

# **CRITICAL REASONING – 1**

## **ASSUMPTIONS BASED**

**Direction:** In each questions below is given a statement followed by two assumptions numbered I and II. You have to consider the statement and the following assumptions and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement.

- a) If only assumption I is implicit;
- b) If only assumption II is implicit;
- c) If either I or II is implicit;
- d) If neither I nor II is implicit;
- e) If both I and II are implicit;

1. **Statement:** If you have any problems, bring them to me.  
**Assumptions:** I. You have some problems.  
 II. I can solve any problem.
2. **Statement:** Detergents should be used to clean clothes.  
**Assumptions:** I. Detergents form more lather.  
 II. Detergents help to dislodge grease and dirt.
3. **Statement:** Like a mad man, I decided to follow him,  
**Assumptions:** I. I am not a mad man.  
 II. I am a mad man.
4. **Statement:** The govt. has decided to pay compensation to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh to the family members of those who are killed in railway accidents.  
**Assumptions:** I. The govt. has enough funds to meet the expenses due to compensation.  
 II. There may be reduction in incidents of railway accidents in near future.
5. **Statement:** Never before such a lucid book was available on the topic.  
**Assumptions:** I. Some other books were avail able on this topic.  
 II. You can write lucid books on very few topics.
6. **Statement:** "I have not received telephone bills for nine months inspite of several complains"- A telephone customer's letter to the editors of a daily.  
**Assumptions:** I. Every customer has a right to get bills regularly from the telephone company.  
 II. The customer's complaints point to defect in the services which is expected to be corrected.
7. **Statement:** The management of XYZ Pvt. Ltd. asked the workers' union to call off strike immediately otherwise the management would be forced to close down the factory.  
**Assumptions:** I. No alternative other than closing down the factory is left for the management of XYZ pvt. Ltd.  
 II. Such threat may have some effect on the workers' union.
8. **Statement:** Most people who stops smoking, one will gain weight.  
**Assumptions:** I. If one stops smoking, one will gain weight.  
 II. If one does not stop smoking, one will not gain weight.
9. **Statement:** Vitamin E tablets improve circulation, keep your complexion in a glowing condition.  
**Assumptions:** I. People like a glowing complexion.  
 II. Complexion becomes dull in the absence of circulation.
10. **Statement:** "Computer education should start at schools itself."  
**Assumptions:** I. Learning computers is easy.  
 II. Computer education fetches jobs easily.
11. **Statement:** It is desirable to put the child in school at the age of 5 or so.  
**Assumptions:** I. At that age the child reaches appropriate level of development and is ready to learn.  
 II. The schools do not admit children after six years of age.

