

Critical Reasoning Practice(20 ques)

51. A famous singer recently won a lawsuit against an advertising firm for using another singer in a commercial to evoke the famous singer's well-known rendition of a certain song. As a result of the lawsuit, advertising firms will stop using imitators in commercials. Therefore, advertising costs will rise, since famous singers' services cost more than those of their imitators.

The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions ?

- (a) Most people are unable to distinguish a famous singer's rendition of a song from a good imitator's rendition of the same song.
- (b) Commercials using famous singers are usually more effective than commercials using imitators of famous singers.
- (c) The original versions of some well-known songs are unavailable for use in commercials.
- (d) Advertising firms will continue to use imitators to mimic the physical mannerisms of famous singers.
- (e) The advertising industry will use well-known renditions of songs in commercials.

52. A certain mayor has proposed a fee of five dollars per day on private vehicles entering the city, claiming that the fee will alleviate the city's traffic congestion. The mayor reasons that, since the fee will exceed the cost of round-trip bus fare from many nearby points, many people will switch from using their cars to using the bus.

Which of the following statements, if true, provides the best evidence that the mayor's reasoning is flawed ?

- (a) Projected increases in the price of gasoline will increase the cost of taking a private vehicle into the city.

- (b) The cost of parking fees already makes it considerably more expensive for most people to take a private vehicle into the city than to take a bus.
- (c) Most of the people currently riding the bus do not own private vehicles.
- (d) Many commuters opposing the mayor's plan have indicated that they would rather endure traffic congestion than pay a five dollar per day fee.
- (e) During the average workday, private vehicles owned and operated by people living within the city account for twenty percent of the city's traffic congestion.

53. A group of children of various ages was read stories in which people caused harm, some of those people doing so intentionally, and some accidentally. When asked about appropriate punishments for those who had caused harm, the younger children, unlike the older ones, assigned punishments that did not vary according to whether the harm was done intentionally or accidentally. Younger children, then, do not regard people's intentions as relevant to punishment.

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

- (a) In interpreting these stories, the listeners had to draw a relatively mature sense of human psychology in order to tell whether harm was produced intentionally or accidentally.
- (b) In these stories, the severity of the harm produced was clearly stated.
- (c) Younger children are as likely to produce harm unintentionally as are older children.
- (d) The older children assigned punishment in a way that closely resembled the way adults had assigned punishment in a similar experiment.
- (e) The younger children assigned punishments that varied according to the severity of the harm done by the agents in the stories.

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

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

- (a) Why does the part that replies not answer, "Yes" ?
- (b) Why are the observed facts in need of any special explanation ?
- (c) Why do the subjects appear to accept the hypnotist's suggestion that they are deaf ?
- (d) Why do hypnotized subject all respond the same way in the situation described ?
- (e) Why are the separate parts of the self the same for all subjects ?

Questions 55 & 56 are based on the following.

The program to control the entry of illegal drugs into the country was a failure in 1987. If the program had been successful, the wholesale price of most illegal drugs would not have dropped substantially in 1987.

55. The argument in the passage depends on which of the following assumptions ?

- (a) The supply of illegal drugs dropped substantially in 1987.
- (b) The price paid for most illegal drugs by the average consumer did not drop substantially in 1987.
- (c) Domestic production of illegal drugs increased at a higher rate than did the entry of such drugs into the country.
- (d) The wholesale price of a few illegal drugs increased substantially in 1987.

(e) A drop in demand for most illegal drugs in 1987 was not the sole cause of the drop in their wholesale price.

56. The argument in the passage would be most seriously weakened if it were true that

(a) in 1987 smugglers of illegal drugs, as a group, had significantly more funds at their disposal than did the country's customs agents

(b) domestic production of illegal drugs increased substantially in 1987

(c) the author's statements were made in order to embarrass the officials responsible for the drug-control program

(d) in 1987 illegal drugs entered the country by a different set of routes than they did in 1986

(e) the country's citizens spend substantially more money on illegal drugs in 1987 than they did in 1986.

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

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

(a) Bronze ceremonial drinking vessels that are often found in graves dating from years preceding and following A.D.365 were also found in several graves near Kourion.

(b) No coins minted after A.D.365 were found in Kourion, but coins minted before that year were found in abundance.

(c) Most modern histories of Cyprus mention that an earthquake occurred near the island in A.D.365.

(d) Several small statues carved in styles current in Cyprus in the century between A.D.300 and 400 were found in Kourion.

(e) Stone inscriptions in a form of the Greek alphabet that was definitely used in Cyprus after A.D.365 were found in Kourion.

58. Sales of telephones have increased dramatically over the last year. In order to take advantage of this increase, Mammoth Industries plans to expand production of its own model of telephone, while continuing its already very extensive advertising of this product.

Which of the following, if true, provides most support for the view that Mammoth Industries cannot increase in sales of telephones by adopting the plan outlined above ?

(a) Although it sells all of the telephones that it produces, Mammoth Industries' share of all telephone sales has declined over the last year.

(b) Mammoth Industries' average inventory of telephones awaiting shipment to retailers has declined slightly over the last year.

(c) Advertising has made the brand name of Mammoth Industries' telephones widely known, but few consumers know that Mammoth Industries own this brand.

(d) Mammoth Industries' telephone is one of three brands of telephone that have together accounted for the bulk of the last year's increase in sales.

(e) Despite a slight decline in the retail price, sales of Mammoth Industries' telephones have fallen in the last year.

