

## Critical Reasoning Practice(50 Ques)

1. Explanation: (e) Flaw of logic may imply method of reasoning qs or weakening qs. In this example, the answer choices are description of the author's logic. Hence it is a method of reasoning question. Had all the answer choice been new information, it would have been a weakening question.  
(a) Incorrect. Because "infant development" phrase is out of scope  
(b) Incorrect as it does not describe logic. It describes a particular case  
(c) Incorrect as it does not describe logic. It describes a particular case  
(d) "Insufficient" Out of Scope  
(d) Correct because it is describing the flaw in the logic. (wrong comparison)
2. Explanation: (d) Premise: Red blood cells in which malarial parasite resides are eliminated from a person after 120 days. Premise: Parasite can't travel to a new generation of red blood cells [Assumption: Malarial parasite is completely eliminated from a person after 120 days]  
Conclusion: Any fever that develops in persons more than 120 days after that person moved to a malaria-free region is not due to malarial parasite.  
We can weaken this conclusion by showing that the fever that develops more than 120 days is indeed caused by malarial parasite although that person is moved to malarial-free region.  
(a) Out of scope by comparing malarial parasite and flu viruses.  
(b) Out of scope. The mosquito has nothing to do with the fever here.  
(c) This is a Shell Game. It does not weaken the conclusion because it mentions about the malarial symptoms that can reappear within 120 days after the medication is discontinued.  
(d) Option D breaks the assumption by proving that malarial parasite is not eliminated because it travels to cells of spleen, which are less frequently eliminated from a person's body than are red blood cells; therefore, malarial parasite can cause fever after a person is moved to a malarial-free region.  
(e) Out of scope.
3. Explanation: (d) The fourth choice indicates that the number of commercials in a cluster is increasing, so it entails that proportionally more commercials are aired in intermediate positions. Hence, the last choice helps fact 2 explain fact 1 by showing that increasingly more commercials are aired in positions in which viewers find them difficult to recall. This is the best answer.

4. Explanation: (c) Option C - says even after improving sanitary condition at water treatment plant, intestinal disease remains in one or another form. This directly attacks the conclusion.  
Hence this is the correct answer. Whether it's a weaken or strengthen question, do not assume anything outside what is mentioned in the premise.
5. Explanation: (a) The government might continue to pay for past inefficient use of funds. This correctly shows that bad deals in the past will continue to affect contracts in the future. Pick A.  
(b) The rate of inflation has varied considerably over the past twenty years. If the rate of inflation varies, it will still increase the cost either by a little or a lot. This doesn't say anything about historical prices.  
(c) The contractual price will be greatly affected by the cost of materials used for the products. Out of scope, question asks about the effect of historical pricing, not cost of materials.  
(d) Many taxpayers question the amount of money the government spends on military contracts. Using opinions for an argument when these opinions weren't mentioned in the stimulus is wrong.  
(e) The pricing method based on historical costing might not encourage the development of innovative weapons. The development of new weapons is not at issue.
6. Explanation: (a) those willing to exploit natural resources will lead the firms. Hence the main purpose of private take over is flawed  
(a) directly attacks the argument.  
(b) is quite a generic condition and does not clearly pose a threat to conservation of natural resources.  
(c) argument doesn't mention anything about contributions or if the government too is collecting contributions.  
(d) Eliminate, Maybe, but is not a strong enough argument. If anything competition will get us the best private environmental group.  
(e) Eliminate, Irrelevant.
7. Explanation: (c) The conclusion is: The cost of television satellites will continue to rise [highlight] In this case, the conclusion is actually in the question stem.  
(a) This only describes why the price of the satellites is high. It does not explain why the cost will continue to increase.  
(b) The cause of failure was irrelevant in this case because it doesn't explain why the costs of the satellites would increase.  
(c) This answer choice correctly explains the reason why costs will continue to increase - since the currently operating satellites would be squeezed for more performance, this also means that they are also very likely to break down quicker. Therefore, the cost of maintenance and returning them back to operation would increase the costs.



