; Logical Predication

The sentence presents two pieces of data, one from the 1975 census and one from the 2000 census. It does not attempt to explain a logical relationship beyond the numerical difference. The incorrect versions of the sentence attempt but fail to make a logical connection between the two data (*while ...*, *even though ...*, and *with ...*) and/or introduce unnecessary wordiness with the phrase *there was* or *there were*. The most efficient way to present the two data for reader comparison is in two parallel independent clauses joined by a semicolon. To avoid the confusion of misplaced or *squinting* modifiers, these clauses are best structured with subjects designating percentage of mothers with children, followed by participial phrases that indicate that these mothers *worked* or *were employed* outside the home.

- A. The phrase *there was* introduces unnecessary wordiness, and the singular verb *was* does not agree with the plural predicate nominative *one-third of mothers with children*. The placement of the modifier *working outside the home* immediately after children suggests that the children rather than the mothers were externally employed.
- B. *There were* introduces unnecessary wordiness; because of its placement, the relative clause *who worked outside the home* appears to describe children rather than mothers.
- C. **Correct.** The two pieces of data are presented in parallel independent clauses, joined by a semicolon, allowing the reader to note the numerical difference.
- D. The introductory phrase *even though* suggests a relationship between the two pieces of data that the sentence does not support; *there were* introduces unnecessary wordiness; *who worked outside the home* appears to describe *young children*.
- E. The introductory word *with* nonsensically suggests the simultaneity of the two pieces of data; the placement of the modifier *working outside the home* attaches it to *young children* rather than *mothers*.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC04672

327. Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.

- A. Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.
- B. Clouds form by the sun's warmth evaporating the water in the oceans, which rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.
- C. Warmed by the sun, ocean water evaporates, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form clouds.



- D. The water in the oceans evaporates, warmed by the sun, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust, which forms clouds.
- E. Ocean water, warmed by the sun, evaporates and rises high into the atmosphere, which then condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form as clouds.

### Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

This sentence describes a multistep process by which ocean water is transformed into clouds. These steps are most clearly presented in chronological order, with *ocean water* as the main subject of the sentence.

- A. This sentence provides no sense of steps and illogically suggests that the oceans' water evaporates after it rises high into the atmosphere.
- B. The antecedent for the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous, again suggesting that oceans rise high.
- C. **Correct.** The sequence of steps in a cloud's formation is clear.
- D. The nonchronological order of the steps by which clouds are produced is confusing, suggesting that dust forms clouds.
- E. The relative pronoun *which* grammatically refers to *atmosphere*, creating a nonsensical claim that the atmosphere, rather than the water, condenses.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC02664

328. Schistosomiasis, a disease caused by a parasitic worm, is prevalent in hot, humid climates, and it has become more widespread as irrigation projects have enlarged the habitat of the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycle.

- A. the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycle
- B. the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts in part of their life cycle
- C. freshwater snails which become the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycles
- D. freshwater snails which become the hosts of the parasite during the parasite's life cycles
- E. parasite's hosts, freshwater snails which become their hosts during their life cycles

### Rhetorical Construction; Agreement

This sentence explains the increased incidence of schistosomiasis as a consequence of the enlarged habitat of the kind of freshwater snails that host the parasitic worm responsible for the disease. The definite article is necessary before *freshwater snails* because the sentence identifies a particular type of snail, namely, those that host the parasite. The correct preposition to express duration in combination with *host* is *for*, not *in*. As the parasite is referred to as singular, the possessive pronoun in the final phrase must also be singular.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence is clear with all pronouns and verbs in agreement.
- B. The preposition *in* is inappropriate for expressing duration; the plural possessive pronoun *their* does not agree with the singular antecedent *parasite*.
- C. A definite article should precede *freshwater snails* to identify a particular type of snail; the plural *cycles* is inappropriate because *its* refers to a singular parasite, which only has one life cycle.
- D. A definite article is needed before *freshwater snails*; repetition of the word *parasite* makes the final phrase unnecessarily wordy; *cycles* should be singular.

- E. The repetition of *hosts* makes the final phrase unnecessarily wordy; *cycles* should be singular; *their hosts* should be *its hosts*; the referent for the second appearance of *their* is unclear—does it refer to *snails* or the *parasite*?

**The correct answer is A.**

SC07754

329. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was making the case for women's equality long before the cause had a name: Born in the mid-seventeenth century in San Miguel Nepantla, Mexico, the convent was the perfect environment for Sor Juana to pursue intellectual pursuits, achieving renown as a mathematician, poet, philosopher, and playwright.
- A. the convent was the perfect environment for Sor Juana to pursue intellectual pursuits, achieving
- B. Sor Juana found the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits, and she went on to achieve
- C. the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits for Sor Juana; going on to achieve
- D. Sor Juana found the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits; achieving
- E. the convent was, Sor Juana found, the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits, and she went on to achieve

### Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

This sentence focuses on Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, but the subject of its second clause is *the convent*. This causes a problem because the predicates *born* and *achieving*, which have only understood subjects, are grammatically paired with *the convent*, an illogical subject. Also, normally where a semicolon is used to mark the end of an independent clause (as in some of the answer choices), it should be followed by another independent clause.

- A. *The convent* is the subject of the second clause, so both *born* and *achieving* are illogically forced to take it as their subject.
- B. **Correct.** *Sor Juana* provides the correct logical subject for *born* and *went on to achieve*; the second clause is correctly introduced by *and*, and is constructed as a full clause with a subject and tensed verb.
- C. As *the convent* is the subject of the second clause, *born* is illogically forced to take that phrase as its subject. Also, the clause after the semicolon is not an independent full clause with a subject and a tensed verb; *she went on* is required instead of *going on*.
- D. The clause after the semicolon is not an independent full clause with a subject and a tensed verb: *she achieved* is required instead of *achieving*.
- E. Since *the convent* is the subject of the second clause, *born* must illogically take that phrase as its subject.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC14406

330. By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, in 1797–1798 Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him to arrive at an astonishingly accurate figure for the weight of the earth.
- A. By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, in 1797–1798 Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him

- B. In 1797–1798, by devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish’s apparatus enabled him
- C. Henry Cavendish devised an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employed uncommonly precise measurements, and in 1797–1798 was able
- D. Having devised an instrument from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employment of uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish in 1797–1798 was able
- E. By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish was able in 1797–1798

### Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The core of this sentence’s idea is either the verb *enable*, which must have its logically correct subject *Henry Cavendish’s apparatus*, or *be able*, with the subject *Henry Cavendish*; these subjects must also be able to supply the correct subjects for any other verbs that have understood subjects. The sentence should also clearly express the two things that enabled Cavendish’s accomplishment (devising the instrument and employing precise measurement).

- A. *Devising* needs a subject supplied from elsewhere in the sentence, but the only available subject is the illogical *Henry Cavendish’s apparatus* (an apparatus does not “devise” anything).
- B. *Devising* needs a subject supplied from elsewhere in the sentence, but the only option is the illogical *Henry Cavendish’s apparatus*.
- C. Connecting the three parts of the sentence with two occurrences of *and* is awkward; the first two parts are best connected by *and*, but the final portion expressing what Cavendish achieved would be better expressed, for example, as a new sentence beginning, *In 1797–1798, he employed*.
- D. This variant seems to suggest, illogically, that Cavendish devised an instrument from several objects plus employment; using *employed* instead of *employment of* would be one way of correctly pairing his two actions.
- E. **Correct.** The verbs *devising*, *employing*, and *was able* have their correct logical subject (*Henry Cavendish*), and the actions of devising and employing are paired clearly, with *by* understood before *employing*.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC08285

331. The growth projected for these storms in different computerized weather models varies widely.

- A. projected for these storms in different computerized weather models varies widely
- B. for these storms is projected in different computerized models of weather to vary widely
- C. of these storms, projected in different computerized weather models, vary widely
- D. projected for these storms, which vary widely in different computerized weather models
- E. that varies widely for these storms are projected in different computerized weather models