59. Many institutions of higher education suffer declining enrollments during periods of economic slowdown. At two-year community colleges, however, enrollment figures boom during these periods when many people have less money and there is more competition for jobs.

Each of the following, if true, helps to explain the enrollment increases in two-year community colleges described above EXCEPT :

- (a) During periods of economic slowdown, two-year community colleges are more likely than four-year colleges to prepare their students for the jobs that are still available.
- (b) During periods of economic prosperity, graduates of two-year community colleges often continue their studies at four-year colleges.
- (c) Tuition at most two-year community colleges is a fraction of that at four-year colleges.
- (d) Two-year community colleges devote more resources than do other colleges to attracting those students specially affected by economic slowdowns.
- (e) Students at two-year community colleges, but not those at most four-year colleges, can control the cost of their studies by choosing the number of courses they take each term.

Questions 60 & 61 are based on the following.

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

60. The answer to which of the following question would be most useful in evaluating the significance, in relation to Hardin's claim, of the study describe above ?

- (a) Did any of the ranchers whose land was studied use both common and private land ?
- (b) Did the ranchers whose land was studied tend to prefer using common land over using private land for grazing ?

(c) Was the private land that was studied of comparable quality to the common land before either was used for grazing ?

(d) Were the users of the common land that was studied at least as prosperous as the users of the private land ?

(e) Were there any owners of herds who used only common land, and no private land, for grazing ?

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

(a) With private grazing land, both the costs and the benefits of overuse fall to the individual user.

(b) The cost in reduced land quality that is attributable to any individual user is less easily measured with common land than it is with private land.

(c) An individual who overuses common grazing land might be able to achieve higher returns than other users can, with the result that he or she would obtain a competitive advantage.

(d) If one user of common land overuses it even slightly, the other users are likely to do so even more, with the consequence that the costs to each user outweigh the benefits.

(e) There are more acres of grazing land held privately than there are held in common.

62. In tests for pironoma, a serious disease, a false positive result indicates that people have pironoma when, in fact, they do not; a false negative result indicates that people do not have pironoma when, in fact, they do. To detect pironoma most accurately, physicians should use the laboratory test that has the lowest proportion of false positive results.

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

- (a) The accepted treatment for pironoma does not have damaging side effects.
- (b) The laboratory test that has the lowest proportion of false positive results causes the same minor side effects as do the other laboratory tests used to detect pironoma.
- (c) In treating pironoma patients, it is essential to begin treatment as early as possible, since even a week of delay can result in loss of life.
- (d) The proportion of inconclusive test results is equal for all laboratory tests used to detect pironoma.
- (e) All laboratory tests to detect pironoma have the same proportion of false negative results.

Questions 63 & 64 are based on the following.

In many corporations, employees are being replaced by automated equipment in order to save money. However, many workers who lose their jobs to automation will need government assistance to survive, and the same corporations that are laying people off will eventually pay for that assistance through increased taxes and unemployment insurance payments.

63. The author is arguing that

- (a) higher taxes and unemployment insurance payments will discourage corporations from automating
- (b) replacing people through automation to reduce production costs will result in increases of other costs of corporations.
- (c) many workers who lose their jobs to automation will have to be retrained for new jobs.
- (d) corporations that are laying people off will eventually rehire many of them

(e) corporations will not save money by automating because people will be needed to run the new machines

64. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the author's argument ?

(a) Many workers who have already lost their jobs to automation have been unable to find new jobs.

(b) Many corporations that have failed to automate have seen their profits decline.

(c) Taxes and unemployment insurance are paid also by corporations that are not automating.

(d) Most of the new jobs created by automation pay less than the jobs eliminated by automation did.

(e) The initial investment in machinery for automation is often greater than the short-term savings in labor costs.

65. 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

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

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

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

67. According to the new office smoking regulations, only employees who have enclosed office may smoke at their desks. Virtually all employees with enclosed offices are at the professional level, and virtually all secretarial employees lack enclosed offices. Therefore, secretaries who smoke should be offered enclosed offices.

Which of the following is an assumption that enables the conclusion above to be properly drawn ?

- (a) Employees at the professional level who do not smoke should keep their enclosed offices.
- (b) Employees with enclosed offices should not smoke at their desks, even though the new regulations permit them to do so.

- (c) Employees at the secretarial level should be allowed to smoke at their desks, even if they do not have enclosed offices.
- (d) The smoking regulations should allow all employees who smoke an equal opportunity to do so, regardless of an employee's job level.
- (e) The smoking regulations should provide equal protection from any hazards associated with smoking to all employees who do not smoke.

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

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

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

Questions 69 & 70 are based on the following.

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

69. Which of the following can be most properly inferred from the passage about the products whose importation was banned ?

- (a) Those products had been cheaper to import than they were to make within country Z's fledgling industries.
- (b) Those products were ones that country Z was hoping to export in its turn, once the fledgling industries matured.
- (c) Those products used to be imported from just those countries to which country Z's exports went.
- (d) Those products had become more and more expensive to import, which resulted in a foreign trade deficit just before the ban.
- (e) Those products used to be imported in very small quantities, but they were essential to country Z's economy.

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

- (a) Profit margins in those industries were not high enough to absorb the rise in costs mentioned above.
- (b) Those industries had to contend with the fact that other countries banned imports from country Z.
- (c) Those industries succeeded in expanding the domestic market for their products.

(d) Steps to offset rising materials costs by decreasing labor costs were taken in those industries.

(e) Those industries started to move into export markets that they had previously judged unprofitable.