

GMAT Verbal Practice Paper 4 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed : 3 Hours	Maximum Marks : 100
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The GMAT exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes long (with one optional 10-minute break) and consists of 64 questions in total.
2. The GMAT exam is comprised of three sections:
3. Quantitative Reasoning: 21 questions, 45 minutes
4. Verbal Reasoning: 23 questions, 45 minutes
5. Data Insights: 20 questions, 45 minutes
6. You can answer the three sections in any order. As you move through a section, you can bookmark questions that you would like to review later.
7. When you have answered all questions in a section, you will proceed to the Question Review & Edit screen for that section.
8. If there is no time remaining in the section, you will NOT proceed to the Question Review & Edit screen and you will automatically be moved to your optional break screen or the next section (if you have already taken your optional break).
9. Each Question Review & Edit screen includes a numbered list of the questions in that section and indicates the questions you bookmarked.
10. Clicking a question number will take you to that specific question. You can review as many questions as you would like and can edit up to three (3) answers.

SENTENCE CORRECTION

QUESTION 1 Contrary to big-bank policies, micro-loan financiers are, on the whole, more willing to invest in impoverished economies.

- (A) Contrary to big-bank policies, micro-loan financiers are, on the whole, more willing to invest in
- (B) Contrary to those who finance big-bank policies, micro-loan financiers are, on the whole, more willing to invest in
- (C) In micro-loans, as opposed to big-bank financing, they are, on the whole, more willing to invest in
- (D) In contrast to the policies of big-banks, micro-loan financiers are more willing to invest on the whole
- (E) Contrary to those working in big-banks, micro-loan financiers are, on the whole, more willing to invest in

Correct Answer: (A) Contrary to big-bank policies, micro-loan financiers are, on the whole, more willing to invest in

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the structure.

The sentence compares two groups: big-bank financiers and micro-loan financiers. The correct phrasing should highlight this contrast clearly.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) is the clearest and most concise option that directly contrasts "big-bank policies" with micro-loan financiers.
- (B) introduces an unnecessary "those who finance," which makes the sentence more awkward.
- (C) introduces a more complex structure ("In micro-loans, as opposed to big-bank financing") that adds unnecessary complexity.
- (D) uses "on the whole" incorrectly; it does not fit the intended structure of the sentence.
- (E) is redundant in mentioning both "Contrary to those working in big-banks" and the rest of the sentence.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (A) is the correct choice as it is the most direct and precise in presenting the comparison.

Quick Tip

In comparisons, clarity and conciseness are key. Avoid unnecessary words or complicated sentence structures.

QUESTION 2 Early mariners from the Vikings to medieval explorers were usually able to find their way if they employed early man-made navigation tools such as rudimentary magnetic compasses, geomagnetic lodestones, astrolabes, first used in classical antiquity, or the sun and stars.

- (A) geomagnetic lodestones, astrolabes, first used in classical antiquity, or the sun and stars.
- (B) geomagnetic lodestones, astrolabes, which were first used in classical antiquity, or the sun and stars.
- (C) geomagnetic lodestones, and astrolabes, first used in classical antiquity, or if they could read the sun and stars.
- (D) geomagnetic lodestones, or astrolabes, first used in classical antiquity, or the reading of the sun and stars.
- (E) geomagnetic lodestones, astrolabes, first used in classical antiquity, and the sun and stars.

Correct Answer: (E) geomagnetic lodestones, astrolabes, first used in classical antiquity, and the sun and stars.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the structure of the sentence.

The sentence lists several navigation tools and methods. To maintain clarity, the list should include items in a consistent manner without excessive or misplaced clauses.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) is awkward as it suggests that "geomagnetic lodestones" and "astrolabes" are both first used in antiquity, which is not the clearest way to express the intended meaning.
- (B) uses a comma after "astrolabes" and introduces "which were first used," which unnecessarily complicates the structure.
- (C) includes "if they could read the sun and stars," which deviates from the intended structure of listing tools, not conditions for use.
- (D) changes the meaning slightly by introducing "or the reading of the sun and stars," which is less consistent with the other items in the list.
- (E) maintains the consistency of the list by properly separating the items and concluding with "and the sun and stars." This option keeps the intended meaning intact.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (E) is the best choice as it maintains the clarity and consistency of the list, ensuring that all items are properly connected.