### Logical Predication; Agreement

The point of the sentence is that there is great variation in projections of how the storms that it refers to will grow. The structure of the sentence makes it clear that the variation is in the computer models’ projections.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence explains concisely that *growth projected* in different weather models *varies widely*.
- B. *Growth for these storms* is unidiomatic and unclear. The construction *growth ... is projected ... to vary* makes it unclear whether the models project widely varying growth or vary in how much growth they project.
- C. The construction *growth ... vary widely* places the variation in the growth of the storms rather than in the projections. The plural verb *vary* does not agree with the singular subject *growth*.
- D. If *growth projected for these storms* is taken as the subject of the sentence, the subject is not paired with a verb and the sentence is grammatically incomplete.
- E. The phrase *growth that varies widely* indicates that the variation is in the growth of the storms rather than in the projections. The plural verb *are projected* does not agree with the singular subject *growth*.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC02131

332. By using a process called echolocation to analyze the echoes of the high-pitched sounds they produce, bats can determine not only the distance to an object, but they also can determine its shape and size and the direction in which it is moving.
- A. can determine not only the distance to an object, but they also can determine
  - B. not only can determine the distance to an object but also
  - C. can determine not only the distance to an object but also
  - D. not only can determine its distance from an object but also
  - E. can determine not only their distance from an object, but they can also determine

### **Parallelism; Logical Predication**

This sentence explains that bats' echolocation allows them to determine both the distance to an object and other pieces of information. The correct way to construct this sentence using a correlative conjunction is to follow *not only* and *but also* with the same parts of speech. Using nouns to indicate all the kinds of information bats gain through echolocation provides parallel grammatical structure and concise wording: *not only distance, but also shape, size, and direction*.

- A. Introducing the second main clause *they also can determine* makes the sentence wordy and disrupts the correct formation of the correlative conjunction *not only, but also*.
- B. The correlative conjunction is used incorrectly because *not only* is followed by a verb, while *but also* is followed by a list of nouns.
- C. **Correct.** This sentence concisely uses *not only, but also* to connect a series of nouns.
- D. The correlative conjunction is used incorrectly because *not only* is followed by a verb, while *but also* is followed by a list of nouns. *Its* most plausibly refers to bats, but on that interpretation the singular pronoun does not agree with its plural antecedent, and the sentence indicates, somewhat implausibly, that the bats use echolocation to determine their own shape, size, and direction of movement. Alternatively, *its* could refer to some other thing that is not named in the sentence, but it is implausible and confusing to say that the bats determine the distance of that unnamed thing from an unspecified object.
- E. Introducing the second main clause *they also can determine* makes the sentence wordy and disrupts the correct construction to be used with the correlative conjunction: *not only* is followed by a noun, while *but also* is followed by a verb.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC06205

333. Carbon dioxide, which traps heat in the atmosphere and helps regulate the planet's surface temperature, is constantly being exchanged between the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other.
- A. exchanged between the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other
  - B. exchanged, on the one hand, between the atmosphere and the oceans and terrestrial plants, on the other
  - C. exchanged between, on the one hand, the atmosphere, with the oceans and terrestrial plants, on the other
  - D. exchanged, on the one hand, among the oceans and terrestrial plants, and the atmosphere, on the other
  - E. exchanged among the oceans and terrestrial plants on the one hand and the atmosphere on the other

**Parallelism; Idiom**

This sentence describes an exchange between the atmosphere and the Earth's surface using the paired phrases *on the one hand* and *on the other*. Preceding both phrases with nouns creates a parallel grammatical structure: *the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other*. Although three locations are mentioned, *between* is the correct preposition to describe the exchange since *the oceans and terrestrial plants* are treated as a set, both members of which are located on the Earth's surface.

- A. **Correct.** The exchange between the atmosphere and the Earth's surface is expressed using parallel nouns and the paired phrases *on the one hand* and *on the other*.
- B. The placement of all three nouns between the paired phrases *on the one hand* and *on the other* obscures the nature of the exchange and makes it unclear whether the exchange is among all three of the locations, between the first one and the last two, or between the first two and the last one. *On the one hand* appears to encompass all three of the locations, leaving *on the other* dangling.
- C. The preposition *with* disrupts the expression of an exchange *between* two locations; the construction *on the one hand* and *on the other* is not in parallel form.
- D. The preposition *among*, the placement of *and the atmosphere* between commas, and the lack of parallelism make the meaning of this sentence unclear.
- E. If the relationship is supposed to be among all three of the locations mentioned, the binary relationship indicator (*on the one hand ... on the other*) makes no sense. Alternatively, *among* could appear to distribute, implicitly, to both sides of the comparison (*among the oceans and terrestrial plants on the one hand and (among) the atmosphere on the other*). On that interpretation, *among the atmosphere* makes no sense, because *among* signals a relationship involving multiple entities, but *atmosphere* is a singular noun and is not normally construed as either plural or collective.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC01990

334. Floating in the waters of the equatorial Pacific, an array of buoys collects and transmits data on long-term interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, interactions that affect global climate.

- A. atmosphere, interactions that affect
- B. atmosphere, with interactions affecting
- C. atmosphere that affects
- D. atmosphere that is affecting
- E. atmosphere as affects

### Grammatical Construction; Agreement

The underlined portion of the sentence is an appositive, a terminal noun phrase restating the kind of data being collected and providing additional information about it. This is a clear and economical way to provide the extra information.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence is grammatically correct and logically coherent.
- B. The prepositional phrase *with ...* has no clear noun or noun phrase to attach to and is therefore ungrammatical.
- C. Using the restrictive *that* after *atmosphere* illogically suggests that there are many atmospheres to differentiate from and the one in question in this sentence is the one affecting global climate.
- D. The restrictive *that* also follows *atmosphere* as in answer choice C.
- E. The phrase *as affects global climate* functions as an adverb, but there is no verb for it to modify.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC04344

335. Sixty-five million years ago, according to some scientists, an asteroid bigger than Mount Everest slammed into North America, which, causing plant and animal extinctions, marks the end of the geologic era known as the Cretaceous Period.
- A. which, causing plant and animal extinctions, marks
  - B. which caused the plant and animal extinctions and marks
  - C. and causing plant and animal extinctions that mark
  - D. an event that caused plant and animal extinctions, which marks
  - E. an event that caused the plant and animal extinctions that mark

### Logical Predication; Agreement

This sentence describes a two-part sequence of events, the second of which has led to a particular categorization of geological time. In order to clarify that it is not the first event (asteroid strike) that produced the time division (end of the Cretaceous Period), but the first event's consequences (biological extinctions), the sentence needs an appositive form to restate the content of the main clause (*an event*), followed by a two-part chain of relative clauses (*that caused ... that mark ...*).

- A. The antecedent for the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous; it is therefore unclear what *marks* the end of the Cretaceous Period.
- B. The antecedent of *which* is unclear; the compound verbs *caused* and *marks* fail to indicate that the extinctions, not the asteroid strike, are significant markers of geological time.
- C. Following the conjunction *and* with a participial rather than a main verb is grammatically incorrect because it violates parallelism and produces a fragment at the end of the sentence.

D. *Which*, referring to *extinctions*, should be followed by a plural verb.

E. **Correct.** The sentence is unambiguous, and the verbs agree with their subjects.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC02338

336. Although the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, it had not been announced until February 1968.

A. Although the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, it had not been announced until February 1968.

B. Although not announced until February 1968, in the summer of 1967 graduate student Jocelyn Bell observed the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted.

C. Although observed by graduate student Jocelyn Bell in the summer of 1967, the discovery of the first sighted pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, had not been announced before February 1968.

D. The first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was observed in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, but the discovery was not announced until February 1968.

E. The first sighted pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, was not announced until February 1968, while it was observed in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell.

### Verb Form; Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence presents conditions that are followed by an unexpected outcome: a delayed announcement of the discovery of a pulsar. A compound sentence using a coordinating conjunction *but* is an effective way to present the conditions of the first pulsar sighting and then information about the subsequent announcement of the discovery. The sentence must clarify that it is not about *the first pulsar*, but *the first pulsar ... to be sighted*. The verbs in the sentence must all be in past tense; using a past-perfect verb to present information about the announcement of the discovery indicates that this announcement illogically took place before the pulsar was first sighted.