- (d) This answer choice only explains the production of the satellites itself. It could explain why the cost of the satellite is high, but not why the costs would continually increase.
- (e) Although the satellites are inefficient, this would not explain why the costs would continually increase.
8. Explanation: (b) it's the only one to do with food and housing costs.  
(a) we're looking at households as a whole, and if anything this would be weakened by our statement because we're already told they're at the same income level, so same amount of money/more people would be lower purchasing power.  
(c) seems out of scope to me, now we're talking about medians, and our statement holds income level constant (e) irrelevant.
9. Explanation: (b) Allowing Mexican nationals to study in Texas border colleges and to pay in-state tuition rates, which are the same as the previous international rate. Since Mexican's main concern with college is tuition, stabilizing the tuitions will work.  
(a) is off topic since our topic is related with Texas border colleges.  
(c) choice does not reveal a relevant information about the tuitions so while the Mexican students cannot afford the tuition it is clear that this will not work.  
(d) The premises mentioned in this choice not related with just Mexicans it is a general premise  
(e) Not relevant, out of topic.
10. Explanation: (b) Because the conclusion tells "Affirmative action is good business" and the premises says that executive order require contractors to hire minority and women. Now to support this argument we need to strengthen the link between the premise and conclusion by showing how minority and women workers increased profits in certain businesses.
11. Explanation: (c) Most apt answer choice since if you do negation test on this will break the argument and there will be no need of using a separate airfield.  
(a) the convenience is not the central focus of the argument and thus is out of scope.  
(b) the capacity of an airfield to handle the traffic is again out of scope of the argument.  
(d) Protecting the commercial airliners is not the sole motive of the move to use the alternate airfield all aircrafts are to be protected.  
(e) This is not the assumption this is a good conclusion but cannot be assumed from the given argument.
12. Explanation: First sentence: If the airspace around centrally located airport were restricted to commercial airlines and only those private equipped with radar, most of the private-plane traffic would be forced to use outlying airfields. Conclusion of the first sentence: most of the private-plane traffic would be forced to use outlying airfields. We need to find the assumption in this conclusion, not in the conclusion of the argument.

Here, the author is assuming that if airports do not allow non-radar private planes to enter its airspace, most private planes will not be able to enter airport airspace. This means he is assuming that most private planes do not have radar.

Answer (C).

13. Explanation: C. correct - shows competitor (new electronic calculator) vs. competitor (slide ruler) example A. clearly an opposite example, it is not a defensive strategy. Not innovative because they did not introduce new technologies but defended the old one. By doing this, they underestimated the effects of others innovations. Hence, they were no longer successful. B. irrelevant - does not follow the same line of reasoning of competitor vs. competitor D. irrelevant - it's competitor vs. competitor, banking and public library is a bit too farfetched to be competitors. E. irrelevant - it's competitor vs. competitor
14. Explanation: (a) clearly an opposite example, it is not a defensive strategy. (b) irrelevant - does not follow the same line of reasoning of competitor vs. competitor (c) correct - shows competitor (new electronic calculator) vs. competitor (slide ruler) example (d) irrelevant - it's competitor vs. competitor, banking and public library is a bit too farfetched to be competitors. (e) irrelevant - it's competitor vs. competitor
15. Explanation: C would explain this as the increase in productivity resulted in depletion of nutrients. A comes close but deals with supply and demand and how it affected price -and does not relate to productivity that is controlled by weevils (and not supply and demand). The other options are gibberish.
16. Explanation: This is a weaken question. We need an answer that makes the given conclusion less likely to occur. First of all the conclusion is "the mayor's publicity campaign has convinced many people to leave their cars at home and ride the bus to work" (a) Irrelevant: Fares going up does not have a bearing on the conclusion on the effectiveness of Mayor's publicity campaign. (b) Irrelevant: Nice to know that the Mayor is a driver, but irrelevant to the argument (c) Correct: if the number of lanes available to commuters to the midtown decreased in the same period in which the rise in the number of people riding bus, many commuters, that used to go to work by car have been forced to take the bus. This weaken the conclusion giving a new piece of evidence that can explain why the percentage of people taking bus has gone up and the number of cars has gone down. (d) Irrelevant/Strengthens: D gives evidence that the rise in people using bus is not the result of a rise in the number of buses available to Midtown Area. In some sense it knocks out of the way some doubts on the correctness of the given conclusion. (e) Irrelevant: Customer satisfaction is never mentioned in the argument.
17. Explanation: (d) DENATIONALIZATION - was the cause of the market crash in country T As this is a evaluate question, we need to evaluate if Denationalization was



the reason for the market crash as claimed by the country T. One of the correct answer choices should give us this option.

- (a) How would calculating loss by an individual trader answer or evaluate denationalization? Moreover name trader is just used to trap people having some financial background knowledge as they see similar terms and apply their studies or perceived knowledge over here, but remember in CR we need to look only for things which are discussed in this argument and deviate from bringing in our knowledge background to answer the questions. Option A is irrelevant
- (b) Again, how would predicting help us to answer the question - Is denationalization the reason for market crash? - Option B is irrelevant
- (c) Total number of shares sold is not going to answer our question - Has denationalization caused the market crash?
- (d) Now, comparing the impact of denationalization between two countries can give us a fair idea of whether denationalization can be the reason for stock-market crash as claimed by the country T - This looks a possible answer, let's check the last remaining answer choice- Option D is the CORRECT answer.
- (e) This option is talking more about the possible steps to be taken post market crash but nowhere talk about the denationalization of companies - Hence, this option is out of scope

18. Explanation: (d) Premise: With emergence of Biotechnology companies, it was feared that it the companies would impose silence about the proprietary results on their in-house research and their academic consultants Conclusion: This limitation would slow the development of the biological science and engineering.

