

CRITICAL REASONING

PRACTISE QUESTIONS

TEST A

1. Mr. Janeck: I don't believe Stevenson will win the election for governor. Few voters are willing to elect a businessman with no political experience to such a responsible public office.
Ms. Siuzdak: You're wrong. The experience of running a major corporation is a valuable preparation for the task of running a state government. M. Siuzdak's response shows that she has interpreted Mr. Janeck's remark to imply which of the following?
(A) Mr. Janeck considers Stevenson unqualified for the office of governor.
(B) No candidate without political experience has ever been elected governor of a state.
(C) Mr. Janeck believes that political leadership and business leadership are closely analogous.
(D) A career spent in the pursuit of profit can be an impediment to one's ability to run a state government fairly.
(E) Voters generally overestimate the value of political experience when selecting a candidate.
2. Which of the following best completes the passage below? One tax-reform proposal that has gained increasing support in recent years is the flat tax, which would impose a uniform tax rate on incomes at every level. Opponents of the flat tax say that a progressive tax system, which levies a higher rate of taxes on higher-income taxpayers, is fairer, placing the greater burden on those better able to bear it. However, the present crazy quilt of tax deductions, exemptions, credits, and loopholes benefits primarily the high-income taxpayer, who is consequently able to reduce his or her effective tax rate, often to a level below that paid by the lower-income taxpayer. Therefore, ____
(A) higher-income taxpayers are likely to lend their support to the flat-tax proposal now being considered by Congress
(B) a flat-tax system that allowed no deductions or exemptions would substantially increase actual government revenues
(C) the lower-income taxpayer might well be penalized by the institution of a flat-tax system in this country
(D) the progressive nature of our present tax system is more illusory than real
(E) the flat tax would actually be fairer to the lower-income taxpayer than any progressive tax system could be
3. As part of our program to halt the influx of illegal immigrants, the administration is proposing the creation of a national identity card. The card would be available only to U.S. citizens and to registered aliens, and all persons would be required to produce the card before they could be given a job. Of course, such a system holds the potential, however slight, for the abuse of civil liberties. Therefore, all personal information gathered through this system would be held strictly confidential, to be released only by authorized personnel under appropriate circumstances. Those who are in compliance with U.S. laws would have nothing to fear from the identity card system.

In evaluating the above proposal, a person concerned about the misuse of confidential information would be most interested in having the author clarify the meaning of which of the following phrases?

- (A) “all persons” (line 5)
- (B) “however slight” (line 7)
- (C) “civil liberties” (line 8)
- (D) “appropriate circumstances” (line 11)
- (E) “U.S. laws” (line 2)

4. At one time, European and Japanese companies tried to imitate their American rivals. Today, American appliance manufacturers import European scientists to lead their research staffs; American automakers design cars that mimic the styling of German, Italian, and French imports; and American electronics firms boast in their advertising of “Japanese-style” devotion to quality and reliability. In the world of high technology, America has lost the battle for international prestige. Each of the following statements, if true, would help to support the claim above EXCEPT:
- (A) An American camera company claims in its promotional literature to produce cameras “as fine as the best Swiss imports.”
 - (B) An American maker of stereo components designs its products to resemble those of a popular Japanese firm.
 - (C) An American manufacturer of video games uses a brand name chosen because it sounds like a Japanese word.
 - (D) An American maker of televisions studies German-made televisions in order to adopt German manufacturing techniques.
 - (E) An American maker of frozen foods advertises its dinners as “Real Europeanstyle entrees prepared by fine French and Italian chefs.”
5. Johnson is on firm ground when he asserts that the early editors of Dickinson’s poetry often distorted her intentions. Yet Johnson’s own, more faithful, text is still guilty of its own forms of distortion. To standardize Dickinson’s often indecipherable handwritten punctuation by the use of the dash is to render permanent a casual mode of poetic phrasing that Dickinson surely never expected to see in print. It implies that Dickinson chose the dash as her typical mark of punctuation when, in fact, she apparently never made any definitive choice at all. Which of the following best summarizes the author’s main point?
- (A) Although Johnson is right in criticizing Dickinson’s early editors for their distortion of her work, his own text is guilty of equally serious distortions.
 - (B) Johnson’s use of the dash in his text of Dickinson’s poetry misleads readers about the poet’s intentions.
 - (C) Because Dickinson never expected her poetry to be published, virtually any attempt at editing it must run counter to her intentions.
 - (D) Although Johnson’s attempt to produce a more faithful text of Dickinson’s poetry is well-meaning, his study of the material lacks sufficient thoroughness.
 - (E) Dickinson’s editors, including Johnson, have failed to deal adequately with the problem of deciphering Dickinson’s handwritten manuscripts.
6. A law requiring companies to offer employees unpaid time off to care for their children will harm the economic competitiveness of our nation’s businesses. Companies must be free to set their own employment policies without mandated parental-leave regulations. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion of the argument above?
- (A) A parental-leave law will serve to strengthen the family as a social institution in this country.
 - (B) Many businesses in this country already offer employees some form of parental leave.
 - (C) Some of the countries with the most economically competitive businesses have strong parental-leave regulations.