Quick Tip

When creating a list in a sentence, ensure that all elements are presented consistently and clearly to avoid confusing the reader.

QUESTION 3 The Egyptologist chose mostly figurines from the 5th dynasty to display in the latest exhibit, but adding 4th century pottery including coptic jars from several important tombs to round out the display.

- (A) but adding 4th century
- (B) as well as adding 4th century
- (C) and additionally 4th century
- (D) yet added some 4th century
- (E) with addition of 4th century

Correct Answer: (A) but adding 4th century

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the structure.

The sentence introduces the concept of adding 4th century pottery to the display. The use of "but" should logically link the two parts of the sentence in a way that reflects the idea of adding something new, rather than just adding another element.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) "but adding 4th century" is the most concise and clear way to express the intended addition of 4th-century pottery alongside the 5th dynasty display.
- (B) "as well as adding 4th century" adds unnecessary complexity and changes the flow of the sentence.
- (C) "and additionally 4th century" is wordy and awkward, making the sentence less fluid.
- (D) "yet added some 4th century" changes the meaning and does not fit the structure of the sentence as smoothly as option (A).
- (E) "with addition of 4th century" is grammatically awkward and does not maintain the clarity of the sentence.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (A) is the best choice because it maintains the clarity and simplicity of the sentence while effectively conveying the addition of the 4th century pottery.

Quick Tip

When making comparisons or additions in a sentence, keep the structure simple and concise for clarity.

QUESTION 4 Portable computers are becoming more affordable, smaller, and more present in the classroom, and so too unfortunately are smartphones, those cell phones permitting students to text, check email, and browse the internet during class.

- (A) so too unfortunately are smartphones, those cell phones permitting
- (B) so are smartphones unfortunately, they are the cell phones which permit
- (C) also unfortunately smartphones, they are the cell phones that permit
- (D) unfortunately also smartphones, which are the cell phones that permit
- (E) unfortunately, so too are smartphones, the cell phones that permit

Correct Answer: (E) unfortunately, so too are smartphones, the cell phones that permit

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the context.

The sentence discusses the growing presence of both portable computers and smartphones in classrooms. The structure should match the comparison between the two while ensuring clarity and flow.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) "so too unfortunately are smartphones, those cell phones permitting" is awkward because "so too" and "unfortunately" are not placed optimally, making it hard to read smoothly.
- (B) "so are smartphones unfortunately, they are the cell phones which permit" is confusing with "which permit," as the sentence would sound better with "that permit."
- (C) "also unfortunately smartphones, they are the cell phones that permit" feels clunky and does not effectively introduce the contrast between computers and smartphones.
- (D) "unfortunately also smartphones, which are the cell phones that permit" makes the sentence unnecessarily complex and not as fluid.
- (E) "unfortunately, so too are smartphones, the cell phones that permit" flows naturally and clearly, presenting the contrast in a smooth, understandable way.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (E) is the best choice as it presents the information in a clear, grammatically correct, and fluid manner.

Quick Tip

When presenting comparisons or contrasts, ensure the sentence flows naturally and uses appropriate punctuation for clarity.

QUESTION 5 One dangerous consequence of high-altitude climbing occurs when the blood-brain barrier is weakened such that intravascular proteins and fluids are able to penetrate into the cerebral parenchymal extracellular space that is the result of the body's trying to deal with the severe lack of oxygen facing it.

- (A) trying to deal with the severe lack of oxygen facing it.
- (B) trying to face and deal with the severe lack of oxygen.
- (C) attempt to deal with the severe lack of oxygen.
- (D) attempt to try and deal with the severe lack of oxygen facing it.
- (E) attempt to try and deal with the severe lack of oxygen.

Correct Answer: (A) trying to deal with the severe lack of oxygen facing it.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence structure.

The sentence is describing an event or situation related to high-altitude climbing and the effects of oxygen deprivation. The phrase "trying to deal with the severe lack of oxygen facing it" is the most natural, clear, and concise way to express this idea.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) "trying to deal with the severe lack of oxygen facing it" is the most straightforward and grammatically correct choice, as it maintains clarity and precision.
- (B) "trying to face and deal with the severe lack of oxygen" introduces unnecessary complexity and redundancy. The phrase "trying to face and deal" is awkward and redundant.
- (C) "attempt to deal with the severe lack of oxygen" changes the structure too much and makes the sentence less fluid.