As this is a weaken question, we need to look for options which displays that Biotechnology companies are not going to maintain the silence on the proprietary results. Let's go through all the options.

- (a) This is good, but that does not answer the question, will companies publish the results?
- (b) This is would rather support the conclusion and not weaken
- (c) This is totally irrelevant as it is still not referring to whether the results will be publicly available
- (d) Ah! Here comes the option which talks about companies making their data public by encouraging employees to publish their results - This looks like a possible choice, let's read the last answer choice too. D is the correct answer
- (e) This point talk about spending some resources on fundamental research which is not expected to produce immediate practical applications - However, with this again we are not having clear idea whether the results of research will be publicly available or not, hence option can also be ruled out.

19. Explanation: (e) Premise: The judge decided in favour of the women in 60% of sex discrimination cases Conclusion: The judge has not discriminated against women in sex discrimination cases.

- (b) Many judges find it difficult to be objective in cases of sex discrimination against women. Does this mean that the judge in the passage is not objective?  
No- many judge does not equal all judges. Also, even if the judge in the passage does find it difficult to be objective in cases of sex discrimination, we can't conclude that the judge wasn't objective. Difficult does not equal impossible.
- (e) is the best answer because it says that more than 60% of those women should have won their cases.

20. Explanation: We're looking for something that WON'T explain the paradox. The paradox is: tobacco sales are up yet the number of adult smokers has decreased. Choice A can't explain the paradox because even if the number of women who began smoking is greater than the number of men who quit, we still know from the passage that the number of adult smokers has decreased. Thus, choice A WON'T explain the paradox, must be correct, and to save time a Kaplan-trained student would move on to the next question (without looking at the other choices). (The reason you might have an issue with (a) is that you might think that it contradicts the fact that the number of adult smokers has decreased. But it doesn't. After all, the number of WOMEN who quit can, by itself, be greater than the number of women who began smoking.)
21. Explanation: (a) A good strategy is to set up a little diagram, in which you position the different vegetables.  
Kale > Spinach Collard Greens > Lettuce Conclusion: Kale > Lettuce  
We can go through each answer choice and see which one does not reinforce the diagram above.  
Starting with (A) we can see that if collard greens have more nutritional value than kale, then there is no way we can determine whether kale is healthier than lettuce:  
Collard Greens > Lettuce > Kale  
Collard Greens > Kale > Lettuce  
Either scenario is valid. However, the first scenario goes against the conclusion and is therefore the answer.
22. Explanation: (d) We need to find what would suggest that there is a flaw in the administrator's plan. Premise: There is a decrease in the college-age population.  
-Smaller freshman classes are now anticipated by many colleges  
There was an increase in the population of freshman in colleges that many colleges began to expect smaller freshman classes each year. Then, there was a 40% increase in qualified applicants of the previous year, and Nice College plans to create more facilities to accommodate them.  
Option A – Incorrect: This does not show any flaw in the administrator's plan. In fact, it shows the need for the administrator's plan. Option B – Incorrect: The argument is not concerned with details like extracurricular activities that are included in the application.  
Option C – Incorrect: This is outside the scope of the argument.



Option D – Correct: This flaws the plan to create more facilities for freshmen, because if true that lower percentage of the applicants' rate Nice College as their second choice, then it means that greater part of the applicants rate it as their second choice and might not attend the school.

Option E – Incorrect: We are not concerned about the subjects or course these applicants intend to major on.

23. Explanation: The author concludes that "the immune system protects against mental illness as well as against physical disease", So the implication is that better immune system protects people from mental/physical illnesses.

The author must assume that the reversal is not true that mental illness is not the cause of decreased immune system activity in the first place.

Negate this assumption and the argument falls apart.

24. Explanation: (c) The correct answer will resolve the "paradox", we can discard.

(b) The numbers on the mileposts indicate kilometers, not miles. - this would make no difference

(E) The mileposts had originally been put in place for the use of mountain bikers, not for hikers. - this would make no difference.

We are left with

(a) The numbers on the next milepost had been reversed.

(c) The facing numbers indicate miles to the end of the path, not miles from the beginning.

(d) A milepost was missing between the two the hiker encountered.

The milepost has a side with "21" (other side "23"). She is running and thinks a "22" will follow.

However a 20 is on the next milepost, with a 24 on its back.

In her logic the numbers increase  $21+1=22$  so this count is the number of miles she has run.

(=miles from the beginning)

In her path she encounters a decrease  $21-1=20$  so the actual number does not represent the miles she has run, but the miles LEFT to run.(=miles to the end of the path) Example: 10 miles

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 Miles to the end=> decrease

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Miles from the beg.=> increase

25. Explanation: (c) Choice C states that what the pilots think could happen is likely to happen. Thus, C is the best answer.