- (D) Only companies with one hundred or more employees would be subject to the proposed parental-leave law.
- (E) In most polls, a majority of citizens say they favor passage of a parental-leave law.
7. If A, then B. If B, then C. If C, then D. If all of the statements above are true, which of the following must also be true?
- (A) If D, then A.
- (B) If not B, then not C.
- (C) If not D, then not A.
- (D) If D, then E.
- (E) If not A, then not D.
8. Dear Applicant: Thank you for your application. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer you a position in our local government office for the summer. As you know, funding for summer jobs is limited, and it is impossible for us to offer jobs to all those who want them. Consequently, we are forced to reject many highly qualified applicants. Which of the following can be inferred from the letter?
- (A) The number of applicants for summer jobs in the government office exceeded the number of summer jobs available.
- (B) The applicant who received the letter was considered highly qualified.
- (C) Very little funding was available for summer jobs in the government office.
- (D) The application of the person who received the letter was considered carefully before being rejected.
- (E) Most of those who applied for summer jobs were considered qualified for the available positions.
9. Studies of fatal automobile accidents reveal that, in the majority of cases in which one occupant of an automobile is killed while another survives, it is the passenger, not the driver, who is killed. It is ironic that the innocent passenger should suffer for the driver's carelessness, while the driver often suffers only minor injuries or none at all. Which of the following is an assumption underlying the reasoning in the passage above?
- (A) In most fatal automobile accidents, the driver of a car in which an occupant is killed is at fault.
- (B) Drivers of automobiles are rarely killed in auto accidents.
- (C) Most deaths in fatal automobile accidents are suffered by occupants of cars rather than by pedestrians.
- (D) Auto safety experts should increase their efforts to provide protection for those in the passenger seats of automobiles.
- (E) Automobile passengers sometimes play a contributing role in causing auto accidents.

Questions 10-11 are based on the following.

As one who has always believed that truth is our nation's surest weapon in the propaganda war against our foes, I am distressed by reports of "disinformation" campaigns by American intelligence agents in Western Europe. In a disinformation campaign, untruths are disseminated through gullible local journalists in order to damage the interests of our enemies and protect our own. Those who defend this practice say that lying is necessary to counter Soviet disinformation campaigns aimed at damaging America's political interests. These apologists contend that one must fight fire with fire. I would point out to the apologists that the fire department finds water more effective.

10. The author of the passage above bases his conclusion on which of the following?
- (A) A circular definition of "disinformation"
- (B) An example of the ineffectiveness of lying as a weapon in the propaganda war
- (C) An analogy between truth and water
- (D) An appeal to the authority of the fire department

(E) An attack on the character of American intelligence agents in Western Europe

11. The author's main point is that
- (A) although disinformation campaigns may be effective, they are unacceptable on ethical grounds
 - (B) America's moral standing in the world depends on its adherence to the truth
 - (C) the temporary political gains produced by disinformation campaigns generally give way to long-term losses
 - (D) Soviet disinformation campaigns have done little to damage America's standing in Europe
 - (E) disinformation campaigns do not effectively serve the political interests of the United States
12. Are you still reading the other newspaper in town? Did you know that the Daily Bugle is owned by an out-of-town business syndicate that couldn't care less about the people of Gotham City? Read the Daily Clarion, the only real voice of the people of Gotham City! Which of the following most directly refutes the argument raised in the advertisement above?
- (A) Over half of the advertising revenues of the Daily Clarion come from firms whose headquarters are located outside of Gotham City.
 - (B) The Daily Clarion usually devotes more of its pages to out-of-town news than does the Daily Bugle.
 - (C) Nearly 40 percent of the readers of the Daily Clarion reside outside the limits of Gotham City.
 - (D) The editor-in-chief and all the other members of the editorial staff of the Daily Bugle have lived and worked in Gotham City for ten years or more.
 - (E) The Daily Bugle has been published in Gotham City for a longer time than has the Daily Clarion.

Questions 13-14 are based on the following.

The earth's resources are being depleted much too fast. To correct this, the United States must keep its resource consumption at present levels for many years to come.

13. The argument above depends on which of the following assumptions?
- (A) Per capita resource consumption in the United States is at an all-time high.
 - (B) The United States wastes resources.
 - (C) The United States uses more resources than any other country.
 - (D) The United States imports most of the resources it uses.
 - (E) Curbing U.S. resource consumption will significantly retard world resource depletion.
14. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument above?
- (A) New resource deposits are constantly being discovered.
 - (B) The United States consumes one-third of all resources used in the world.
 - (C) Other countries need economic development more than the United States does.
 - (D) Other countries have agreed to hold their resource consumption at present levels.
 - (E) The United States has been conserving resources for several years.
15. Alba: I don't intend to vote for Senator Frank in the next election. She is not a strong supporter of the war against crime. Tam: But Senator Frank sponsored the latest anticrime law passed by the Senate. Alba: If Senator Frank sponsored it, it can't be a very strong anticrime law. Which of the following identifies the most serious logical flaw in Alba's reasoning?
- (A) The facts she presents do not support her conclusion that Senator Frank is soft on crime.
 - (B) She assumes without proof that crime is the most important issue in the upcoming election.
 - (C) She argues in a circle, using an unsupported assertion to dismiss conflicting evidence.
 - (D) She attacks Senator Frank on personal grounds rather than on his merit as a political leader.

(E) In deciding not to vote for Senator Frank, she fails to consider issues other than crime.

16. Which of the following best completes the passage below? the most serious flaw in television's coverage of election campaigns is its tendency to focus on the horse-race side of politics—that is, to concentrate on the question "Who's winning?" at the expense of substantive coverage of the issues and the candidates' positions on them. The endless interviews with campaign managers, discussions of campaign strategies, and, especially, the obsession with opinion polls have surrounded elections with the atmosphere of a football game or a prizefight. To reform this situation, a first step might well be _____
- (A) a shortening of the length of election campaigns to a period of six weeks
 - (B) a stringent limit on campaign spending
 - (C) a reduction in the television coverage of opinion polls during election campaigns
 - (D) the publication and distribution of voter-education literature to inform the public about each candidate's position on the major issues
 - (E) a limit on the length and number of political advertisements broadcast on television
17. With Proposition 13, if you bought your house 11 years ago for \$75,000, your property tax would be approximately \$914 a year (1 percent of \$75,000 increased by 2 percent each year for 11 years); and if your neighbor bought an identical house next door to you for \$200,000 this year, his tax would be \$2,000 (1 percent of \$200,000). Without Proposition 13, both you and your neighbor would pay \$6,000 a year in property taxes (3 percent of \$200,000). Which of the following is the conclusion for which the author most likely is arguing in the passage above?
- (A) Proposition 13 is unconstitutional because it imposes an unequal tax on properties of equal value.
 - (B) If Proposition 13 is repealed, every homeowner is likely to experience a substantial increase in property taxes.
 - (C) By preventing inflation from driving up property values, Proposition 13 has saved homeowners thousands of dollars in property taxes.
 - (D) If Proposition 13 is not repealed, identical properties will continue to be taxed at different rates.
 - (E) Proposition 13 has benefited some homeowners more than others.