- (D) "attempt to try and deal with the severe lack of oxygen facing it" is overly wordy and contains an unnecessary combination of "attempt" and "try."
- (E) "attempt to try and deal with the severe lack of oxygen" is similarly redundant with "attempt to try" and makes the sentence less efficient.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (A) is the best choice because it is the most concise and maintains the intended meaning of the sentence.

Quick Tip

Avoid redundancy in sentence structures. If the same meaning can be conveyed with fewer words, it is always preferable to do so.

QUESTION 6 Based on eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore, many "Roswellians" are convinced that some type of extra-terrestrial crash-landing occurred in the New Mexico desert in 1947.

- (A) Based on eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore
- (B) Having examined eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore
- (C) Basing it on eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore
- (D) With eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore used for a basis
- (E) By eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore

Correct Answer: (A) Based on eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence structure.

The sentence needs to introduce the basis for the Roswellians' beliefs, and the most natural phrasing is to say "Based on eye-witness accounts..." This structure introduces the evidence directly and clearly.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) "Based on eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore" is the most concise and grammatically correct option, introducing the basis for the belief in a clear and effective manner.
- (B) "Having examined eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore" is unnecessarily complex and shifts the focus from the belief to the examination, which is less fitting.
- (C) "Basing it on eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore" is a less direct and awkward phrasing, reducing the sentence's clarity.
- (D) "With eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore used for a basis" is wordy and overly complex, weakening the flow of the sentence.
- (E) "By eye-witness accounts, claims of alien autopsy footage, and local folklore" is grammatically awkward and doesn't flow as well as (A).

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (A) is the best because it is the most straightforward and keeps the meaning clear and precise.

Quick Tip

In formal writing, clarity and conciseness are key. Avoid unnecessary words or complex structures that may confuse the reader.

QUESTION 7 The caves of Lascaux, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and is estimated at more than 17,300 years old today.

- (A) Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and is estimated at more than 17,300 years old today.
- (B) Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and were estimated to be more than 17,300 years old today.
- (C) Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and was estimated to be more than 17,300 years old today.
- (D) Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and are estimated to be more than 17,300 years old today.
- (E) Site, was discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and are estimated as being more than 17,300 years old today.

Correct Answer: (B) Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and were estimated to be more than 17,300 years old today.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the sentence structure.

The sentence describes an event (the discovery of the Lascaux caves) and includes the estimation of the caves' age. The subject "Site" should be followed by a verb in the plural form since we are talking about multiple caves.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) "Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and is estimated at more than 17,300 years old today" is grammatically incorrect because "site" is singular and "were" is plural, creating a subject-verb agreement issue.
- (B) "Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and were estimated to be more than 17,300 years old today" correctly uses the plural verb "were" with "site" and maintains proper agreement with the verb "were estimated."
- (C) "Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and was estimated to be more than 17,300 years old today" uses the singular "was" after "were," which is a subject-verb agreement error.
- (D) "Site, were discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and are estimated to be more than 17,300 years old today" is grammatically incorrect because it mixes past and present tenses, which disrupts the flow.

- (E) "Site, was discovered in 1940 by teenagers near the village of Montignac, and are estimated as being more than 17,300 years old today" is incorrect because the singular subject "site" should agree with the singular verb "was," not "are."

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (B) is correct because it maintains subject-verb agreement and uses the appropriate tenses.

Quick Tip

Always ensure subject-verb agreement by matching singular subjects with singular verbs and plural subjects with plural verbs.

QUESTION 8 Of the over 1000 species of rhododendron, the *Rhododendron ponticum*, native to southern Europe and southwest Asia, is probably the more dangerous as its proven the honey which is produced from its pollen can be poisonous.

(A) is probably the more dangerous as its proven the honey which is produced from its pollen can be poisonous.

(B) is probably the most dangerous as its proven the honey produced from its pollen can be poisonous.

(C) is possibly the more dangerous of them as its proven the honey produced from its pollen can be poisonous.

(D) is most likely the more dangerous as its proven the honey produced from its pollen can be poisonous.

(E) is possibly the most dangerous since its proven the honey produced from its pollen could be poisonous.

Correct Answer: (B) is probably the most dangerous as its proven the honey produced from its pollen can be poisonous.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the sentence.