Choice A is inappropriate because it says nothing about the malfunctions that most concern the pilots – those that might mislead. Nor does A distinguish tested from not-fully tested systems. Choice B is inappropriate. The only outcome of using insufficiently tested equipment that might strengthen the pilots' objection is an unfavorable one, but B reports on a favorable outcome. Choice D is inappropriate because it mentions a problem that needs to be addressed whether or not the collision-avoidance systems are



installed immediately. Choice E is inappropriate because it provides no evidence that any malfunctions were of a sort to mislead pilots and cause crashes.

26. Explanation: (a) Determining if a metal alloy is used to make the strings used by classical guitarists - Nature/Material of the string is not at all discussed, makes this option

IRRELEVANT

(b) Determining whether classical guitarists make their strings go dead faster than do folk guitarists - Comparison between classical and folk guitarists is IRRELEVANT, if this was supposed to be true, what do we assume that classical guitarists have dirtier hands than folk guitarists?

(c) Determining whether identical lengths of string, of the same gauge, go dead at different rates when strung on various brands of guitars - This can be trap, if you apply your knowledge that based on the string which is mostly used there may be more oil and dirt impact on specific string, but remember this is CR, we will look only for given topic of argument. Length of the string is again IRRELEVANT

(d) Determining whether a dead string and a new string produce different qualities of sound - Argument already mentions that there is change in the sound so this option is not valid as an answer.

(e) Determining whether smearing various substances on new guitar strings causes them to go dead - Here the option is talking about testing various items which can make a string dead and this is what we are looking for. E is the CORRECT answer.

27. Explanation: (c) This seems very straight forward. Stimulus talks about only jogging. This answer choice points out that the shoes can be used for other purpose.

28. Explanation: (a) The conclusion is: Scientists have hypothesized that sharply rising water temperatures must be involved in signaling the native species to begin the reproductive cycle. (a) This presents a strong reason to support their hypothesis. You are essentially performing a sensitivity test - you are just changing the temperature range and seeing how the fish react. All the other variables have been kept constant (i.e. same fish, same river etc.). Therefore, if the same fish can reproduce in the same river with only a change in the temperature range, that is proof that the dam has changed the reproductive cycle.

(b) First, I believe that this point is irrelevant because we are only concerned about the relationship between reproductive cycle in the river below the dam and the temperature of the river. Also, this answer choice could potentially point to another reason why reproductive cycles happened before the dam was built - in this case it would weaken the argument. In either case, this answer is incorrect.

(c) This answer choice only gives you 2 specific temperatures. The first question I had was "where were temperatures recorded?" There is no explanation of that in this answer choice, so the temperature readings could actually have been taken before the dam - that would be irrelevant to this question since we are only concerned with





the river after the dam. Also, we are only concerned with the RANGE of temperatures and not the temperature itself.

(d) This could provide an alternate explanation as to why the fish are not reproducing.

Therefore, this answer choice would actually weaken the argument.

(e) What does this even tell us? This answer choice is irrelevant.

29. Explanation: (d) Situation If American companies comply with international law and refuse to sell plutonium to countries without nuclear weapons, companies in other countries will go ahead and sell plutonium illegally . Reasoning Which argument has the same logical structure as the argument about selling plutonium? Consider how the argument proceeds . The plutonium argument first identifies a law . Then it makes an excuse for breaking that law by asserting that the law will inevitably be broken by others in the future . This implies that it is acceptable to break the law now because it will be broken sometime . A This argument states a reason for breaking the law, preventing loss of life . but it does not say that the law will inevitably be broken in the future . B This argument acknowledges the law has been broken in the past . it says nothing about the future . C This argument shows that the law does not apply to a particular case . D Correct . This statement properly identifies an argument that is parallel in logical structure to the plutonium argument because it too asserts the inevitability that the law will be broken at some time by someone and excuses the defendant as merely being the first to do so . E

This argument demonstrates that a policy has been previously disobeyed . it does not state

30. Explanation: (d) A -- Weakens the conclusion.

Is not an assumption in that it does not fill in any hole in the argument. To some extent even contradicts the premises.

B) This unnecessarily distinguishes between cabinetmakers. May strengthen the conclusion but does not fill in the logic gap.

C) Red herring choice. Notice the word currently. While this may be true, it is neither supported by the argument nor connected with the conclusion. Out of scope.

D) Correct answer. Connects the premise 'since furn must be useful, CM should pay attention to utility' to conc 'CM is not an art'

E) Out of scope. \$ is nowhere in the argument!