12. **Statement:** Why don't you go to the court if the employer does not pay you the Provident Fund contribution?  
**Assumptions:** I. Courts can intervene in matters of dispute between employer and employees.  
 II. It is obligatory for the employer to pay the Provident Fund contribution to the employees.
13. **Statement:** Nobody can predict an to how long our country would take to contain the unfortunate and disastrous terrorist activities.  
**Assumptions:** I. It is impossible to put on end to terrorist activities.  
 II. Efforts to control the terrorist activities are on.
14. **Statement:** His recent investment in the shares of Company A is only a gamble.  
**Assumptions:** I. He may incur loss on his investment.  
 II. Ho may gain from his investment.
15. **Statement:** "If you want to give any advertisement, give it in. the newspaper X." — A tells B  
**Assumptions:** I. B wants to publicise his products.  
 II. Newspaper X has a wide circulation.
16. To decrease the number of crimes in city Y, the city's Police Commissioner proposed taking some police officers from low-crime districts of the city and moving them to high-crime districts of the city. His proposal is based on city Y crime data that show that the number of crimes in any district of the city decreases when additional police officers are moved into that district. The Police Commissioner's proposal depends on which of the following assumptions?
- City X experienced a drastic reduction in crime after implementing a proposal similar to that proposed by the Police Commissioner of city Y.
  - The severity of crimes committed in any district of the city decreases when additional police officers are moved into that district.
  - The number of crimes committed in all high-crime districts of city Y is more than triple the number of crimes committed in all low-crime districts of city Y.
  - There are more low-crime districts than high-crime districts in city Y.
  - Districts of the city from which police officers are removed do not experience significant crime increases shortly after the removal of those officers.
17. Although there has been great scientific debate for decades over global warming, most scientists now agree that human activity is causing the Earth's temperature to rise. Though predictions vary, many global warming experts believe that average global temperatures will rise between three and eight degrees Fahrenheit during the next century. Such an increase would cause an alarming rise in sea levels, displacing millions of people by destroying major population centers along the world's coastlines. Which of the following is an assumption in support of the argument's conclusion?
- New technological developments in the next century will not divert rising seas from the world's coastal cities.
  - Individuals will not become more aware of the steps they can take to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
  - Rising sea levels similarly affect all coastal population centers.
  - Some global warming experts predict a greater than eight degree Fahrenheit increase in global temperatures during the next century.
  - Human activity is the sole cause of increasing global temperatures.
18. "The new HitItFar driver is the only golf club that uses space-age Titanium-Kryptonium alloy to strengthen its head. This driver is SO good, the last 12 winners of the major tour championships have all recently switched to it! Isn't it time for you to add power to your swing and distance to your drives? Trade in your old driver today — and HitItFar tomorrow!" *All of the following claims are either implied or made explicitly in the above advertisement EXCEPT:*
- Switching to the HitItFar driver will improve your play.
  - The HitItFar driver helped the last 12 major championship winners achieve their victory.
  - Major championship winners are experts and know what constitutes a great golf club.
  - Your existing driver is inferior to the HitItFar driver.
  - Only HitItFar golf clubs have Titanium-Kryptonium alloy in the head of their drivers.
19. The popular notion that a tree's age can be determined by counting the number of internal rings in its trunk is generally true. However, to help regulate the internal temperature of the tree, the outermost layers of wood of the Brazilian ash often peel away when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, leaving the tree with fewer rings than it would otherwise have. So only if the temperature in the Brazilian ash's environment never exceeds 95

degrees Fahrenheit will its rings be a reliable measure of the tree's age. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above depends?

- a) The growth of new rings in a tree is not a function of levels of precipitation.
- b) Only the Brazilian ash loses rings because of excessive heat.
- c) Only one day of temperatures above 95 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to cause the Brazilian ash to lose a ring.
- d) The internal rings of all trees are of uniform thickness.
- e) The number of rings that will be lost when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit is not predictable.

20. The Department of Homeland Security has proposed new federal requirements for driver's licenses that would allow them to be used as part of a national identification system. Using licenses for purposes not directly related to operating a motor vehicle is un-American because it would require U.S. citizens to carry the equivalent of "papers." Such a requirement would allow the government to restrict their movements and activities in the manner of totalitarian regimes. In time, this could make other limits on freedom acceptable. The author assumes which of the following?

- a) The next presidential election will be dishonest, as has happened in eastern European countries.
- b) The government will soon start curtailing the activities of those it considers "dissidents."
- c) Blanket restrictions on law-abiding individuals are contrary to the traditions of American culture and law.
- d) The majority of Americans are not willing to give up their right to travel and move about without identification.
- e) Americans should resist all government regulation of their lives.

21. In response to the increasing cost of producing energy through traditional means, such as combustion, many utility companies have begun investing in renewable energy sources, chiefly wind and solar power, hoping someday to rely on them completely and thus lower energy costs. The utility companies claim that although these sources require significant initial capital investment, they will provide stable energy supplies at low cost. As a result, these sources will be less risky for the utilities than nonrenewable sources, such as gas, oil, and coal, whose prices can fluctuate dramatically according to availability. The claim of the utility companies presupposes which of the following?