The sentence is making a statement about the danger of a specific species of rhododendron. We want to express the level of certainty about the danger posed by the honey. The most appropriate phrasing should clearly convey the probability of the danger.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) "is probably the more dangerous as its proven the honey which is produced from its pollen can be poisonous" is awkward because "more dangerous" is not a natural comparison in this context.

- (B) "is probably the most dangerous as its proven the honey produced from its pollen can be poisonous" is clear and grammatically correct, effectively expressing the danger with a high degree of probability.

- (C) "is possibly the more dangerous of them as its proven the honey produced from its pollen can be poisonous" introduces unnecessary complexity and ambiguity, weakening the statement.

- (D) "is most likely the more dangerous as it's proven the honey produced from its pollen can be poisonous" is slightly wordy and less concise than (B).
- (E) "is possibly the most dangerous since it's proven the honey produced from its pollen could be poisonous" introduces an unnecessary word "possibly" and weakens the statement.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (B) is the best choice because it is clear, concise, and accurately conveys the intended meaning.

Quick Tip

Use concise and direct language to express certainty or probability in statements. Avoid unnecessary words that weaken the statement.

QUESTION 9 The Adirondack mountains, unlike other mountain ranges that lie on fault lines, are in the shape of a dome, largely in due course from a deep uplift under the Earth's crust about a billion years ago.

- (A) in due course from a deep uplift under the Earth's crust
- (B) because of a deep uplift of the crust of the Earth, which occurred
- (C) due to the course from a deep uplift under the Earth's crust
- (D) being caused by a deep uplift under the crust of the Earth, occurring
- (E) because of a deep uplift, which occurred under the crust of the Earth

Correct Answer: (B) because of a deep uplift of the crust of the Earth, which occurred

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the sentence structure.

The sentence should explain the cause of the Adirondack mountains' shape. The most logical and grammatically correct phrasing is "because of a deep uplift of the crust of the Earth, which occurred."

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) "in due course from a deep uplift under the Earth's crust" is awkward and imprecise, making the sentence less clear.
- (B) "because of a deep uplift of the crust of the Earth, which occurred" is the clearest and most natural phrasing, explaining the cause effectively.
- (C) "due to the course from a deep uplift under the Earth's crust" is awkward and changes the meaning, making it less accurate.
- (D) "being caused by a deep uplift under the crust of the Earth, occurring" is unnecessarily complex and awkward.
- (E) "because of a deep uplift, which occurred under the crust of the Earth" is a bit less fluid than (B) and slightly weaker.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (B) is the best choice as it is the most clear and grammatically correct option.

Quick Tip

Choose clear and direct language when explaining cause and effect. Avoid unnecessary complexity.

QUESTION 10 Although it was known that inductive action traveled with finite velocity in space, and that an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely as the square of the distance, nearly all the physicists failed to form the only conception of it that was possible.

- (A) and that an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely as the square of the distance
- (B) and an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely as the square of the distance
- (C) and also that an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely like the square of the distance
- (D) and that an electro-magnet would affect the space about them practically inversely as the square of the distance
- (E) and also known that an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely as the square of the distance

Correct Answer: (B) and an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely as the square of the distance

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the sentence.

The sentence is discussing the effect of an electro-magnet in the context of inductive action. The phrase following the conjunction "and" should logically expand on the first part of the sentence, with appropriate structure and clarity.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) "and that an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely as the square of the distance" creates unnecessary repetition of the word "and," which disrupts the sentence flow.
- (B) "and an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely as the square of the distance" is clear and grammatically correct, providing the intended expansion of the idea in a succinct manner.
- (C) "and also that an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely like the square of the distance" introduces the word "like," which weakens the comparison and makes the sentence awkward.
- (D) "and that an electro-magnet would affect the space about them practically inversely as the square of the distance" introduces an error by switching "it" to "them," which causes confusion regarding the subject.
- (E) "and also known that an electro-magnet would affect the space about it practically inversely as the square of the distance" introduces an awkward phrasing with the use of "also known" that weakens the sentence structure.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (B) is the most natural, clear, and grammatically correct choice to complete the sentence.

Quick Tip

Avoid unnecessary repetition and awkward phrasing in sentences. Choose the option that maintains clarity and flow in the sentence structure.