31. Explanation: (c) Conclusion: Custom replacements will be cost effective despite costing twice as much as ordinary replacements

Premise: Surgery + Recovery time reduced with custom replacements, and custom replacements last longer, reducing future hospital stays

Essentially, we've got pros and cons for custom replacements. The main con is that the upfront cost is substantially more. And that con, supposedly, is offset by the pros of reduced surgery/recovery time, fewer future hospital stays. So the main question becomes: is there any other cost or benefit that we're missing in our analysis?

'A' is irrelevant. We're comparing custom vs ordinary replacements, and we already know that surgery and recovery time are both reduced when using custom replacements.

How those times compare to each other does not impact the decision. (And ultimately, we care about cost, not convenience.)

'C' sheds light on another potential benefit of the custom replacement. If the patient is less likely to need future operations with a custom replacement, that would certainly suggest potential cost savings for this method.

32. Explanation: (a) The answer should be A:
- A. This answer choice gives us a reason that explains how extinction can occur suddenly with many species going extinct.
  - B. This answer choice gives an explanation for the extinction of a few species.
  - C. This answer choice explain only how "some species" become extinct.
  - D. We are only concerned about the times that have "fossil records."
  - E. We are not concerned about how species are least likely to become extinct.
33. Explanation: (a) Conclusion is: Both factors are required simultaneously. Premise is: As standards of living increase trade deficit drops. But, when standards decrease then trade deficit So, answers should be saying, there should be a balance between both the parameters. Ideally, both should rise. If the facts stated in the passage above are true, a proper test of a country's ability to be competitive is its ability to
- (A) balance its trade while its standard of living rises - Yes
  - (B) balance its trade while its standard of living falls - Once increases other falls. OFS
  - (C) increase trade deficits while its standard of living rises- Once increases while other falls. OFS
  - (D) decrease trade deficits while its standard of living falls - Once increases while other falls.
  - (E) keep its standard of living constant while trade deficits rise - Once increases while other is kept constant.
34. Explanation: (d) Answer choice A is out of scope. Knowing how the messages are formed is not relevant. We are only interested in them being transmitted or blocked. Answer choice B is also out of scope. We are comparing messages being sent by messenger molecules in general, and not differences amongst people. Answer choice C is irrelevant. Having some lead time does not make the plan flawed. Answer choice D correctly indicates a potential problem: while perhaps it would



prevent asthma attacks from relatively harmless molecules like dust, it could also result in serious injury by allowing for intake of harmful air. This is a flaw in a plan that is designed to help people.

Answer choice E is out of scope. We are talking about preventing asthma attacks, not stopping them once they have started.

35. Explanation: (a) If livestock are routinely fed antibiotics, as choice A states, meat from livestock is likely to contain the resistant bacteria, since any routine of antibiotics can result in resistance bacteria. Thus, choice A is the best answer.

How cases of food poisoning are treated (choice B) fails to indicate whether the infection bacteria are resistant bacteria. Choice C suggests that meat consumption is not the primary culprit for the high incidence of resistant bacteria. Choice D tends to support the competing hypothesis that prescription antibiotics are responsible. Choice E asserts that livestock farmers claim that the hypothesis is false, but it provides no basis for evaluating the truth of this claim.

36. Explanation: (d) Dollar decline was triggered by a prediction of slower economic growth in the coming year.

Govt has huge budget deficit that is why the prediction affected dollar.

Conclusion: To avoid future currency declines, decrease budget deficit.

The conclusion is saying that if budget deficit is reduced, future currency declines can be avoided. We need to weaken this.

(A) The government has made little attempt to reduce the budget deficit.

It doesn't matter whether the Govt has tried to reduce deficit or not.

(B) The budget deficit has not caused a slowdown in economic growth.

The argument does not say that the budget deficit (BD) caused slowdown in economic growth (S). We don't know what is causing economic growth (S).

All the argument says is that the presence of BD and the prediction of S triggered dollar decline.

The cause of S is unknown and irrelevant. We are discussing the cause of dollar decline.

(C) The value of the dollar declined several times in the year prior to the recent prediction of slower economic growth.

Since there is budget deficit, it is possible that varies different events are causing dollar decline. So fixing the deficit may avoid dollar decline.

(D) Before there was a large budget deficit, predictions of slower economic growth frequently caused declines in the dollar's value.

This says that dollar declines happened because of S even before the presence of BD. So even if BD is not there, S could cause dollar declines. This puts a question mark on our theory. Reducing BD may not help us avoid dollar declines then. This is correct.

(E) When there is a large budget deficit, other events in addition to predictions of slower economic growth sometimes trigger declines in currency value.

This helps our conclusion. Lowering budget deficit may help us avoid dollar decline.

37. Explanation: (b) This question might seem very elementary, but I have a slight problem with it. The OA is (B). It is logical, but I'm not sure why (B) is really required if the countries are not bothered whether or not specific damage can be attributed to a particular effluent. (D) is saying that it is important that all of the mercury reach the North Sea. If mercury causes environmental damage, then it doesn't matter whether all of it reaches the North Sea. The mercury is causing damage. Therefore we can eliminate (D) based on the word 'all.'