A. The subject of the opening dependent clause is *pulsar*, and the verb is *was*. The clause needs to indicate not just that the pulsar existed but that it was observed by Bell; the past-perfect verb tense is inappropriate in the concluding clause.

B. The opening participial phrase functions as an adjective, but it has no logical noun or noun phrase to attach to; Bell herself was not announced in 1968.

C. Grammatically, the opening participial phrase describes the first noun that follows, but it makes no sense to say that *the discovery* of the pulsar was *observed*; *discovery of the first sighted pulsar* is also imprecise; one does not discover a first sighting.

D. **Correct.** The sentence presents the sequence of events clearly and in the past tense.

E. This sentence presents events in a way that is confusing; as a conjunction, *while* indicates simultaneous events, but this sentence is about events that occurred in a sequence.

**The correct answer is D.**

SC02766

337. Sound can travel through water for enormous distances, prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of boundaries in the ocean created by water layers of different

temperatures and densities.

- A. prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of
- B. prevented from having its acoustic energy dissipated by
- C. its acoustic energy prevented from dissipating by
- D. its acoustic energy prevented from being dissipated as a result of
- E. preventing its acoustic energy from dissipating by

### Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence opens with a statement that sound can travel long distances through water and then explains why that is so: water layers in the ocean prevent acoustic energy from dissipating. Because *dissipating* is an intransitive verb, *acoustic energy* cannot be its object.

- A. *Dissipating* is not a transitive verb, so *acoustic energy* cannot function as its object.
- B. This version of the sentence is wordy, awkward, and indirect; *from having ... by* erroneously suggests that the boundaries in the ocean are attempting to dissipate sound energy.
- C. **Correct.** Here, *acoustic energy* is effectively modified by the participial *prevented from dissipating* ....
- D. This version of the sentence is wordy, awkward, and indirect; *being dissipated as a result of* makes it unclear whether the boundaries contribute to energy loss or prevent it.
- E. This version of the sentence nonsensically explains that sound prevents the dissipation of its own energy.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC10996

338. Last year, land values in most parts of the pinelands rose almost so fast, and in some parts even faster than what they did outside the pinelands.

- A. so fast, and in some parts even faster than what they did
- B. so fast, and in some parts even faster than, those
- C. as fast, and in some parts even faster than, those
- D. as fast as, and in some parts even faster than, those
- E. as fast as, and in some parts even faster than what they did

### Idiom; Parallelism

This sentence says *x rose almost so fast y*, which is not a correct idiomatic construction; *x rose almost as fast as y* is the correct idiom for this comparison. The two elements being compared, *x* and *y*, must be parallel, but the noun *land values* (*x*) is not parallel to *what they did* (*y*). *Land values* in the pinelands (*x*) must be compared with *those* (the pronoun correctly replacing *land values*) outside the pinelands (*y*).

- A. *So fast* is used instead of *as fast*. *What they did* is not parallel to *land values*.
- B. *So fast* is not the correct idiom for comparison.
- C. *As fast* must be followed by *as* in this comparison.
- D. **Correct.** *As fast as* is the correct comparative conjunction used in this sentence; *those* is parallel to *land values*.
- E. *What they did* is not parallel to *land values*.



**The correct answer is D.**

SC03010

339. The North American moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them.
- A. moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them
  - B. moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
  - C. moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing them must leap over or go around them
  - D. moose has long legs, enabling it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
  - E. moose has long legs that enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing it must leap over or go around them

**Logical Predication; Agreement**

This sentence explains the advantages of long legs to the North American moose. Since the sentence contains multiple relationships among pronouns, nouns, and modifiers, it is important that the various elements be clearly connected. The structure of the sentence makes it unclear whether *stepping easily over downed trees* is intended to modify the main subject, *the North American moose's long legs*, or the pronoun *it*. Although *it* presumably refers to *the North American moose*, it does so only obliquely, because *moose* does not appear in noun form in the sentence. The best way to construct this sentence is to make *moose* the subject of the main clause so that both occurrences of *it* have a clear antecedent. Because *stepping easily over them* is set off by commas from the preceding and ensuing clauses and because the apparently intransitive verb *leap* intervenes between *downed trees* and *them*, it is unclear whether *them* refers to the moose's legs or the downed trees. The phrase *leap or go around them* should say *leap over*, because the point is that the predators must either leap over the downed trees (or go around them), not merely that the predators leap in the air or else go around the trees.

- A. The function of *stepping easily over downed trees* is unclear in relation to the rest of the sentence. The pronoun *it* refers only obliquely and unclearly to *moose*, because only the possessive form *moose's* appears in the sentence. Furthermore, the final phrase should say *leap over*, not merely *leap*.
- B. The function of *stepping easily over downed trees* is unclear in relation to the rest of the sentence. The pronoun *it* refers only obliquely and unclearly to *moose*, because only the possessive form *moose's* appears in the sentence. The plural pronoun *them* has no logical plural antecedent (surely the predators are not pursuing the moose's legs, but the moose itself; nor are the predators pursuing the downed trees). Furthermore, the final phrase should say *leap over*, not merely *leap*.
- C. The plural pronoun *them* in *pursuing them* has no logical plural antecedent.
- D. The plural pronoun *them* has no logical plural antecedent (*moose* can be used as a plural, but because in this sentence the singular verb *has* is used, *moose* must be construed as being singular here). Furthermore, the final phrase should say *leap over*, not merely *leap*.
- E. **Correct.** The pronoun *it* refers to *moose*, and the pronoun *them* refers to *trees*. Also, the final phrase correctly says *leap over or go around them*.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC07885

340. Early administrative decisions in China's Ming Dynasty eventually caused a drastic fall in tax revenues, a reduction in military preparedness, the collapse of the currency system, and failed to make sufficient investment in vital transportation infrastructure.
- A. the collapse of the currency system, and failed
  - B. the collapse of the currency system, and failing
  - C. and the collapse of the currency system, also failed
  - D. the collapse of the currency system, as well as failing
  - E. and the collapse of the currency system, as well as a failure

**Parallelism; Grammatical Construction; Rhetorical Construction**

The sentence provides a list of effects stemming from administrative decisions in the Ming Dynasty. To make the meaning clear, all items in the list should be in parallel grammatical form. The first three are noun phrases—*a drastic fall*, *a reduction*, and *the collapse*—but the final item, *failed*, is a verb. To preserve parallel structure, the fourth item should also be a noun phrase: *a failure*. An alternative interpretation might take *failed* as parallel with *caused*, so that *decisions* is the subject of both verbs, but it is illogical to say that the *decisions* failed to make sufficient investments.

- A. The list of effects is not parallel since the first three items are noun phrases but the fourth is the verb *failed*. An alternative interpretation might take *failed* as parallel with *caused*, so that *decisions* is the subject of both verbs, but it is illogical to say that the *decisions* failed to make sufficient investments.
- B. The list of effects is not parallel since the first three items are noun phrases but the fourth is the participle *failing*.
- C. The list of three effects is followed by the verb *failed*, which lacks a subject, thus making the sentence ungrammatical.
- D. The list of effects is not parallel since the first three items are noun phrases but the fourth is the participle *failing*.
- E. **Correct.** The list of four effects is expressed in parallel grammatical form using noun phrases, including *a failure*.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC11017

341. Seismologists studying the earthquake that struck northern California in October 1989 are still investigating some of its mysteries: the unexpected power of the seismic waves, the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the temblor.
- A. the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the temblor
  - B. the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and strange electromagnetic signals were detected hours before the temblor
  - C. the upward thrust threw one man straight into the air, and hours before the temblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected
  - D. one man was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and hours before the temblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected

- E. one man who was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and strange electromagnetic signals that were detected hours before the temblor

### Parallelism; Grammatical Construction

Some of the earthquake's *mysteries* are described in a series of three correctly parallel elements: (1) *the unexpected power ...*, (2) *the upward thrust ...*, and (3) *the strange electromagnetic signals ....* Each of the three elements begins with an article (*the*), a modifier, and a noun. This parallelism is crucial, but each mystery is allowed the further modification most appropriate to it, whether a prepositional phrase (1), a clause (2), or a participial phrase (3).