READING COMPREHENSION

The Megatherium is an extinct type of giant ground sloth that lived from two million to perhaps 4,400 years ago. While medium-sized sloths continue to live in arboreal habitats in Central and South America, the ground-dwelling Megatherium lived in parts of North and South America. These animals were as big as elephants and had huge claws on their feet. Evidence suggests three theories that may have contributed to the giant sloth's extinction, which occurred at about the same time as humans arrived on the continent.

The first theory pertaining to the extinction of the giant ground sloth connects its disappearance with the arrival of humans. The most plausible explanation for this simultaneous action is that humans hunted the giant ground sloth to its extinction. Early humans hunted animals for a variety of reasons, but food and clothing were among the most important. They could eat the animals that they killed and then fashion the skins into clothing. Humans may also have killed animals as perceived threats, even if they were not valuable as a source of food or clothing. Scientists using radiocarbon to date giant sloth fossils from Cuba and Hispaniola recently found that the last record of a giant ground sloth coincided with the arrival of humans about 4,400 years ago.

The evidence found in favor of the human hunting hypothesis contrasts with a second theory that climate change was the primary reason for the giant ground sloth's extinction. Some scientists think that the giant ground sloth was not able to adapt to the climate changes that followed the last Ice Age, which ended about 10,000 years ago. With the onset of the Ice Age, the Earth's temperature dropped, and ice sheets and glaciers expanded. These changes would have affected the giant ground sloth's eating habits, and evidence has been found to prove that the last surviving giant ground sloths had drastically different eating habits than their immediate predecessors.

A third theory has looked at the possibility of a hyper disease leading to the giant ground sloth's extinction. This theory maintains that the giant ground sloth was particularly vulnerable to disease because of its large body size and small population. One suggestion is that the domestic dogs that humans brought with them transmitted pathogens to the giant ground sloth population. Critics of this theory state that it cannot account for several major extinction events that occurred before humans and domestic dogs migrated together. In Australia, for example, domesticated dogs did not arrive until 35,000 years after humans lived on the continent and 30,000 years after the giant ground sloth was believed to be extinct there.

Q1. Which of the following findings, if true, would add further evidence to support the hyper-disease theory of giant ground sloth extinction?

(A) evidence to support the idea that giant ground sloths became entirely extinct when

humans and dogs first migrated together to the area

(B) evidence to support the idea that the radiocarbon dating on the Cuba and Hispaniola fossils was incorrect

(C) evidence to support the idea that giant ground sloths survived the last Ice Age

(D) evidence to support the idea that giant ground sloths survived long after humans and dogs migrated into their habitats

(E) evidence to support the idea that the giant ground sloth's body size and population numbers did not make it vulnerable to disease

Correct Answer: (E) evidence to support the idea that the giant ground sloth's body size and population numbers did not make it vulnerable to disease

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the hyper-disease theory.

The hyper-disease theory suggests that the giant ground sloth's large size and small population made it more susceptible to disease. If true, evidence would need to support the idea that the sloth's biology contributed to its vulnerability.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This option refers to the extinction of the sloth, but it is more related to human and dog migration, not disease vulnerability.

- (B) Incorrect radiocarbon dating would challenge the timeline of extinction but doesn't relate to the hyper-disease theory directly.

- (C) Surviving the Ice Age is more related to climate change than disease susceptibility.

- (D) The idea that sloths survived after humans and dogs migrated contradicts the idea of extinction caused by disease.

- (E) This option directly challenges the hyper-disease theory, indicating that the sloth's body size and population were not factors in making it vulnerable to disease. This would be key evidence against the theory.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E), as it directly supports or refutes the disease-related extinction theory.

Quick Tip

When evaluating scientific theories, focus on evidence that directly supports or contradicts the core concept of the theory.

Q2. According to passage, the best evidence supporting the human hunting hypothesis is that:

(A) humans used giant ground sloth skins for clothing

(B) humans relied on a diet of giant ground sloth meat

(C) giant ground sloth bones have been found near human cooking utensils

(D) the last giant ground sloth fossils found coincide with the arrival of humans

(E) humans and dogs hunted together when they migrated into ground sloth habitats

Correct Answer: (D) the last giant ground sloth fossils found coincide with the arrival of humans

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the human hunting hypothesis.