- a) The public will embrace the development of wind and solar power.
- b) No new deposits of gas, oil, and coal will be discovered in the near future.
- c) Weather patterns are consistent and predictable.
- d) The necessary technology for conversion to wind and solar power is not more expensive than the technology needed to create energy through combustion.
- e) Obtaining energy from nonrenewable sources, such as gas, oil and coal, cannot be made less risky

22. Surveys consistently show that the best-selling ice cream flavor is vanilla, although those who prefer chocolate rarely order vanilla. Vanilla-flavored candy, then, probably sells better than chocolate-flavored candy. Which of the following is an assumption upon which the author of the argument relies?

- a) Because someone prefers vanilla ice cream does not mean he prefers vanilla-flavored candy.
- b) Children who prefer vanilla ice cream also tend to like chocolate candy.
- c) Those who prefer neither vanilla nor chocolate ice cream also prefer other flavors of candy.
- d) Someone who prefers vanilla ice cream may still order chocolate on occasion.
- e) Preferences for certain ice cream flavors are similar to preferences for candy flavors.

23. The media claim that the economy is entering a phase of growth and prosperity. They point to lower unemployment rates and increased productivity. This analysis is false, though. The number of people filing for bankruptcy has increased every month for the last six months, and bankruptcy lawyers report that they are busier than they have been in years. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- a) Unemployment rates are not useful indicators of growth and prosperity.
- b) Economic growth cannot be measured in terms of productivity.
- c) Legislation has not been recently passed to make legal bankruptcy easier to obtain.
- d) There has not been an increase in the number of bankruptcy lawyers.
- e) The media often misrepresent the current state of economic affairs.

24. A newly discovered painting on wooden panel by Michelangelo must have been completed after 1507 but before 1509. It cannot have been painted earlier than 1507 because one of its central figures carries a coin that was not minted until that year. It cannot have been painted after 1509 because it contains a pigment that Michelangelo is known to have abandoned when a cheaper alternative became available in that year. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- a) No stocks of the abandoned pigment existed after 1509.
- b) Michelangelo did not work on the painting over the course of several years.
- c) The coin depicted in the painting was known to general public in 1507.

- d) The wooden panel on which the painting was executed cannot be tested accurately for age.  
e) Michelangelo's painting style did not change between 1507 and 1509.
25. Smoking is a known cause of certain serious health problems, including emphysema and lung cancer. Now, an additional concern can be added to the list of maladies caused by smoking. A recent study surveyed both smokers and nonsmokers, and found that smokers are significantly more anxious and nervous than nonsmokers. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument rests?
- a) Anxiety and nervousness can lead to serious health problems.  
b) Anxiety and nervousness do not make individuals more likely to start smoking.  
c) Equivalent numbers of smokers and nonsmokers were surveyed for the study.  
d) Smokers are aware of the various health problems attributed to smoking, including lung cancer and emphysema.  
e) Smokers who had smoked a cigarette immediately before responding to the survey were more anxious and nervous than smokers who had not smoked for several hours.
26. Doctor: Research shows that adolescents who play video games on a regular basis are three times as likely to develop carpal tunnel syndrome as are adolescents who do not play video games. Federal legislation that prohibits the sale of video games to minors would help curb this painful wrist condition among adolescents. The doctor's conclusion depends on which of the following assumptions?
- a) The majority of federal legislators would vote for a bill that prohibits the sale of video games to minors.  
b) Not all adolescents who play video games on a regular basis suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome.  
c) Playing video games is the only way an adolescent can develop carpal tunnel syndrome.  
d) Most parents would refuse to purchase video games for their adolescent children.  
e) The regular playing of video games by adolescents does not produce such beneficial effects as better hand-eye coordination and improved reaction time.



### Answer Key

1. B	2. B	3. C	4. A	5. A	6. E	7. E	8. D	9. A	10. D
11. A	12. E	13. E	14. C	15. B	16. E	17. A	18. B	19. E	20. C
21. C	22. E	23. D	24. A	25. C	26. D				