- A. **Correct.** This sentence correctly provides a parallel series of three mysteries.
- B. *The* is omitted before *strange*. The verb *were detected* makes the last element not parallel to the previous two.
- C. Because they use complete independent clauses, the last two elements are not parallel to the first, and the sentence is ungrammatical.
- D. The constructions beginning *one man* and *hours before* are not parallel to the construction beginning *the unexpected power*.
- E. The grammatical constructions describing the mysteries are not parallel.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC10878

342. The type of behavior exhibited when an animal recognizes itself in a mirror comes within the domain of "theory of mind," thus is best studied as part of the field of animal cognition.

- A. of "theory of mind," thus is best
- B. "theory of mind," and so is best to be
- C. of a "theory of mind," thus it is best
- D. of "theory of mind" and thus is best
- E. of the "theory of mind," and so it is best to be

### Grammatical Construction; Idiom

This sentence links two independent clauses; in such sentences, the clauses must normally be set off from each other (by a semicolon, for example), or else the second clause must be introduced by *and* or some other conjunction, not merely an adverb like *thus*. Also, a noun like *domain* normally is followed by the preposition *of* immediately preceding the noun phrase describing the domain.

- A. The second clause incorrectly lacks an introducing conjunction.
- B. The phrasing *is best to be studied* is awkwardly unusual and unidiomatic; *is best studied* is a better choice.
- C. The second clause incorrectly lacks an introducing conjunction. The phrase *a "theory of mind"* would refer to one particular theory rather than (as intended) to a theoretical domain.
- D. **Correct.** *And* introduces the second clause, which uses the concise wording *best studied*.
- E. The beginning of the second clause is redundant and wordy: the word *and* is unnecessary because the conjunction *so* is used, and *best to be studied* is unidiomatic.

**The correct answer is D.**

343. Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka are concentrated in the monsoon months, June to September, and the skies are generally clear for the rest of the year.

- A. Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- B. Unlike the United States farmers who can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- C. Unlike those of the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, most parts of Sri Lanka's rains
- D. In comparison with the United States, whose farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- E. In the United States, farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, but in most parts of Sri Lanka, the rains

### Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The intent of the sentence is to compare seasonal rainfall patterns in the United States and Sri Lanka. There are many ways to set up such comparisons: *unlike x, y; in comparison with x, y; compared to x, y;* and so on. The *x* and *y* being compared must be grammatically and logically parallel. An alternative way of stating the comparison is the use of two independent clauses connected by *but*. The original sentence compares *the United States* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka*; this illogical comparison cannot convey the writer's intention.

- A. This sentence illogically compares *the United States* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka*.
- B. Comparing *United States farmers* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka* is not logical.
- C. The sentence awkwardly and illogically seems to be comparing most parts of the United States with *most parts of Sri Lanka's rains*.
- D. This sentence compares *the United States* and *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka*.
- E. **Correct.** This sentence uses two independent clauses to make the comparison. The first clause describes conditions in the United States, and the second clause describes conditions in Sri Lanka. The comparison is clear and logical.

**The correct answer is E.**

344. In preparation for the prediction of a major earthquake that will hit the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services for identifying earthquake damage and to pinpoint the most affected areas within two hours of the event.

- A. In preparation for the prediction of a major earthquake that will hit the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services for identifying
- B. In preparing for the prediction that a major earthquake will hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network that will identify
- C. In preparing for a major earthquake that is predicted to hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network to identify

- D. To prepare for the prediction of a major earthquake hitting the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services to identify
- E. To prepare for a major earthquake that is predicted to hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network that will identify

### Logical Predication; Parallelism

This sentence explains what the California Office of Emergency Services is doing to prepare for an earthquake that has been predicted for the state, but the sentence appears to claim that the California Office is doing these things to prepare for the prediction. The two purposes of these preparations should be presented in parallel form, but the sentence as written presents one as a prepositional phrase (*for identifying*) and the other as an infinitive (*to pinpoint*).

- A. The opening phrase illogically claims that the California Office is preparing for a prediction, but later in the sentence it becomes clear that the preparations are targeted to the aftermath of a possible earthquake, not its prediction. The two purposes of the preparations are not presented in parallel form.
- B. Like answer choice A, this identifies preparations for a prediction rather than an earthquake; the two purposes of the preparations are not presented in parallel form.
- C. **Correct.** The preparations are correctly presented as being for an earthquake, and the two purposes of the preparations are presented in parallel form (*to identify* and *to pinpoint*).
- D. As in answer choices A and B, the beginning of this sentence is inconsistent with the rest of it. The opening phrase claims to describe preparations for a prediction, whereas the latter part of the sentence indicates that the preparations are for a predicted earthquake.
- E. Like answer choices A and B, this does not present the two purposes of the preparations in parallel form.

**The correct answer is C.**

SC06727

345. Once numbering in the millions worldwide, it is estimated that the wolf has declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, some 11,000 of them to be found in the lower 48 United States and Alaska.
- A. it is estimated that the wolf has declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, some
  - B. the wolf is estimated to have declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, with approximately
  - C. the wolf has declined to an estimate of 200,000 in 57 countries, some
  - D. wolves have declined to an estimate of 200,000 in 57 countries, with approximately
  - E. wolves have declined to an estimated 200,000 in 57 countries, some

### Logical Predication; Idiom

The predicate *numbered* must have its logically correct subject, which is *wolves*. Although *the wolf* can be used to refer collectively to wolves as a category, the noun should be plural in this case since the sentence refers to numbers of them and since agreement is needed between the noun and the plural pronoun *them*. Given the plural subject, the verb in the independent clause should be *have declined*. The object of *decline to* should be a word or phrase naming a number or estimated number (e.g., a phrase such as *an estimated 200,000*), not the phrase *an estimate*.

- A. The subject of the main clause (*it*) seems to supply the subject of *numbering*, so the latter does not have its correct logical subject, which should be a word or phrase

referring to wolves.

- B. *The wolf* cannot correctly be taken as the subject of *numbering*, as it is singular and in disagreement with *them* occurring later in the sentence.
- C. *The wolf* cannot correctly be taken as the subject of *numbering*, as it is singular and disagrees with the later *them*; also, a decline is strictly speaking to a number, not to *an estimate*.
- D. Although *wolves* is a correct subject for *numbering*, a decline should be to a number, not to *an estimate*.
- E. **Correct.** *Wolves* is a proper subject for *numbering* and agrees with the later *them*. The decline is correctly said to be to a number, *an estimated 200,000*.

**The correct answer is E.**

SC11926

346. 346. As business grows more complex, students majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly successful in the job market.
- A. majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly
  - B. who major in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are becoming more and more
  - C. who majored in specialized areas such as those of finance and marketing are being increasingly
  - D. who major in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming more and more
  - E. having majored in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are being increasingly

### Verb Form; Diction

The subordinate clause *as business grows more complex* uses the present-tense verb *grows* to describe an ongoing situation. The main clause describes an effect of this growing complexity; the verbs in the main clause should also use present-tense verbs. The present perfect progressive *have been becoming* is incorrect. The preferred way to introduce examples is with the phrase *such as*, rather than with the word *like*, which suggests a comparison.

- A. *Like* should be replaced by *such as*. *Have been becoming* is an incorrect verb tense.
- B. **Correct.** In this sentence, *major* and *are becoming* are present-tense verbs; *such ... as* is the preferred form for introducing examples.
- C. *Majored* is a past-tense verb; *those of* is unnecessary and awkward. *Becoming* is preferable to *being* for describing an unfolding pattern of events.
- D. *Like* should be replaced by *such as*. *Those of* is unnecessary and awkward. *Have been becoming* is an incorrect verb tense.
- E. *Having majored* is an awkward past participle. *Becoming* is preferable to *being* for describing an unfolding pattern of events.