Questions 18-19 are based on the following.

At an enormous research cost, a leading chemical company has developed a manufacturing process for converting wood fibers into a plastic. According to the company, this new plastic can be used for, among other things, the hulls of small sailboats. But what does the company think sailboat hulls used to be made of? Surely the mania for high technology can scarcely go further than this.

18. The author's opinion of the manufacturing process described in the passage is based primarily on the fact that
- (A) plastic is unlikely to be durable enough for high-quality sailboat hulls
 - (B) the research costs of developing the process outweigh any savings possible from the use of the plastic
 - (C) a small sailboat is not normally regarded as a high-tech product
 - (D) hulls for small sailboats can be made from wood without converting it into plastic
 - (E) many other spheres of human activity are in far greater need of technological research
19. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's conclusion?
- (A) The plastic produced by the process is considerably lighter, stronger, and more watertight than wood.
 - (B) The wood used in producing the plastic is itself in increasingly short supply.
 - (C) The cost of the manufacturing process of the plastic increases the cost of producing a sailboat hull by 10 to 15 percent.

- (D) Much of the cost of the research that developed the new process will be written off for tax purposes by the chemical company.
- (E) The development of the new plastic is expected to help make the chemical company an important supplier of boat-building materials.

20. A young man eager to become a master swordsman journeyed to the home of the greatest teacher of swordsmanship in the kingdom. He asked the teacher, "How quickly can you teach me to be a master swordsman?" The old teacher replied, "It will take ten years." Unsatisfied, the young man asked, "What if I am willing to work night and day, every day of the year?" the teacher replied, "In that case, it will take twenty years." The teacher's main point is that an important quality of a master swordsman is

- (A) humility
- (B) willingness to work hard
- (C) respect for one's elders
- (D) patience
- (E) determination

TEST B

1. Below is an excerpt from a letter that was sent by the chairman of a corporation to the stockholders. A number of charges have been raised against me, some serious, some trivial. Individuals seeking to control the corporation for their own purposes have demanded my resignation. Remember that no court of law in any state has found me guilty of any criminal offense whatsoever. In the American tradition, as you know, an individual is considered innocent until proven guilty. Furthermore, as the corporation's unbroken six-year record of growth will show, my conduct of my official duties as chairman has only helped enhance the success of the corporation, and so benefited every stockholder. Which of the following can be properly inferred from the excerpt?
 - (A) The chairman believes that all those who have demanded his resignation are motivated by desire to control the corporation for their own purposes.
 - (B) Any misdeeds that the chairman may have committed were motivated by his desire to enhance the success of the corporation.
 - (C) The chairman is innocent of any criminal offense.
 - (D) The corporation has expanded steadily over the past six years.
 - (E) Any legal proceedings against the chairman have resulted in his acquittal.

2. In the years since the city of London imposed strict air-pollution regulations on local industry, the number of bird species seen in and around London has increased dramatically. Similar air-pollution rules should be imposed in other major cities. Each of the following is an assumption made in the argument above EXCEPT:
 - (A) In most major cities, air-pollution problems are caused almost entirely by local industry.
 - (B) Air-pollution regulations on industry have a significant impact on the quality of the air.
 - (C) The air-pollution problems of other major cities are basically similar to those once suffered by London.
 - (D) An increase in the number of bird species in and around a city is desirable.
 - (E) The increased sightings of bird species in and around London reflect an actual increase in the number of species in the area.

3. Which of the following best completes the passage below? In opposing government regulation of business, conservatives often appeal to the Jeffersonian ideal of limited government, expressing the wish that government would "get off the backs of the American people." Yet, paradoxically, many of these same conservatives address questions of private morality, such as those dealing with sexual behavior, by calling for _____.
 - (A) a return to the restrictive sexual morality of the Victorian era
 - (B) a strengthening of the role of the family in setting moral norms for society
 - (C) a limitation on the amount of sexually provocative material appearing in books, movies, and television shows
 - (D) greater freedom for individuals to choose their own way of handling sexual issues
 - (E) an increased governmental role in the regulation and control of private sexual behavior

Questions 4-5 are based on the following:

In an experiment, two different types of recorded music were played for neonates in adjacent nurseries in a hospital. In nursery A, classical music was played; in nursery B, rock music was played. After two weeks, it was found that the babies in nursery A cried less, suffered fewer minor ailments, and gained more weight than did the babies in nursery B.

4. In evaluating the validity of the conclusion suggested by the experiment above, it would be most important to know which of the following?
 - (A) The musical preferences of the parents of the two groups of newborns
 - (B) Whether the newborns in both nurseries were equally healthy and happy at the start of the experiment
 - (C) Whether loud rock music can damage the hearing of newborns
 - (D) What the average weight of the neonates was before and after the experiment
 - (E) Whether the music was played in the nurseries at all times or only at certain times

5. Which of the following additional experimental data would support the hypothesis that classical music is beneficial to the development of newborn?
 - (A) The neonates in a nursery where no music was played fared better than those in nursery B.
 - (B) Nursery A contained 15 percent more premature babies than nursery B.
 - (C) The newborns in nursery A cried less, suffered fewer minor ailments, and gained more weight than did newborns in a nursery with no music.
 - (D) The music played in nursery A was louder than that played in nursery B.
 - (E) The ratio of nurses to newborns in nursery B was 1 to 4; in nursery A, it was 1 to 6.