38. Explanation: (e) the Assumption Negation Technique. In it, you take the opposite of each answer choice (negating either the primary verb in the sentence, or any particular/universal modifiers that surround that verb...like All--->Not All and Some-->None).

Because the correct answer is something on which the argument **DEPENDS**, the correct answer, when negated, will invalidate the argument.

So for this example:

(a) Methodical, step-by-step reasoning is **NOT** inappropriate for making many real-life management decisions.

(b) Top managers **DO NOT** have the ability to use either intuitive reasoning or methodical, step-by-step reasoning in making decisions.

(c) The decisions made by middle-and lowerlevel managers can **NOT** be made as easily by using methodical reasoning as by using intuitive reasoning.

(d) Top managers **DO NOT** use intuitive reasoning in making the majority of their decisions.

(e) Top managers are **NOT** more effective at decision-making than middle-or lower-level managers

If you go back to your premises/conclusion, we're trying to say that: Because top managers use more intuitive reasoning than methodical reasoning, it's a more effective way to make decisions. Let's look at the negations to see which impact that conclusion: Choice E exposes that gap between the premise and the conclusion - if E were not true, as our negation shows, then it would show that the people who use intuitive reasoning more often are no more effective - and maybe even **LESS** effective - than others, so we have no basis for drawing the conclusion. E is shown to be necessary because without it the argument is completely invalid.

Even if you don't go to the trouble of negating all of the answer choices, the thought process is still helpful - if an assumption is **REQUIRED**, we should ask "what if it weren't true?" to then consider whether we need it or not. Without the correct answer, the argument doesn't hold true.

39. Explanation: (e) Claim or conclusion: Those small domestic mines will take more business from the big American coal mines than would have been taken by the foreign coal mines in the absence of quotas.

Hidden assumption: The small domestic mines will be able to mine the same quantity of coal that is presently imported from the foreign coal mines.

Since this is a weaken type of question hence attack the assumption.



Option A: Quality is not discussed in the stimulus and we do not the quality of either the foreign or small domestic firms. Hence eliminated.

Option B: Again the question of quality does not come into the picture. Also the comparison is between the foreign and big American coal mining companies. Eliminated. Option C: Totally out of context.

Option D: Comparison between big American coal mining companies and small ones. Eliminated.

Option E: Directly attacks the assumption used for making the claim/conclusion. Hence it wins.

40. Explanation: (d) Total No of letters: 100 A's Delivery = 60, B's delivery = 40 [Theoretically  $A > B$ ] A's letters lost = 30, B's Letter lost = 5 { This part is ignored } Effective Delivery of A = 30 Effective Delivery of B = 35 The objection implied above to the productivity measure described is based on doubts about the truth of which of the following statements?

(a) Postal workers are representative of service workers in general. - We know this, there is no doubt about this.

(b) The delivery of letters is the primary activity of the postal service. - We know this, there is no doubt about this.

(c) Productivity should be ascribed to categories of workers, not to individuals. - Out of scope.

(d) The quality of services rendered can appropriately be ignored in computing productivity. - Yes quality is word to ponder lets look further.

Effective Delivery of A = 30

Effective Delivery of B = 35

This part is definitely ignored while computing productivity.

(e) The number of letters delivered is relevant to measuring the productivity of postal workers.

If that is the case -

A's Delivery=60, B's delivery=40 [Theoretically productivity of  $A > B$ ]

41. Explanation: (b) n strengthening question, you should read the conclusion carefully. A correct answer should strengthen a conclusion by some ways. Please note that strengthening may vary from 1% to 100%. Let analyze the question.

#### ANALYZE THE STIMULUS:

Fact 1: Male bowerbirds construct elaborately decorated nests, or bowers.

Fact 2: Different local populations of bowerbirds of the same species build bowers that exhibit different building and decorative styles,

Conclusion: researchers have concluded that the bowerbirds' building styles are a culturally acquired, rather than a genetically transmitted, trait.

KEY word: "culturally acquired, NOT genetically transmitted". It means a bowerbird did not know how decorate a net at the time it was born. It has to learn how to decorate a net. Question: Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn by the researchers?

ANALYZE EACH ANSWER:

A. There are more common characteristics than there are differences among the bowerbuilding styles of the local bowerbird population that has been studied most extensively.

Wrong. Stick to key words above. Clearly, if the bowerbirds' building styles are a genetically transmitted, there would be more common characteristics than there are differences among the bowerbuilding styles. Thus, A is wrong.

B. Young male bowerbirds are inept at bowerbuilding and apparently spend years watching their elders before becoming accomplished in the local bower style.