**The correct answer is B.**

SC04682

347. Created in 1945 to reduce poverty and stabilize foreign currency markets, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have, according to some critics, continually struggled

to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—but neglected their intended beneficiaries in the developing world.

- A. continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—but neglected
- B. continually struggled as they try to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—while neglecting that of
- C. continually struggled to meet their major shareholders’ expectations—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—but neglected that of
- D. had to struggle continually in trying to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—while neglecting that of
- E. struggled continually in trying to meet their major shareholders’ expectations—a group comprising many of the world’s rich nations—and neglecting

### Idiom; Verb Form

This sentence describes a contradiction some critics have ascribed to the actions and policies of both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund: although they were created to address poverty in the developing world, they struggled to meet their major shareholders’ expectations and neglected their intended beneficiaries. The contradiction is best expressed by joining the two past-tense verbs *struggled to meet ...* and *neglected ...* with the contrasting conjunction *but*. The appositive phrase set off with dashes must immediately follow the noun it defines (*shareholders*).

- A. **Correct.** The conjunction *but* accurately describes the contradiction between what the organizations did for their major shareholders and what they did not do for their intended beneficiaries, and the appositive clearly defines the immediately preceding noun, *shareholders*.
- B. The present tense of *as they try to meet* is inconsistent with the rest of the verbs in the sentence. The pronoun *that* seems to have no referent in the phrase *while neglecting that of ...* since the only likely antecedent *expectations* is plural.
- C. The appositive grammatically but nonsensically describes expectations rather than shareholders; as in answer choice B, the pronoun *that* does not agree in number with its likely antecedent *expectations*.
- D. Like answer choice B, this version is unnecessarily wordy, and like answer choice C, it introduces the pronoun *that*, which disagrees in number with the antecedent *expectations*.
- E. As in answer choice C, the appositive seems to define *expectations* rather than *shareholders*, and the conjunction *and* fails to capture the contradictory relationship between the organizations’ actions toward their shareholders and their intended beneficiaries.

**The correct answer is A.**

SC11934

348. Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage, but if the insurance company is able to prove excessive loss due to owner negligence, it may decline to renew the policy.
- A. Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,
  - B. Unlike with auto insurance, the frequency of claims do not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,

- C. Unlike the frequency of claims for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,
- D. Unlike the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,
- E. Unlike with the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage is not affected by the frequency of claims,

### Logical Predication; Agreement

The sentence has been written so that *auto insurance* is contrasted with *the frequency of claims*. The correct contrast is between *the premiums for auto insurance* and *the premiums for personal property coverage*.

- A. *Auto insurance* is illogically contrasted with *the frequency of claims*.
- B. *Unlike with* is an incorrect idiom; *auto insurance* is contrasted with *the frequency of claims*; the singular subject *frequency* does not agree with the plural verb *do*.
- C. *The frequency of claims* is contrasted with *the premiums for personal property coverage*.
- D. **Correct.** The contrast between *the premiums for auto insurance* and *the premiums for personal property coverage* is clearly and correctly stated in this sentence.
- E. *Unlike with* is an incorrect idiom; the plural subject *premiums* does not agree with the singular verb *is not affected*.

**The correct answer is D.**

### Note

\*These numbers correlate with the online test bank question number. See the GMAT™ Official Guide Verbal Review Question Index in the back of this book.



## 7.0 GMAT™ Official Guide Verbal Review Question Index

### 7.0 GMAT™ Official Guide Verbal Review Question Index

The Official Guide Verbal Review Question Index is organized by GMAT™ section, difficulty level, and then by mathematical or verbal concept. The question number, page number, and answer explanation page number are listed so that questions within the book can be quickly located.

**To locate a question from the online question bank in the book**—Every question in the online question bank has a unique ID, called the Practice Question Identifier or PQID, which appears above the question number. Look up the PQID in the table to find its problem number and page number in the book.

#### Verbal Review

Difficulty	Concept	Question #	Page	Answer Explanation Page	PQID
Easy	Argument Construction	1	20	21	CR63800.03
Easy	Evaluation of a Plan	4	25	25	CR96370.03
Easy	Evaluation of a Plan	5	27	27	CR03570.03
Easy	Idiom; Rhetorical Construction	24	76	77	SC92120.03
Easy	Inference	8	29	31	RC73100-05.03
Easy	Logical Predication; Parallelism	23	75	75	SC74010.03
Easy	Main Idea	9	29	31	RC73100-06.03
Easy	Supporting Idea	6	29	29	RC73100-01.03
Easy	Supporting Idea	7	29	30	RC73100-03.03
Easy	Verb Form; Diction	18	59	60	SC93410.03

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Argument Evaluation	2	20	21	CR32900.03
Medium	Evaluation	13	41	43	RC43000-04.03
Medium	Inference	12	41	42	RC43000-03.03
Medium	Inference	14	41	43	RC43000-07.03
Medium	Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction	22	72	73	SC50620.03
Medium	Main Idea	11	40	41	RC43000-01.03
Medium	Rhetorical Construction; Parallelism	25	76	77	CR09351.03
Medium	Verb Form; Rhetorical Construction	20	66	66	SC75420.03
Hard	Argument Evaluation	10	34	34	CR51800.03
Hard	Argument Evaluation	3	23	23	CR49110.03
Hard	Argument Evaluation	15	45	46	CR28310.03
Hard	Argument Evaluation	16	50	51	CR88310.03
Hard	Argument Evaluation	17	53	54	CR13750.03

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Grammatical Construction; Logical Predication	21	70	70	SC95430.03
Hard	Rhetorical Construction; Parallelism	19	64	64	SC11910.03

### Reading Comprehension

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Application	2	90	130	RC00184-02
Easy	Evaluation	21	97	141	RC00492-05
Easy	Evaluation	26	98	144	RC00222-03
Easy	Evaluation	28	99	145	RC00222-05.02
Easy	Evaluation	30	100	147	RC38000-02.02
Easy	Evaluation	32	101	148	RC38000-04.02
Easy	Inference	7	93	133	RC00144-05
Easy	Inference	13	95	137	RC00113-03
Easy	Inference	15	95	138	RC00113-05
Easy	Inference	17	96	139	RC00492-01
Easy	Inference	19	97	140	RC00492-03

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Inference	20	97	141	RC00492-04
Easy	Inference	22	97	142	RC00492-06
Easy	Inference	23	97	143	RC00492-07
Easy	Inference	24	98	143	RC00222-01
Easy	Inference	31	100	148	RC38000-03.02
Easy	Inference	33	101	149	RC38000-05.02
Easy	Inference	35	101	150	RC38000-07.02
Easy	Main Idea	4	91	131	RC00184-04
Easy	Main Idea	9	93	134	RC00144-07
Easy	Main Idea	11	94	136	RC00113-01
Easy	Main Idea	29	100	146	RC38000-01.02
Easy	Supporting Idea	1	90	130	RC00184-01
Easy	Supporting Idea	3	91	131	RC00184-03
Easy	Supporting Idea	5	92	132	RC00144-03
Easy	Supporting Idea	6	92	133	RC00144-04

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Supporting Idea	8	93	134	RC00144-06
Easy	Supporting Idea	10	93	135	RC00144-08
Easy	Supporting Idea	12	95	136	RC00113-02
Easy	Supporting Idea	14	95	137	RC00113-04
Easy	Supporting Idea	16	95	138	RC00113-07
Easy	Supporting Idea	18	97	140	RC00492-02
Easy	Supporting Idea	25	98	144	RC00222-02
Easy	Supporting Idea	27	99	145	RC00222-04
Easy	Supporting Idea	34	101	149	RC38000-06.02
Easy	Supporting Idea	36	101	151	RC38000-08.02
Medium	Application	42	104	154	RC00141-04
Medium	Application	44	104	156	RC00141-06
Medium	Application	60	109	165	RC00322-02
Medium	Application	61	109	166	RC00322-05
Medium	Application	65	111	168	RC22661-04.01