6. The ancient city of Cephessa was not buried by an eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 310, as some believe. The eruption in the year 310 damaged the city, but it did not destroy it. Cephessa survived for another century before it finally met its destruction in another eruption around A.D. 415. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim that the city of Cephessa was not buried by the eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 310?
 - (A) The city of Cephessa is mentioned in a historical work known to have been written in A.D. 400.
 - (B) Coins bearing the image of an emperor who lived around A.D. 410 have been discovered in the ruins of Cephessa, which were preserved by the cinders and ashes that buried the city.
 - (C) Geological evidence shows that the eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 415 deposited a 10-foot-thick layer of lava on the city of Cephessa.
 - (D) Artworks from the city of Cephessa have been found in the ruins of another city known to have been destroyed in A.D. 420.
 - (E) A historical work written in A.D. 430 refers to the eruption of Mt. Amnos in A.D. 415.

7. June is taller than Kristin. Letty is taller than Maria. Maria is shorter than Nancy. Kristin and Nancy are exactly the same height. If the information above is true, which of the following must also be true?
 - (A) Letty is taller than Nancy.
 - (B) Letty is taller than June
 - (C) Kristin is shorter than Letty.
 - (D) June is taller than Maria.
 - (E) Kristin is shorter than Maria.

8. Current farm policy is institutionalized penalization of consumers. It increases food prices for middle- and low-income families and costs the taxpayer billions of dollars a year. Which of the following statements, if true, would provide support for the author's claims above? I. Farm subsidies amount to roughly \$20 billion a year in federal payouts and \$12 billion more in higher food prices. II. According to a study by the Department of Agriculture, each \$1 of benefits provided to farmers for ethanol production costs consumers and taxpayers \$4. III. The average full-time farmers have an average net worth of over \$300,000.
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) III only
 - (D) I and II only
 - (E) I, II, and III

9. Reva: Using extraneous incentives to get teenagers to change their attitude toward school and schoolwork won't work. Take the program in West Virginia, for instance, where they tried to reduce their dropout rate by revoking the driving licenses of kids who left school. The program failed miserably. Anne: It's true that the West Virginia program failed, but many schools have devised incentive programs that have been very successful in improving attendance and reducing discipline problems. According to Anne, the weak point in Reva's claim is that it
 - (A) fails to consider the possibility that the majority of potential dropouts in West Virginia do not have driving licenses
 - (B) doesn't provide any exact figures for the dropout rate in West Virginia before and during the program
 - (C) ignores a substantial body of evidence showing that parents and employers have been using extrinsic incentives with positive results for years

- (D) assumes that a positive incentive—a prize or a reward—will be no more effective than a negative incentive, like the revoking of a driving license
- (E) is based on a single example, the incentive program in West Virginia, which may not be typical
10. In many surveys, American consumers have expressed a willingness to spend up to 10 percent more for products that are ecologically sound. Encouraged by such surveys, Bleach-O Corporation promoted a new laundry detergent, Bleach-O Green, as safer for the environment. Bleach-O Green cost 5 percent more than typical detergents. After one year, Bleach-O Green had failed to capture a significant share of the detergent market and was withdrawn from sale. Which of the following questions is LEAST likely to be relevant in determining the reasons for the failure of Bleach-O Green?
- (A) How effective as a detergent was Bleach-O Green?
- (B) How many other detergents on the market were promoted as safe for the environment?
- (C) How much more did Bleach-O Green cost to manufacture than ordinary detergents?
- (D) To what extent did consumers accept the validity of Bleach-O Green advertised and promoted to consumers?
- (E) How effectively was Bleach-O Green advertised and promoted to consumers?
11. The burden of maintaining the U.S. highway system falls disproportionately on the trucking industry. Trucks represent only about 10 percent of the vehicles on U.S. roads. Yet road use taxes assessed on trucks amount to almost half the taxes paid for highway upkeep and repair. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?
- (A) The trucking industry has enjoyed record after-tax profits in three of the past four years.
- (B) Because of their weight, trucks cause over 50 percent of the damage sustained by highway surfaces each year.
- (C) Without an economically viable trucking industry, the cost of goods in the United States would rise significantly.
- (D) Road use taxes paid by trucking companies have decreased by 3 percent over the past five years.
- (E) Due to years of neglect, U.S. highways today are badly in need of major repairs and rebuilding.
12. The upcoming presidential election in the West African republic of Ganelon is of grave concern to the U.S. State Department. Ganelon presently has strong political and military ties to the United States. However, the Socialist party is widely expected to win the election, leading to fears that Ganelon will soon break away from the pro-American bloc and adopt a nonaligned or openly anti-American stance. Which of the following is an assumption made in the passage above?
- (A) A Socialist party government in Ganelon is more likely to oppose the United States than is a non-Socialist party government.
- (B) The people of the United States recognize their nation's interest in the political stability of West Africa.
- (C) A weakening of U.S. political ties with Ganelon could have serious consequences for U.S. relations with other African nations.
- (D) The Socialist party leaders in Ganelon believe that their nation's interests would best be served by an alliance with anti-American forces.
- (E) The Socialist party will win the upcoming election in Ganelon.
13. No nation can long survive unless its people are united by a common tongue. For proof, we need only consider Canada, which is being torn asunder by conflicts between French-speaking Quebec and the other provinces, which are dominated by English speakers. Which of the following, if true, most effectively challenges the author's conclusion?
- (A) Conflicts over language have led to violent clashes between the Basquespeaking minority in Spain and the Spanish-speaking majority.
- (B) Proposals to declare English the official language of the United States have met with resistance from members of Hispanic and other minority groups.
- (C) Economic and political differences, along with linguistic ones, have contributed to the provincial conflicts in Canada.
- (D) The public of India, in existence since 1948, has a population that speaks hundreds of different, though related, languages.