Correct. B clearly states the assumption of the conclusion. Bowerbird did not know how to decorate a net at the time it was born. It has to learn how to decorate a net.

C. The bowers of one species of bowerbird lack the towers and ornamentation characteristic of the bowers of most other species of bowerbird. Wrong. Out of scope.

D. Bowerbirds are found only in New Guinea and Australia, where local populations of the birds apparently seldom have contact with one another.

Wrong. Let me see an example: a bowerbird A is found in New Guinea; a bowerbird B is found in Australia; A and B have different bowerbirds' building styles. But what if a bowerbird A's building styles are acquired through genetic transmitted from its parents. The same pattern is true for B. Clearly, it is possible that bowerbirds' building styles are a genetically transmitted. Thus, D is wrong.

E. It is well known that the song dialects of some songbirds are learned rather than transmitted genetically. Wrong. Out of scope.

42. Explanation: (e) Premise:

A greater number of newspapers are sold in Town S than in Town T.

Conclusion: The citizens of Town S are better informed about major world events than are the citizens of Town T.

We certainly jumped the gun here, right? Just because more papers are sold, we can't conclude that citizens of S are better informed. What if town S has many more people than town T? That will explain why more papers are sold in S. Option (A)

What if town S people buy the newspapers for discount coupons but not read it? Again, then people of S may not be better informed. Option (C)

What if newspapers printed in town S are of local news only. Then town S people will not be better informed about major world events. Option (D)

Option (B) says that people of town T buy their newspapers in town S. That also explains more papers sold in S though people of town T may be better informed.

(E) The average newsstand price of newspapers sold in Town S is lower than the average price of newspapers sold in Town T.

Price has nothing to do with whether people will be better informed. Just because you price a product lower, doesn't mean it will automatically sell more. Only someone who wants to buy it will buy it. Besides, the price may be lower because more papers are sold (economies of scale) so the cause may be "more papers sold" and lower price may be the effect, not the other way around.



This does not weaken our conclusion.

43. Explanation: Option (d) is correct Option A: The method of the drug's distribution is irrelevant, unless the central authority can limit the drug's production from the bark of wild ibora trees. But this information is not provided.  
 Option B: The cost of producing the drug does not affect the outcome for the tree unless it deters production.  
 Option C: The existence of uses for other parts of the tree opens the possibility that the iborabark drug would cause no increase in destruction of trees other than what exists already. If this information were provided, it would weaken support for the conclusion. Since it is not provided, this option does not significantly weaken the argument.  
 Option D: Correct. This information most weakens the argument.  
 Option E: Difficulty of access to the trees could provide a disincentive to their harvesting—but we are not told that it would prevent their harvesting.
44. Explanation: (a) A: The rules for governmental support of farm prices work against efforts to reduce water pollution. Correctly concludes based on info given  
 B: The only solution to the problem of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides is to take farmland out of production. Only solution is too extreme and is not mentioned in the argument  
 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. Infact farmers profit can be reduced because they can no longer plant to get "high yields of the same crop". Hence this is wrong  
 D: New farming techniques will be developed to make it possible for farmers to reduce the application of fertilizers and pesticides. - Just a wishful thinking. Wishful thinkings are not allowed in CR  
 E: Governmental price supports for farm products are set at levels that are not high enough to allow farmers to get out of debt.  
 There is no mention of farmers debt anywhere.  
 Hence out of context.
45. Explanation: (b) Conclusion: Shelby Industries should lower employee wages  
 Type: Weakner  
 We need to find information that would make the plan of reducing employees makes the goal " Shelby Industries is seeking a competitive advantage over Jones Industries" less likely to be achievable.  
 (A) Because they make a small number of precision instruments, gauge manufacturers cannot receive volume discounts on raw materials. irrelevant: No mention of anything related to reduction of wages  
 (B) Lowering wages would reduce the quality of employee work, and this reduced quality would lead to lowered sales. Correct: One possible bad effect of lowering wages



- (C) Jones Industries has taken away twenty percent of Shelby Industries' business over the last year. Irrelevant
- (D) Shelby Industries pays its employees, on average, ten percent more than does Jones Industries. irrelevant
- (E) Many people who work for manufacturing plants live in areas in which the manufacturing plant they work for is the only industry. irrelevant

46. Explanation: (d) In this argument Its saying that florida is populated almost exclusively by retired people and few children but in florida rental business of infants and small children`s furniture are thriving. If we say that many residents of these communities must provide for the needs of visiting grandchildren several weeks a year then it will reconcile the discrepancy.