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Application	80	115	176	RC00097-06
Medium	Evaluation	39	102	152	RC00267-03
Medium	Evaluation	43	104	155	RC00141-05
Medium	Evaluation	48	105	158	RC00204-03
Medium	Evaluation	49	106	159	RC00204-04
Medium	Evaluation	56	107	163	RC00201-03
Medium	Evaluation	58	108	164	RC00201-05
Medium	Evaluation	63	110	167	RC22661-02.01
Medium	Evaluation	69	112	170	RC32661-01.01
Medium	Evaluation	71	113	171	RC32661-03.01
Medium	Evaluation	73	113	172	RC32661-05.01
Medium	Evaluation	77	114	175	RC00097-03
Medium	Evaluation	78	115	175	RC00097-04
Medium	Inference	38	102	152	RC00267-02
Medium	Inference	45	104	157	RC00141-07

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Inference	47	105	158	RC00204-02
Medium	Inference	50	106	159	RC00204-05
Medium	Inference	51	106	160	RC00204-06
Medium	Inference	52	106	161	RC00204-07
Medium	Inference	53	106	161	RC00204-08
Medium	Inference	54	106	162	RC00204-09
Medium	Inference	57	108	163	RC00201-04
Medium	Inference	66	111	169	RC22661-05.01
Medium	Inference	67	111	169	RC22661-06.01
Medium	Inference	70	112	171	RC32661-02.01
Medium	Inference	74	113	173	RC32661-06.01
Medium	Inference	79	115	176	RC00097-05
Medium	Main Idea	37	102	151	RC00267-01
Medium	Main Idea	40	103	153	RC00141-01
Medium	Main Idea	55	107	162	RC00201-01

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Main Idea	59	109	165	RC00322-01
Medium	Main Idea	68	111	170	RC22661-07.01
Medium	Main Idea	72	113	172	RC32661-04.01
Medium	Supporting Idea	41	103	154	RC00141-02
Medium	Supporting Idea	46	105	157	RC00204-01
Medium	Supporting Idea	62	110	166	RC22661-01.01
Medium	Supporting Idea	64	110	167	RC22661-03.01
Medium	Supporting Idea	75	113	174	RC32661-07.01
Medium	Supporting Idea	76	114	174	RC00097-02
Hard	Application	96	121	185	RC00548-04
Hard	Evaluation	85	117	179	RC00054-05
Hard	Evaluation	97	121	186	RC00548-05
Hard	Evaluation	108	126	192	RC00613-10
Hard	Evaluation	111	128	194	RC00512-05
Hard	Inference	82	116	177	RC00054-02



<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Inference	83	116	178	RC00054-03
Hard	Inference	84	117	178	RC00054-04
Hard	Inference	86	117	180	RC00054-06
Hard	Inference	90	118	182	RC11238-03
Hard	Inference	91	119	182	RC11238-04
Hard	Inference	98	122	186	RC00533-03
Hard	Inference	100	123	187	RC00533-05
Hard	Inference	102	124	188	RC00613-02
Hard	Inference	103	125	189	RC00613-03
Hard	Inference	104	125	190	RC00613-04
Hard	Inference	105	125	190	RC00613-05
Hard	Inference	106	125	191	RC00613-08
Hard	Inference	110	127	194	RC00512-03
Hard	Inference	112	128	195	RC00512-07
Hard	Logical Structure	92	119	183	RC11238-05

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Logical Structure	93	119	183	RC11238-06
Hard	Main Idea	87	117	180	RC00054-07
Hard	Main Idea	88	118	181	RC11238-01
Hard	Main Idea	94	120	184	RC00548-01.02
Hard	Main Idea	107	126	192	RC00613-09.02
Hard	Main Idea	109	127	193	RC00512-01
Hard	Supporting Idea	81	116	177	RC00054-01
Hard	Supporting Idea	89	118	181	RC11238-02
Hard	Supporting Idea	95	120	184	RC00548-03
Hard	Supporting Idea	99	122	187	RC00533-04
Hard	Supporting Idea	101	124	188	RC00613-01

### Critical Reasoning

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Argument Construction	117	203	260	CR00701
Easy	Argument Construction	118	204	261	CR04192
Easy	Argument Construction	125	206	268	CR07618

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Argument Construction	126	207	269	CR02958
Easy	Argument Construction	129	208	272	CR06018
Easy	Argument Construction	133	210	276	CR07547
Easy	Argument Construction	135	211	278	CR01298
Easy	Argument Construction	136	211	279	CR07589
Easy	Argument Construction	139	212	282	CR03826
Easy	Argument Construction	143	214	286	CR02851
Easy	Argument Construction	145	215	288	CR02704
Easy	Argument Construction	146	215	289	CR03659
Easy	Argument Construction	148	216	291	CR08756
Easy	Argument Construction	151	217	294	CR80661.01
Easy	Argument Evaluation	113	202	256	CR14249
Easy	Argument Evaluation	114	202	257	CR12701.02
Easy	Argument Evaluation	115	203	258	CR12721.02
Easy	Argument Evaluation	116	203	259	CR07612

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Argument Evaluation	119	204	262	CR52441.01
Easy	Argument Evaluation	120	205	263	CR03129
Easy	Argument Evaluation	121	205	264	CR59590.02
Easy	Argument Evaluation	122	205	265	CR20531.01
Easy	Argument Evaluation	123	206	266	CR00828
Easy	Argument Evaluation	124	206	267	CR10639
Easy	Argument Evaluation	127	207	270	CR75231.01
Easy	Argument Evaluation	128	208	271	CR04073
Easy	Argument Evaluation	130	209	273	CR28931.01
Easy	Argument Evaluation	131	209	274	CR04738
Easy	Argument Evaluation	132	210	275	CR91131.02
Easy	Argument Evaluation	134	210	277	CR02270
Easy	Argument Evaluation	137	211	280	CR07785
Easy	Argument Evaluation	138	212	281	CR03535
Easy	Argument Evaluation	140	213	283	CR01430

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Argument Evaluation	141	213	284	CR04180
Easy	Argument Evaluation	142	214	285	CR05096
Easy	Argument Evaluation	144	214	287	CR06331
Easy	Argument Evaluation	147	216	290	CR02518
Easy	Argument Evaluation	149	217	292	CR00780
Easy	Argument Evaluation	150	217	293	CR70661.01
Easy	Argument Evaluation	152	218	295	CR01661.01
Easy	Argument Evaluation	153	218	296	CR11661.01
Easy	Argument Evaluation	154	218	297	CR41661.01
Medium	Argument Construction	161	221	304	CR06795
Medium	Argument Construction	162	222	305	CR02865
Medium	Argument Construction	163	222	306	CR00693
Medium	Argument Construction	164	223	307	CR06845
Medium	Argument Construction	165	223	308	CR10106
Medium	Argument Construction	169	225	312	CR10731

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Argument Construction	170	226	313	CR09120
Medium	Argument Construction	172	227	315	CR04532
Medium	Argument Construction	174	228	317	CR06831
Medium	Argument Construction	175	228	318	CR03697
Medium	Argument Construction	176	229	319	CR05438
Medium	Argument Construction	177	229	320	CR00663
Medium	Argument Construction	180	230	323	CR05431
Medium	Argument Construction	182	231	325	CR01101
Medium	Argument Construction	184	232	327	CR01355
Medium	Argument Construction	187	234	330	CR06152
Medium	Argument Evaluation	167	224	310	CR00783
Medium	Argument Evaluation	168	225	311	CR05590
Medium	Argument Evaluation	171	226	314	CR05065
Medium	Argument Evaluation	173	227	316	CR01353
Medium	Argument Evaluation	178	230	321	CR00677