- (E) Switzerland has survived for nearly a thousand years as a home for speakers of three different languages.
14. As an experienced labor organizer and the former head of one of the nation's most powerful labor unions, Grayson is an excellent choice to chair the new council on business-labor relations. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion above?
- (A) The new council must have the support of the nation's labor leaders if it is to succeed.
 - (B) During his years as a labor leader, Grayson established a record of good relations with business leaders.
 - (C) The chair of the new council must be a person who can communicate directly with the leaders of the nation's largest labor unions.
 - (D) Most of the other members of the new council will be representatives of business management interests.
 - (E) An understanding of the needs and problems of labor is the only qualification necessary for the job of chairing the new council.
15. In the effort to fire a Civil Service employee, his or her manager may have to spend up to \$100,000 of tax money. Since Civil Service employees know how hard it is to fire them, they tend to loaf. This explains in large part why the government is so inefficient. It can be properly inferred on the basis of the statements above that the author believes which of the following?
- I. Too much job security can have a negative influence on workers.
 - II. More government workers should be fired.
 - III. Most government workers are Civil Service employees.
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and III only
 - (C) II only
 - (D) I, II, and III
 - (E) III only
16. Some commentators complain that a "litigation explosion" in the past decade has led to unreasonably high costs for U.S. businesses by encouraging more product liability suits against manufacturers. However, these complaints are based mainly on myth. Statistics show that the number of successful product liability suits has remained almost the same, and the average sum awarded in damages has grown no faster than the inflation rate. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?
- (A) The number of unsuccessful suits has skyrocketed, imposing huge new legal expenses on businesses.
 - (B) Several of the largest awards ever made in product liability cases occurred within the last two years.
 - (C) The rise of the consumer movement has encouraged citizens to seek legal redress for product flaws.
 - (D) Lawyers often undertake product liability cases on a contingency basis, so their payment is based on the size of the damages awarded.
 - (E) Juries often award damages in product liability suits out of emotional sympathy for an injured consumer.
17. Ronald: According to my analysis of the national economy, housing prices should not increase during the next six months unless interest rates drop significantly. Mark: I disagree. One year ago, when interest rates last fell significantly, housing prices did not increase at all. It can be inferred from the conversation above that Mark has interpreted Ronald's statement to mean that
- (A) housing prices will rise only if interest rates fall
 - (B) if interest rates fall, housing prices must rise
 - (C) interest rates and housing prices tend to rise and fall together
 - (D) interest rates are the only significant economic factor affecting housing prices
 - (E) interest rates are likely to fall significantly in the next six months
18. It's time we stopped searching for new statistics to suggest that we are not spending enough on education. In fact, education spending increased 30 percent overall during the last decade. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?
- (A) Despite increased spending on education, enrollment in our elementary and secondary schools declined about 4 percent during the last ten years.
 - (B) Our spending on gasoline increased more than 100 percent during the last decade.

- (C) When adjusted for inflation, our per-pupil expenditure on education this year is less than it was ten years ago.
- (D) Eleven other economically developed nations spend more on education than we do.
- (E) The achievement levels of our students have been declining steadily since 1960, and the last decade produced no reversal in this trend.
19. The U.S. census is not perfect: thousands of Americans probably go uncounted. However, the basic statistical portrait of the nation painted by the census is accurate. Certainly some of the poor go uncounted, particularly the homeless; but some of the rich go uncounted as well, because they are often abroad or traveling between one residence and another. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above depends?
- (A) Both the rich and the poor have personal and economic reasons to avoid being counted by the census.
- (B) All Americans may reasonably be classified as either poor or rich.
- (C) The percentage of poor Americans uncounted by the census is close to the percentage of rich Americans uncounted.
- (D) The number of homeless Americans is approximately equal to the number of rich Americans.
- (E) The primary purpose of the census is to analyze the economic status of the American population.
20. Which of the following best completes the passage below? In today's pluralistic society, textbook publishers find themselves in an increasingly uncomfortable position. Since the schools are regarded as a repository of society's moral and cultural values, each group within society wishes to prevent any material that offends its own values from appearing in textbooks. As a result, stance on an issue is certain to run afoul of one group or another. And since textbook publishers must rely on community goodwill to sell their books, it is inevitable that_____
- (A) fewer and fewer publishers will be willing to enter the financially uncertain textbook industry
- (B) the ethical and moral content of textbooks will become increasingly neutral and bland
- (C) more and more pressure groups will arise that seek to influence the content of textbooks
- (D) the government will be forced to intervene in the increasingly rancorous debate over the content of textbooks
- (E) school boards, teachers, and principals will find it nearly impossible to choose among the variety of textbooks being offered

TEST C

Questions 1-2 are based on the following.

We have heard a good deal in recent years about the declining importance of the two major political parties. It is the mass media, we are told, that decide the outcome of elections, not the power of the parties. But it is worth noting that no independent or third-party candidate has won any important election in recent years, and in the last nationwide campaign, the two major parties raised and spent more money than ever before in support of their candidates and platforms. It seems clear that reports of the imminent demise of the two-party system are premature at best.