The human hunting hypothesis suggests that humans played a direct role in the extinction of the giant ground sloth. Evidence for this would be related to humans interacting with or hunting these creatures.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) Using sloth skins for clothing is possible evidence of human interaction but does not directly indicate hunting.
- (B) A diet of sloth meat suggests human consumption but doesn't necessarily mean humans caused extinction.
- (C) Finding bones near cooking utensils suggests humans hunted or consumed sloths, but it is less direct than fossil evidence coinciding with human arrival.
- (D) The discovery that the last sloth fossils coincide with the arrival of humans is strong evidence supporting the hypothesis that humans were involved in their extinction.
- (E) The migration of humans and dogs does not directly point to hunting and is less relevant to the hunting hypothesis.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best evidence supporting the human hunting hypothesis is (D), as it directly connects the extinction of sloths with human migration.

Quick Tip

Look for the most direct and specific evidence when supporting a hypothesis, especially when dealing with historical or biological claims.

Q3. The author of this passage is primarily concerned with:

- (A) arguing that theories about why the giant ground sloth went extinct all lack solid scientific evidence
- (B) comparing and contrasting the extinction of the giant ground sloth to the extinction of other animals
- (C) providing examples of the ways in which human populations contributed to the extinction of many different types of prehistoric animals
- (D) suggesting that the giant ground sloth was hunted to its extinction
- (E) summarizing several different theories about the reason for the giant ground sloth's extinction

Correct Answer: (E) summarizing several different theories about the reason for the giant ground sloth's extinction

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the author's focus.

The author presents multiple theories about the extinction of the giant ground sloth, including human hunting, climate change, and hyper-disease. The passage doesn't focus on a single theory but instead discusses several potential reasons.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The author does discuss theories of extinction, but not all of them lack solid scientific evidence.
- (B) The author does compare different theories but doesn't directly contrast the sloth's extinction to that of other animals in detail.
- (C) The passage does mention human influence but does not focus primarily on this aspect alone.
- (D) The passage suggests human hunting as one of the theories but doesn't specifically claim that this was the sole cause.
- (E) The author is primarily summarizing various theories regarding the extinction of the sloth. This is the most accurate description of the author's focus.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E), as the author discusses multiple theories about the cause of the giant ground sloth's extinction.

Quick Tip

When identifying the main focus of a passage, look for recurring themes and discussions, especially if multiple viewpoints are presented.

Q4. The overall tone of this passage can best be described as:

- (A) highly critical and unwilling to acknowledge alternate views
- (B) informative and research-based
- (C) amusing and slightly humorous
- (D) skeptical but willing to compromise
- (E) shocking and disturbing

Correct Answer: (B) informative and research-based

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the tone of the passage.

The passage provides a balanced discussion of various theories surrounding the extinction of the giant ground sloth, using scientific evidence to support each point. There's no indication of a strong bias or emotional tone.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The tone is not overtly critical or dismissive of alternative views.
- (B) The tone is primarily informational, focusing on presenting scientific theories and evidence in a neutral manner.
- (C) The passage does not contain humor or light-heartedness.
- (D) The passage does not exhibit skepticism or an open willingness to compromise but rather presents facts and theories.

- (E) The passage does not have a shocking or disturbing tone, as it presents theories in an objective manner.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B), as the passage is primarily informative and research-based, focusing on presenting scientific theories in a neutral manner.

Quick Tip

To determine tone, consider the language used and whether the author is presenting information in a neutral, biased, humorous, or emotional way.

Q5. Which of the following statements would best conclude the ideas presented in this passage?

(A) Scientists will never be able to know for sure what happened to the giant ground sloth, so they should focus their efforts elsewhere.

(B) It is certain that humans contributed to giant ground sloth extinction, but scientists do not yet know in what way.

(C) None of the theories presented completely explains the disappearance of the giant ground sloth, but each has a certain element of viability.

(D) Humans will one day be in danger of extinction, so they should learn what they can from the case of the giant ground sloth.

(E) If each of the three incomplete theories were combined into one theory, then the giant ground sloth extinction would be completely explained.

Correct Answer: (C) None of the theories presented completely explains the disappearance of the giant ground sloth, but each has a certain element of viability.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the conclusion.

The passage presents three different theories for the extinction of the giant ground sloth: human hunting, climate change, and hyper-disease. The author doesn't conclude that any one theory completely explains the extinction, but rather that each theory has some validity.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This option does not align with the passage's conclusion, as the author presents multiple possible explanations rather than dismissing the topic altogether.

- (B) While humans are discussed as a potential cause, the passage does not conclude that the cause is certain.