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Argument Evaluation	179	230	322	CR00726
Medium	Argument Evaluation	181	231	324	CR05750
Medium	Argument Evaluation	183	232	326	CR13093
Medium	Argument Evaluation	186	233	329	CR05079
Medium	Argument Evaluation	188	234	331	CR09046
Medium	Evaluation of a Plan	155	219	298	CR90661.01
Medium	Evaluation of a Plan	156	219	299	CR21661.01
Medium	Evaluation of a Plan	157	219	300	CR31661.01
Medium	Evaluation of a Plan	158	220	301	CR91661.01
Medium	Evaluation of a Plan	159	220	302	CR02661.01
Medium	Evaluation of a Plan	160	221	303	CR12661.01
Medium	Evaluation of a Plan	166	224	309	CR01392
Medium	Evaluation of a Plan	185	233	328	CR05418
Hard	Argument Construction	189	234	332	CR66900.02
Hard	Argument Construction	190	235	333	CR59820.02

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Argument Construction	193	236	336	CR08540.02
Hard	Argument Construction	195	237	338	CR09740.02
Hard	Argument Construction	197	238	340	CR11050.02
Hard	Argument Construction	201	240	344	CR28001.02
Hard	Argument Construction	204	241	347	CR14448
Hard	Argument Construction	205	242	348	CR09085
Hard	Argument Construction	208	243	351	CR37090.02
Hard	Argument Construction	209	244	352	CR03416
Hard	Argument Construction	212	245	355	CR07562
Hard	Argument Construction	214	246	357	CR01338
Hard	Argument Construction	220	248	363	CR01140
Hard	Argument Construction	221	249	364	CR06422
Hard	Argument Construction	223	250	366	CR06826
Hard	Argument Construction	224	250	367	CR05554
Hard	Argument Construction	228	252	371	CR67850.02



<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Argument Construction	230	253	373	CR05656
Hard	Argument Evaluation	192	236	335	CR55030.02
Hard	Argument Evaluation	198	239	341	CR55190.02
Hard	Argument Evaluation	199	239	342	CR11080.02
Hard	Argument Evaluation	203	241	346	CR04999
Hard	Argument Evaluation	206	242	349	CR01766
Hard	Argument Evaluation	207	243	350	CR12567
Hard	Argument Evaluation	210	244	353	CR03867
Hard	Argument Evaluation	211	245	354	CR01903
Hard	Argument Evaluation	213	246	356	CR07676
Hard	Argument Evaluation	215	247	358	CR09592
Hard	Argument Evaluation	216	247	359	CR10678
Hard	Argument Evaluation	217	247	360	CR05665
Hard	Argument Evaluation	218	248	361	CR01173
Hard	Argument Evaluation	219	248	362	CR03331

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Argument Evaluation	222	249	365	CR07793
Hard	Argument Evaluation	225	251	368	CR05625
Hard	Argument Evaluation	226	251	369	CR04930
Hard	Argument Evaluation	227	252	370	CR09969
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	191	235	334	CR89820.02
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	194	237	337	CR62740.02
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	196	238	339	CR29940.02
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	200	240	343	CR63780.02
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	202	240	345	CR01887
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	229	253	372	CR20190.02
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	231	253	374	CR56601.02
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	232	254	375	CR50611.02
Hard	Evaluation of a Plan	233	254	376	CR98001.02

### Sentence Correction

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
-------------------	----------------	-------------------	-------------	--------------------------------	-------------

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Agreement; Grammatical Construction	247	404	437	SC01482
Easy	Agreement; Grammatical Construction	252	405	440	SC01543
Easy	Agreement; Idiom	245	404	436	SC01579
Easy	Agreement; Logical Predication	249	405	438	SC01069
Easy	Agreement; Rhetorical Construction	236	404	431	SC14890
Easy	Agreement; Rhetorical Construction	253	406	441	SC06613
Easy	Diction; Logical Predication	243	404	435	SC01594
Easy	Diction; Verb Form	264	408	447	SC02241
Easy	Grammatical Construction; Diction	263	408	447	SC06935
Easy	Grammatical Construction; Logical Predication	238	403	432	SC01519
Easy	Grammatical Construction; Logical Predication	240	403	433	SC05367
Easy	Grammatical Construction; Parallelism	241	403	434	SC03552

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Grammatical Construction; Parallelism	248	405	438	SCo1481
Easy	Grammatical Construction; Rhetorical Construction	250	405	439	SCo2628
Easy	Grammatical Construction; Verb Form	259	407	445	SCo3779
Easy	Idiom; Agreement	266	408	449	SC61661.01
Easy	Idiom; Logical Predication	265	408	448	SC51661.01
Easy	Idiom; Rhetorical Construction	256	406	443	SCo5787
Easy	Idiom; Verb Form	239	403	433	SCo2548
Easy	Logical Predication; Diction	235	402	430	SCo7435
Easy	Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction	255	406	442	SCo1596
Easy	Logical Predication; Parallelism	254	406	442	SCo6012
Easy	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	242	404	435	SCo4083

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	244	404	436	SCo4652
Easy	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	246	404	437	SCo4026
Easy	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	268	409	450	SC94920.02
Easy	Parallelism; Agreement	260	407	445	SCo3146
Easy	Parallelism; Grammatical Construction	258	407	444	SCo1600
Easy	Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction	237	402	431	SCo2940
Easy	Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction	251	405	439	SCo4198
Easy	Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction	262	407	446	SCo1915
Easy	Rhetorical Construction; Agreement	261	407	446	SC12367
Easy	Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication	257	407	443	SCo3724

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Easy	Rhetorical Construction; Parallel Construction	234	402	430	SC01545
Easy	Verb Agreement; Parallelism	267	408	449	SC81661.01
Medium	Agreement; Diction	285	413	461	SC03916
Medium	Agreement; Logical Predication; Verb Form	297	416	469	SC02370
Medium	Diction; Agreement; Rhetorical Construction	272	410	452	SC62661.01
Medium	Diction; Agreement; Rhetorical Construction	275	410	455	SC92661.01
Medium	Diction; Idiom; Agreement	283	413	460	SC71061.01
Medium	Diction; Rhetorical Construction	271	409	452	SC52661.01
Medium	Diction; Rhetorical Construction	290	414	465	SC04874
Medium	Diction; Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication	284	413	460	SC89941.01
Medium	Grammatical Construction; Diction	278	411	456	SC99250.01

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Grammatical Construction; Diction	298	416	469	SC01435
Medium	Grammatical Construction; Parallelism	286	413	462	SC01639
Medium	Grammatical Construction; Verb Form	277	411	456	SC37620.01
Medium	Idiom; Agreement	294	415	466	SC46270.02
Medium	Idiom; Diction	292	414	466	SC02382
Medium	Idiom; Grammatical Construction; Parallelism	280	412	458	SC60440.01
Medium	Idiom; Parallelism	276	411	455	SC03661.01
Medium	Idiom; Rhetorical Construction	282	412	459	SC28801.01
Medium	Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction	299	416	470	SC04603
Medium	Logical Predication; Idiom	295	415	467	SC05894
Medium	Logical Predication; Idiom	296	415	468	SC01562
Medium	Logical Predication; Parallelism	293	415	466	SC07143

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Logical Predication; Parallelism	302	417	472	SCo2791
Medium	Logical Predication; Parallelism; Grammatical Construction	279	412	457	SCo4215
Medium	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	287	414	463	SCo3315
Medium	Logical Predication; Verb Form	270	409	451	SC42661.01
Medium	Parallelism Diction	288	414	463	SCo5244
Medium	Parallelism Diction; Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication	273	410	453	SC72661.01
Medium	Parallelism; Logical Predication	300	416	471	SCo5381
Medium	Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction	301	416	471	SCo1485
Medium	Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction	303	417	472	SCo0987
Medium	Rhetorical Construction Diction	291	414	465	SCo1451