1. Which of the following is an assumption made in the argument above?
 - (A) The amount of money raised and spent by a political party is one valid criterion for judging the influence of the party.
 - (B) A significant increase in the number of third-party candidates would be evidence of a decline in the importance of the two major parties.
 - (C) The two-party system has contributed significantly to the stability of the American political structure.
 - (D) The mass media tend to favor an independent or third-party candidate over a candidate from one of the two major parties.
 - (E) The mass media are relatively unimportant in deciding the outcome of most elections.
2. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument above?
 - (A) The percentage of voters registered as independents is higher today than ever before.
 - (B) In a recent presidential campaign, for the first time ever, an independent candidate was invited to appear in a televised debate with the major-party candidates.
 - (C) Every current member of the U.S. Senate was elected as the candidate of one of the two major parties.
 - (D) In a recent opinion poll, most voters stated that a candidate's party affiliation was an insignificant factor in judging his or her fitness for office.
 - (E) In the last four years, the outcome of several statewide elections has been determined by the strength of the third-party vote.
3. Psychologists conducted a series of experiments to test the effect upon schoolchildren of violence in films. In the first experiment, grammar school children were shown a film that included scenes of a male teenager engaging in violent acts against others, such as punching, pushing, and kicking. During a free play session following the film viewing, 42 percent of the children were observed to engage in one or more violent acts similar to those in the film. In a second experiment, a different group of children was shown a similar film featuring a female teenager. Only 14 percent of the children were observed behaving violently afterward. The psychologists concluded that children are more likely to imitate violent behavior on film when a male model is shown than when a female model is shown. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the psychologists' conclusion?
 - (A) In both experiments, the victims of the filmed violence included both males and females.
 - (B) In the second experiment, 28 percent of the children appeared upset during the viewing the violent film scenes.
 - (C) The first group included 19 male students and 20 female students; the second group included 20 male students and 21 female students.
 - (D) In the first group, 58 percent of the children appeared bored during the showing of the film, and 12 percent fell asleep.
 - (E) The percentage of children known to have discipline problems prior to the experiment was greater in the first group than in the second group.
4. Mainline Airways was bought by its employees six years ago. Three years ago, Mainline hired QualiCo Advertising Agency to handle its promotions and advertising division. Today Mainline's profits are over 20 percent higher than they were five years ago and 10 percent higher than they were three years ago. Employee ownership and a good advertising agency have combined to make Mainline more profitable. Which of the following best describes the weak point in the argument above?

- (A) It fails to establish a causal connection between the change in ownership at Mainline Airways and the hiring of QualiCo, on the one hand, and the rise in Mainline's profits, on the other.
- (B) It presents no evidence showing that employee-owned airlines are any more profitable than other airlines.
- (C) It assumes that the profits of Mainline Airways will continue to rise.
- (D) It gives no exact figures for the current profits of Mainline Airways.
- (E) It fails to explain how the profits of Mainline Airways are calculated.
5. At many colleges today, regulations have been imposed that forbid the use in speech or print of language that "offends" or "insults" the members of any group, especially women and racial, ethnic, and religious minorities. Although these regulations are defended in the name of "democracy," they restrict freedom of speech and the press in a way that opposes the true spirit of democracy. The argument above attempts to prove its case primarily by
- (A) impugning the credentials of an opponent
- (B) providing examples that support a theoretical principle
- (C) taking advantage of inconsistencies in the definition of "democracy"
- (D) revealing a contradiction in an opposing point of view
- (E) appealing to the patriotic feelings of its audience
6. In 1980, a Danish ten-øre coin minted in 1747 was sold at auction for \$8,000. Eleanor Bixby owns another Danish ten-øre coin minted in 1747. When she puts it on the market next week, it will fetch a price over \$18,000. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the conclusion drawn above?
- (A) Since 1980, the average price for rare coins has increased by over 150 percent.
- (B) There are only four coins like the one in question in the entire world.
- (C) Since 1980, the consumer price index has risen by over 150 percent.
- (D) In 1986, a previously unknown cache of one hundred coins just like the one in question was found.
- (E) Thirty prominent, wealthy coin collectors are expected to bid for Bixby's coin.
7. Merco has been in business longer than Nolen, Inc. Olean Industries was founded years before the Potter Company, and the Potter Company was started years after the Quarles Corporation. Nolen, Inc., and the Quarles Corporation were founded in the same year. If the information above is true, which of the following must also be true?
- (A) Olean Industries has been in business for more years than Merco.
- (B) Olean Industries has been in business for more years than the Quarles Corporation.
- (C) Nolen, Inc., has not been in business for as many years as Olean Industries.
- (D) Merco has been in business for more years than the Potter Company.
- (E) Nolen, Inc., has not been in business for as many years as the Potter Company.
8. Which of the following best completes the passage below? A primary factor in perpetuating the low salaries of women workers has been their segregation in the so-called pink-collar occupations, such as nursing, teaching, library science, and secretarial work. Partly because these jobs have traditionally been held by women, their salary levels have been depressed, and, despite increased attempts to unionize these workers in recent years, their pay continues to lag. Moreover, although a large percentage of women than ever before are now entering and remaining in the job market, most continue to gravitate toward the pink-collar fields, despite the lower salaries. It seems clear, therefore, that if the average salaries of women workers are to approach those of men, _
- (A) labor unions must redouble their efforts to improve the lot of working women
- (B) society's perception of pink-collar jobs as less important and less demanding than other jobs must be changed
- (C) more men must be encouraged to enter fields traditionally occupied by women
- (D) the number of jobs in the pink-collar fields relative to the size of the work force as a whole must be markedly increased
- (E) more women must enter occupations other than those traditionally reserved for them
9. Determining the authenticity of purported pre-Columbian artifacts is never easy. Carbon-14 dating of these artifacts is often impossible due to contamination by radioactive palladium (which occurs naturally in the soils of Central and South America). However, historians and anthropologists have evolved two reliable criteria,

which, utilized in combination, have proven effective for dating these artifacts. First, because authentic pre-Columbian artifacts characteristically occur in a coarse, granular matrix that is shifted by major earthquakes, they often exhibit the unique scratch patterns known as gridding. In addition, true pre-Columbian artifacts show a darkening in surface color that is caused by centuries of exposure to the minute amounts of magnesium in the soil of the Americas. The criteria above would be LEAST useful in judging the authenticity of which of the following?