- (C) This option is correct because it reflects the passage's summary that none of the theories fully explains the extinction but each offers useful insights.

- (D) This option introduces a new idea about human extinction, which isn't addressed in the passage.

- (E) The passage doesn't suggest combining the theories into one. It maintains that each theory has its own merit.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C), as it accurately reflects the main point of the passage, which is that no single theory fully explains the extinction but each provides some valuable insight.

Quick Tip

When identifying conclusions, look for options that summarize the key ideas presented in the passage without introducing new concepts.

Q6. It can be inferred from the passage that if radiocarbon dating determined the last giant sloth fossils from Cuba and Hispaniola did NOT coincide with the arrival of humans, then:

- (A) human hunting must have been the cause of the giant sloth extinction
- (B) climate change would have less likely been the cause of giant sloth extinction
- (C) the theory that a great flood caused the sloth extinction could be discredited
- (D) human hunting as a cause of giant sloth extinction would be a less viable theory
- (E) scientists would need to find other fossils that confirmed their opinion

Correct Answer: (D) human hunting as a cause of giant sloth extinction would be a less viable theory

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the implication.

If the radiocarbon dating shows that the last fossils of giant sloths did not coincide with the arrival of humans, this would challenge the human hunting theory. The passage suggests that humans may have been involved in the extinction, but the arrival of humans is key to this theory.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) Human hunting is still possible as a cause, but without the timing correlation, it becomes less certain.
- (B) Climate change is still a viable theory regardless of the radiocarbon dating results.
- (C) The great flood theory is not discussed in the passage, so this is not a valid conclusion.
- (D) If human arrival didn't coincide with the sloth fossils, the theory of human hunting as the cause would be less viable. This is the best conclusion based on the passage's information.
- (E) The need for additional fossils is a general statement but not the best conclusion based on the specific scenario in the passage.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (D), as the timing of human arrival is central to the human hunting theory, and without that connection, the theory becomes less plausible.

Quick Tip

In inference questions, focus on how changes in information would impact the theories or conclusions presented in the passage.

Q1. Historian: The Russian Revolution in the early 20th century was sparked not by the proletariat, but by the bourgeoisie, or intellectual middle-class, a fact that is widely accepted in modern academia. The French Revolution of 1789 was also largely ignited by a rising middle class. The idea that political upheavals are initiated by the populist "peasant-class" is widely accepted as a fallacy today. Therefore, political commentators analyzing the "Arab Spring" movement in the past two years are inaccurate in suggesting that the movement is truly populist. Which of the following best describes the flaw in the historian's argument?

- (A) It accepts that movements cannot be both populist and spurred by the middle class.
- (B) The argument draws a conclusion based on a claim which may not be universally true.
- (C) The historian's argument is based on what is "widely accepted" by contemporary historians and not on established facts.
- (D) The argument implies that the Arab Spring is relatively similar to historical revolutions with no concrete evidence.
- (E) It overlooks the cultural and temporal differences between the Russian, French, and Arab political climates.

Correct Answer: (E) It overlooks the cultural and temporal differences between the Russian, French, and Arab political climates.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the flaw in the historian's argument.

The historian compares the Russian and French Revolutions with the Arab Spring, but overlooks the different cultural and temporal contexts. The Arab Spring took place in a modern context with distinct socio-political factors from earlier revolutions.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This is not the flaw in the argument because the historian does not reject that movements can be both populist and middle class.
- (B) The argument does not seem to draw a conclusion based on an uncertain claim, but rather on established academic opinions, so this is not the main flaw.
- (C) The historian does refer to what is "widely accepted," but this is not the key flaw. The issue is more about ignoring the different contexts of the revolutions.
- (D) While the historian does imply a comparison, the main flaw is overlooking the differences in political climates, rather than lacking evidence for similarity.
- (E) This option is correct because the historian fails to consider how the political climates in Russia, France, and the Arab world are quite different, making the comparison invalid.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E) because the historian overlooks crucial contextual differences between the Russian, French, and Arab political climates, which is a major flaw in their argument.

Quick Tip

When identifying flaws in reasoning, focus on whether the argument ignores important context or makes assumptions without evidence.

Q2. Although Apple products have continued to enjoy record-breaking profits worldwide, iPod retailers have recently reported that the numbers of the touch-screen devices sold have steadily decreased in the past two years. However, in the past two years, the numbers of iPhones sold have nearly doubled. Thus, more people are choosing to buy iPhones than iPods when selecting from Apple's products.