<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Medium	Rhetorical Construction; Agreement; Logical Predication	269	409	451	SC71661.01
Medium	Verb Form; Diction	274	410	454	SC82661.01
Medium	Verb Form; Grammatical Construction	281	412	459	SC01002
Medium	Verb Form; Idiom	289	414	464	SC04346
Hard	Agreement; Logical Predication	315	420	479	SC01712
Hard	Agreement; Rhetorical Construction	318	421	481	SC01747
Hard	Agreement; Rhetorical Construction; Grammatical Construction	316	420	480	SC01954
Hard	Diction; Logical Predication	304	417	473	SC01972
Hard	Diction; Verb Form	309	419	476	SC02011
Hard	Grammatical Construction; Agreement	334	424	491	SC01990
Hard	Grammatical Construction; Idiom	342	426	495	SC10878

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Idiom; Grammatical; Verb Form	311	419	477	SCo6132
Hard	Idiom; Logical Predication	314	420	479	SCo3289
Hard	Idiom; Logical Predication	326	423	485	SCo4732
Hard	Idiom; Parallelism	319	421	481	SC11880
Hard	Idiom; Parallelism	338	425	493	SC10996
Hard	Idiom; Verb Form	347	428	498	SCo4682
Hard	Logical Predication; Agreement	312	419	478	SCo4588
Hard	Logical Predication; Agreement	331	424	489	SCo8285
Hard	Logical Predication; Agreement	335	425	491	SCo4344
Hard	Logical Predication; Agreement	339	426	493	SCo3010
Hard	Logical Predication; Agreement	348	428	499	SC11934
Hard	Logical Predication; Diction	322	422	483	SCo7141

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction	329	423	487	SCo7754
Hard	Logical Predication; Idiom	345	427	497	SCo6727
Hard	Logical Predication; Parallelism	344	427	496	SCo1564
Hard	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	305	418	473	SC11068
Hard	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	320	421	482	SC11910
Hard	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	324	422	484	SC12460
Hard	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	330	424	488	SC14406
Hard	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	337	425	492	SCo2766
Hard	Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	343	427	496	SC11054
Hard	Parallelism; Grammatical Construction	341	426	495	SC11017

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Parallelism; Grammatical Construction; Rhetorical Construction	340	426	494	SCo7885
Hard	Parallelism; Idiom	333	424	490	SCo6205
Hard	Parallelism; Logical Predication	332	424	489	SCo2131
Hard	Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction	317	421	480	SC12645
Hard	Parallelism; Verb Form	310	419	477	SCo4492
Hard	Rhetorical Construction; Agreement	323	422	483	SCo7066
Hard	Rhetorical Construction; Agreement	328	423	487	SCo2664
Hard	Rhetorical Construction; Diction	307	418	475	SCo8272
Hard	Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication	327	423	486	SCo4672
Hard	Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication; Verb Form	325	422	485	SCo2333
Hard	Rhetorical Construction; Verb Form	313	420	478	SCo3998

<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Question #</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Answer Explanation Page</b>	<b>PQID</b>
Hard	Rhetorical Construction; Verb Form; Diction	306	418	474	SC11854
Hard	Verb Form; Diction	346	427	497	SC11926
Hard	Verb Form; Idiom	308	419	475	SC00975
Hard	Verb Form; Idiom	321	421	482	SC05216
Hard	Verb Form; Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction	336	425	491	SC02338

**To register for the GMAT™ exam go to [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com)**

## Appendix A Answer Sheets

### Reading Comprehension Answer Sheet

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.

34.  
35.  
36.  
37.  
38.  
39.  
40.  
41.  
42.  
43.  
44.  
45.  
46.  
47.  
48.  
49.  
50.  
51.  
52.  
53.  
54.  
55.  
56.  
57.  
58.  
59.  
60.  
61.  
62.  
63.  
64.  
65.  
66.  
67.  
68.  
69.  
70.

71.  
72.  
73.  
74.  
75.  
76.  
77.  
78.  
79.  
80.  
81.  
82.  
83.  
84.  
85.  
86.  
87.  
88.  
89.  
90.  
91.  
92.  
93.  
94.  
95.  
96.  
97.  
98.  
99.  
100.  
101.  
102.  
103.  
104.  
105.  
106.  
107.



- 108.
- 109.
- 110.
- 111.
- 112.

## **Critical Reasoning Answer Sheet**

- 113.
- 114.
- 115.
- 116.
- 117.
- 118.
- 119.
- 120.
- 121.
- 122.
- 123.
- 124.
- 125.
- 126.
- 127.
- 128.
- 129.
- 130.
- 131.
- 132.
- 133.
- 134.
- 135.
- 136.
- 137.
- 138.
- 139.
- 140.
- 141.
- 142.
- 143.

144.  
145.  
146.  
147.  
148.  
149.  
150.  
151.  
152.  
153.  
154.  
155.  
156.  
157.  
158.  
159.  
160.  
161.  
162.  
163.  
164.  
165.  
166.  
167.  
168.  
169.  
170.  
171.  
172.  
173.  
174.  
175.  
176.  
177.  
178.  
179.  
180.

181.  
182.  
183.  
184.  
185.  
186.  
187.  
188.  
189.  
190.  
191.  
192.  
193.  
194.  
195.  
196.  
197.  
198.  
199.  
200.  
201.  
202.  
203.  
204.  
205.  
206.  
207.  
208.  
209.  
210.  
211.  
212.  
213.  
214.  
215.  
216.  
217.

- 218.
- 219.
- 220.
- 221.
- 222.
- 223.
- 224.
- 225.
- 226.
- 227.
- 228.
- 229.
- 230.
- 231.
- 232.
- 233.

## **Sentence Correction Answer Sheet**

- 234.
- 235.
- 236.
- 237.
- 238.
- 239.
- 240.
- 241.
- 242.
- 243.
- 244.
- 245.
- 246.
- 247.
- 248.
- 249.
- 250.
- 251.
- 252.
- 253.

254.  
255.  
256.  
257.  
258.  
259.  
260.  
261.  
262.  
263.  
264.  
265.  
266.  
267.  
268.  
269.  
270.  
271.  
272.  
273.  
274.  
275.  
276.  
277.  
278.  
279.  
280.  
281.  
282.  
283.  
284.  
285.  
286.  
287.  
288.  
289.  
290.

291.  
292.  
293.  
294.  
295.  
296.  
297.  
298.  
299.  
300.  
301.  
302.  
303.  
304.  
305.  
306.  
307.  
308.  
309.  
310.  
311.  
312.  
313.  
314.  
315.  
316.  
317.  
318.  
319.  
320.  
321.  
322.  
323.  
324.  
325.  
326.  
327.

- 328.
- 329.
- 330.
- 331.
- 332.
- 333.
- 334.
- 335.
- 336.
- 337.
- 338.
- 339.
- 340.
- 341.
- 342.
- 343.
- 344.
- 345.
- 346.
- 347.
- 348.

## Notes

## Online Question Bank Information

Your purchase of *GMAT™ Official Guide Verbal Review 2022* offers the original purchaser access to the online question bank for a period of 12 months from the date of activation.

To obtain an access code, go to [www.wiley.com/go/officialgmatbook](http://www.wiley.com/go/officialgmatbook) to verify your purchase. Once you verify your purchase, you will be emailed an access code and instructions for setting up a personal login.

*Note:* GMAC and Wiley are not responsible for providing access to the online companion for customers who purchase or borrow used copies of this book. This code will only provide you with access to the question bank. It will not work for other Wiley or GMAC password-protected websites.

For customer support, please visit <https://www.efficientlearning.com/gmat/support/help/>





**1 test.  
2 ways.  
The choice is yours.**

The GMAT™ exam is available  
everyday. Online & in-person.

 [gmata.com](https://gmata.com)

**Compare.**

Download the **free  
comparison grid** to  
see which format is  
best for you.

[gmata.com/compare](https://gmata.com/compare)



**Learn.**

Listen to **Inside the  
GMAT™** official  
podcast to become  
a GMAT insider.

[insidethegmat.com](https://insidethegmat.com)



© 2021 Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC). All rights reserved. GMAT™ and Graduate Management Admission Council™ are trademarks of GMAC in the United States and other countries.

Graduate  
Management  
Admission  
Council™

# **WILEY END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT**

Go to [www.wiley.com/go/eula](http://www.wiley.com/go/eula) to access Wiley's ebook EULA.