- (A) An ax head of black obsidian, unearthed from a kitchen midden
- (B) A pottery bowl with a red ocher design, found in the ruins of a temple
- (C) A set of gold ear weights, ornamented with jasper pendants
- (D) A black feather cape from a king's burial vault
- (E) A multicolored woven sash found near the gravesite of a slave

Questions 10-11 are based on the following.

From time to time, the press indulges in outbursts of indignation over the use of false or misleading information by the U.S. government in support of its policies and programs. No one endorses needless deception. But consider this historical analogy. It is known that Christopher Columbus, on his first voyage to the New World, deliberately falsified the log to show a shorter sailing distance for each day out than the ships had actually traveled. In this way, Columbus was able to convince his skeptical sailors that they had not sailed past the point at which they expected to find the shores of India. Without this deception, Columbus's sailors might well have mutinied, and the New World might never have been discovered.

10. The author of the passage above assumes each of the following EXCEPT:
 - (A) Government deception of the press is often motivated by worthy objectives.
 - (B) Without government deception, popular support for worthwhile government policies and programs might well fade.
 - (C) Attacks on the government by the press are often politically motivated.
 - (D) Deception for deception's sake should not be condoned.
 - (E) A greater good may sometimes require acceptance of a lesser evil.
11. Which of the following is the main weakness of the historical analogy drawn in the passage above?
 - (A) The sailors in Columbus's crew never knew that they had been deceived, while government deception is generally uncovered by the press.
 - (B) A ship's log is a record intended mainly for use by the captain, while press reports are generally disseminated for use by the public at large.
 - (C) The members of a ship's crew are selected by the captain of the ship, while those who work in the press are self-selected.
 - (D) The crew of a ship is responsible for the success of a voyage, while the press is not responsible for the use others make of the factual information it publishes.
 - (E) In a democracy, the people are expected to participate in the nation's political decision making, while the members of a ship's crew are expected simply to obey the orders of the captain.
12. Which of the following best completes the passage below? Monarch butterflies, whose average life span is nine months, migrate from the midwestern United States to selected forests outside Mexico City. It takes at least three generations of monarchs to make the journey, so the great-great grandchildren who finally arrive in the Mexican forests have never been there before. Yet they return to the same trees their forebears left. Scientists theorize that monarchs, like homing pigeons, map their routes according to the earth's electromagnetic fields. As a first step in testing this theory, lepidopterists plan to install a low-voltage transmitter inside one grove of "butterfly trees" in the Mexican forests. If the butterflies are either especially attracted to the grove with the transmitter or especially repelled by it, lepidopterists will have evidence that _____.
 - (A) monarch butterflies have brains, however minuscule
 - (B) monarch butterflies are sensitive to electricity
 - (C) low-voltage electricity can affect butterflies, whether positively or adversely
 - (D) monarchs map their routes according to the earth's electromagnetic fields
 - (E) monarchs communicate in intergenerationally via electromagnetic fields

13. In general, a professional athlete is offered a million-dollar contract only if he or she has just completed an unusually successful season. However, a study shows that an athlete signing such a contract usually suffers a decline in performance the following season. This study supports the theory that a million-dollar contract tends to weaken an athlete's desire to excel by diminishing his or her economic incentive. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn above?
- (A) On the average, athletes whose contracts call for relatively small salaries with possible bonuses for outstanding achievement perform better than other athletes.
 - (B) Athletes are generally offered million-dollar contracts mainly because of the increased ticket sales and other revenues they generate.
 - (C) Many professional athletes have careers marked by year-to-year fluctuations in their overall levels of performance.
 - (D) On the average, higher-salaried athletes tend to have longer and more successful professional careers than do lower-salaried athletes.
 - (E) Six of the ten leading batters in the National League this season signed million-dollar contracts during the off-season.
14. Dr. A: The new influenza vaccine is useless at best and possibly dangerous. I would never use it on a patient. Dr. B: But three studies published in the Journal of Medical Associates have rated that vaccine as unusually effective. Dr. A: The studies must have been faulty because the vaccine is worthless. In which of the following is the reasoning most similar to that of Dr. A?
- (A) Three of my patients have been harmed by that vaccine during the past three weeks, so the vaccine is unsafe.
 - (B) Jerrold Jersey recommends this milk, and I don't trust Jerrold Jersey, so I won't buy this milk.
 - (C) Wingzz tennis balls perform best because they are far more effective than any other tennis balls.
 - (D) I'm buying Vim Vitamins. Doctors recommend them more often than they recommend any other vitamins, so Vim Vitamins must be good.
 - (E) Since University of Muldoon graduates score about 20 percent higher than average on the GMAT, Sheila Lee, a University of Muldoon graduate, will score about 20 percent higher than average when she takes the GMAT.
15. Bill: Smoke-detecting fire alarms can save lives. I believe that every apartment in this city should be required by law to be equipped with a smoke detector. Joe: I disagree with your proposal. Smoke detectors are just as important for safety in private houses as they are in apartment. From this exchange, it can be inferred that Joe has interpreted Bill's statement to mean that
- (A) the city should be responsible for providing smoke detectors for apartments
 - (B) residences outside the city should not be equipped with smoke detectors
 - (C) only apartments should be equipped with smoke detectors
 - (D) the risk of fire is not as great in private houses as it is in apartments
 - (E) the rate of death by fire is unusually high in the city in question
16. In 1986, the city of Los Diablos had 20 days on which air pollution reached unhealthful amounts and a smog alert was put into effect. In early 1987, new air pollution control measures were enacted, but the city had smog alerts on 31 days that year and on 39 days the following year. In 1989, however, the number of smog alerts in Los Diablos dropped to sixteen. The main air pollutants in Los Diablos are ozone and carbon monoxide, and since 1986 the levels of both have been monitored by gas spectrography. Which of the following statements, assuming that each is true, would be LEAST helpful in explaining the air pollution levels in Los Diablos between 1986 and 1989?
- (A) The 1987 air pollution control measures enacted in Los Diablos were put into effect in November of 1988.
 - (B) In December of 1988 a new and far more accurate gas spectrometer was invented.
 - (C) In February of 1989, the Pollution Control Board of Los Diablos revised the scale used to determine the amount of air pollution considered unhealthful.
 - (D) In 1988 the mayor of Los Diablos was found to have accepted large campaign donations from local industries and to have exempted those same industries from air pollution control measures.
 - (E) Excess ozone and carbon monoxide require a minimum of two years to break down naturally in the atmosphere above a given area.