47. Explanation: (c) Restate the premise "large national deficits may not necessarily result in large trade deficits. there is no correlation between national deficits and trade deficits"

- A) Out of scope. The premise is about national deficits and trade deficits. it has nothing about trade restriction
- B) False. The premise is about the correlation between national deficits and trade deficits. It has no information about comparison between deficits of different countries. In addition, the word impossible is too strong. There are no facts support such comparison is impossible.
- C) Correct answer. The premise states that there is no correlation between national and trade deficits. Therefore, reducing one may or may not lead to the reduction of another.
- D) The premise says nothing about population. Rule out
- E) Exact opposite. The premise says there is no correlation between trade deficits and national deficits

48. Explanation: (a) A presupposition is something that you are assuming to be true and then concluding your argument.

A questionable statement is something which may or may not be valid.

"A questionable presupposition" just means an assumption, the validity of which is questionable, but an assumption made by the author nevertheless. In essence, it is just an assumption question.

An assumption is something that must be necessary for the argument. The author assumes it to be true. Whether it actually is true or not, we don't have to worry about it. This question stem is telling us that the assumption he has made may not be valid.

Don't confuse this with given premises. Since the author gives them as data to back his conclusion, we assume the premises to be true while evaluating the validity of his argument. Argument:

"Fast cycle time" is a strategy of designing a manufacturing organization to eliminate bottlenecks and delays in production. bottlenecks and delays cannot be eliminated unless all work is done right the first time.



Conclusion: Not only does it speed up production, but it also assures quality. (A) any flaw in work on a product would cause a bottleneck or delay and so would be prevented from occurring on a "fast cycle" production line This is the missing link. It links quality (not mentioned in premises but concluded) to fast cycle.

The author is assuming that since the "fast cycle" eliminates bottle necks, it eliminates flaws too. The assumption is that flaws will cause a bottleneck. So removing bottlenecks means all flaws are taken care of.

(B) the strategy of "fast cycle time" would require fundamental rethinking of product design

Irrelevant. How we achieve fast cycle doesn't matter.

(C) the primary goal of the organization is to produce a product of unexcelled quality, rather than to generate profits for stockholders Irrelevant. The argument discusses "fast cycle time" strategy. Whether organisations will use it or not, we don't have to worry.

(D) "fast cycle time" could be achieved by shaving time off each of the component processes in production cycle How it is achieved - whether time is shaved off from each process or from some specific processes - doesn't matter.

(E) "fast cycle time" is a concept in business strategy that has not yet been put into practice in a factory We don't know whether it has been put in practice. Our argument doesn't depend on it.

49. Explanation: (a) Premise: - Many breakfast cereals are fortified with vitamin supplements. Some of these cereals provide 100 percent of the recommended daily requirement of vitamins.

Conclusion: - Nevertheless, a well-balanced breakfast, including a variety of foods, is a better source of those vitamins than are such fortified breakfast cereals alone.

Prethinking: - Anything that suggests "well balanced diet"(WBD) is better than Fortified cereals (FC) alone. In other words we need a statement that says WBD > FC

(A) gives us a reason to support the argument: vitamins in a combination of foods is superior to the same amount of vitamins found in a fortified cereal.

(B) People who regularly eat cereals fortified with vitamin supplements sometimes neglect to eat the foods in which the vitamins occur naturally.

How does it matter if people neglect to eat naturally occurring food? This is no way telling me WBD > FC

(C) Foods often must be fortified with vitamin supplements because naturally occurring vitamins are removed during processing.

This option is talking about FC or rather describing it. But doesn't tell me if WBD > FC

(D) Unprocessed cereals are naturally high in several of the vitamins that are usually added to fortified breakfast cereals. So what? This option doesn't answer WBD > FC. out

(E) Cereals containing vitamin supplements are no harder to digest than similar cereals without added vitamins.

Out of scope. The prompt or author is not bothered about the digestion of WBD and FC

50. Explanation: (b) This question is looking for an example to match the relationship between high risk and high reward.
- A. The relationship between high risk and high reward is not mentioned here. Although "very risky investments" is mentioned, there really is no mention of high rewards. You might argue that successful investors obtain "high rewards," but this is not necessarily true because successful investors could obtain many small rewards and still be successful.
  - B. This answer choice clearly shows an example of the relationship between high risk and high rewards. If you are an individual buying a bond in a company, it would be less risky for the bond to be backed by collateral than without collateral. Therefore, the higher risk bond would yield higher interest rates and the lower risk bonds (backed by collateral) would yield lower interest rates.
  - C. First of all, we are introducing a "time of inflation," which is a bit suspicious to me. Although these questions can bring in "outside" information, by saying "in times of inflation," we are not sure whether this is a time of high or low risk. Also, the remaining part of this answer choice does not express the relationship of high risk and high reward.
  - D. This statement actually weakens the argument because it contradicts the main relationship. By saying that some banks have a single interest rate for all individuals, you are ignoring the fact that individuals have different risk levels.
  - E. This also contradicts the main argument. It states that new companies (typically higher risk) have a lower potential return on investment than companies are lower risk.