17. In a marketing study, consumers were given two unlabeled cartons of laundry detergent. One carton was bright green and yellow; the other was drab brown and gray. After using the detergent in the two cartons for one month, 83 percent of the consumers in the study reported that the detergent in the bright green and yellow carton cleaned better. This study shows that packaging has a significant impact on consumers' judgment of the effectiveness of a laundry detergent. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn in the marketing study?
- (A) The detergent in the bright carton contained bleach crystals; the detergent in the drab carton did not.
 - (B) The detergents in the two cartons were the same.
 - (C) The detergents in the two cartons were different, but they had both been laboratory tested.
 - (D) The detergent in the drab carton was a popular name brand; the detergent in the bright carton was generic.
 - (E) The detergent in the drab carton was generic; the detergent in the bright carton was a popular name brand.
18. Don's, a chain of supermarkets, has entered into an agreement in which Rose Computers will sell Don's an unlimited number of its least expensive PC's at one fourth the regular wholesale price. In return, Don's has agreed to purchase all of its scanners and other electronic information-processing equipment from Rose or from Omicron, Rose Computers' parent company, for the next ten years. Don's will offer a Rose PC free to any school that turns in Don's register receipts totaling \$100,000 within the next six months. The vice-president in charge of advertising for Don's expects that the computer give away will obviate the need for a massive new advertising campaign for the next six months and that Don's can make up the expenditures for the PC's by writing them off its income taxes as charitable donations. The plans formulated by Don's assume each of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) The prices that Rose or Omicron charges Don's for information-processing equipment over the next ten years will be lower than those charged by other companies.
 - (B) The tax laws will not be changed to exclude or lessen the value of charitable donations as tax write-offs.
 - (C) Schools will be sufficiently attracted by Don's computer giveaway offer that teachers will urge students to shop at Don's.
 - (D) Rose will be able to supply Don's with a sufficient number of PC's to meet the demand generated by schools that collect Don's receipts totaling \$100,000.
 - (E) The effect of the computer giveaway offer on Don's business will be comparable to that of a major advertising campaign.
19. Manufacturers of household appliances are still urging the public to purchase food processors. The various manufacturers' advertisements all point out that the prices of these appliances are now lower than ever and that each food processor comes with a lifetime service warranty. In addition, many manufacturers offer sizable rebates to customers who purchase food processors within a given time period. With these incentives, the advertisements contend, people can hardly afford not to purchase food processors. Which answer choice is a logically prior issue that the manufacturers' advertisements fail to address?
- (A) Whether the cost of repairs to the food processors over the years will cancel out the savings currently being offered
 - (B) Whether potential customers have enough uses for food processors to justify purchasing them
 - (C) Whether the heads of the companies manufacturing food processors own food processors themselves
 - (D) Whether the food processors currently being advertised will be outdated within the next five years
 - (E) Whether accessories and replacement parts will be readily available at retail outlets
20. Since the invention of digital readout, machine designers have rushed to replace conventional dials and gauges with digital units. Yet the digital gauge has drawbacks in some situations. Since it presents an exact numeric value, it must be decoded and analyzed by a human operator; its meaning cannot be read in an instantaneous scanning. An analog dial or gauge can be marked with red to alert the operator when a value is entering a danger zone; a digital gauge cannot. And it is difficult to tell whether a digital readout is increasing or decreasing over time, while the up or down movement of a pointer on an analog gauge can be quickly and easily observed. The author of the passage above would probably recommend the use of digital gauge in cases when
- I. warning of a sudden rise or fall in value is needed
 - II. an operator must read and interpret several gauges within a few seconds
 - III. a precise numeric value is essential

- (A) I only
- (B) III only
- (C) I and III only
- (D) II and III only
- (E) I, II, and III TEST

ANSERWS

TEST A

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 2. D | 3. D | 4. E | 5. B |
| 6. C | 7. C | 8. A | 9. A | 10. C |
| 11. E | 12. D | 13. E | 14. B | 15. C |
| 16. C | 17. B | 18. D | 19. A | 20. D |

TEST B

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 2. A | 3. E | 4. B | 5. C |
| 6. B | 7. D | 8. D | 9. E | 10. C |
| 11. B | 12. A | 13. E | 14. E | 15. A |
| 16. A | 17. B | 18. C | 19. C | 20. B |

TEST C

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 2. C | 3. E | 4. A | 5. D |
| 6. D | 7. D | 8. E | 9. D | 10. C |
| 11. E | 12. B | 13. A | 14. C | 15. C |
| 16. B | 17. B | 18. A | 19. B | 20. B |