The reasoning in the argument is questionable primarily because the argument:

- (A) assumes an inherent preference in people for one product over another.
- (B) lacks specific numbers to bolster the conclusion.
- (C) doesn't admit alternative explanations for the situation.
- (D) suggests iPod retailers and iPhone retailers are one and the same.
- (E) limits the scope of its argument to only two of Apple's products.

Correct Answer: (C) doesn't admit alternative explanations for the situation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the flaw in the argument.

The argument assumes that the increase in iPhone sales is directly related to a preference for iPhones over iPods, but it doesn't consider other possible factors, such as changes in product marketing, pricing, or customer demographics.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The argument doesn't assume an inherent preference for one product over the other, but it assumes the cause of the sales difference is iPhone preference.
- (B) While lacking specific numbers is a concern, the main issue is the failure to consider alternative explanations for the trend.
- (C) The argument doesn't explore other possible reasons for the shift in sales, such as marketing, pricing, or availability, which makes this the best answer.
- (D) The argument doesn't imply that iPod retailers and iPhone retailers are the same; it's focused on product sales, not retail specifics.
- (E) The scope is not limited to just two products but focuses on a sales trend involving two Apple products.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C) because the flaw in reasoning is the failure to account for alternative explanations for the change in sales numbers.

Quick Tip

When evaluating an argument, always consider whether other explanations or factors could account for the observed results.

Q3. Though the Great Fakir is a well-respected illusionist and escape artist, he has recently become outspokenly critical of the performance act of the Magnificent Mystic, calling it largely staged and fake. The Magnificent Mystic's

stage act involves a “Buried Alive” set-piece, wherein he appears to be placed in a coffin which is then wrapped in chains, and lowered into a make-shift grave, only to reappear from the side of the stage after several minutes. The Great Fakir criticized the Magnificent Mystic’s act in an editorial as “an obvious form of mechanical trickery,” but the Great Fakir’s own world-famous performance act uses mechanical devices such as boxes, ladders, and glass panes to create his own stage illusions, which have helped him become the world’s most popular touring magician.

The argument’s reasoning is most open to criticism on the basis that it:

- (A) attacks the morality of the Magnificent Mystic’s stage act rather than its efficacy.
- (B) implies popularity lends credibility.
- (C) undermines the credentials of the Great Fakir.
- (D) differentiates between types of mechanical trickery.
- (E) suggests that there is no difference between the two magicians’ acts.

Correct Answer: (E) suggests that there is no difference between the two magicians’ acts.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the flaw in the argument.

The Great Fakir criticizes the Magnificent Mystic’s act as a form of “mechanical trickery,” but his own act also uses mechanical devices to create illusions. The flaw in his reasoning is that he dismisses the Mystic’s act without acknowledging that his own act relies on similar techniques.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The criticism is about the technique used in the act (mechanical trickery), not the morality.
- (B) While popularity is mentioned, the core issue is the inconsistency in criticizing the Mystic’s act while using similar methods.
- (C) There is no attack on the credentials of the Great Fakir; the criticism is on the technique of the Mystic’s act.
- (D) The argument does not focus on differentiating types of mechanical trickery; it’s about the inconsistency in their methods.
- (E) The main flaw is that the Great Fakir suggests there is a difference between his act and the Mystic’s act when they both rely on similar mechanical devices.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E) because the Great Fakir’s criticism overlooks the fact that his own act uses similar techniques.

Quick Tip

When evaluating criticisms, ensure that the critic’s argument is consistent and does not contradict their own practices.

Q4. Many of the yachts anchored in Cannes boast a luxurious Jacuzzi on their uppermost deck. Almost 80% of the yachts that were sold in the past ten years in Cannes are older models, and none of them had built-in Jacuzzis. The information above most strongly supports which of the following?

- (A) Only new yacht-models come with Jacuzzis.
- (B) None of the newer yacht-models with Jacuzzis will be sold in the next ten years.
- (C) All yachts in Cannes without Jacuzzis were sold in the past ten years.
- (D) People shopping for yachts will likely choose an older-model with a Jacuzzi than an older-model without a Jacuzzi.
- (E) Some newer yacht-models were sold in the past ten years in Cannes.

Correct Answer: (D) People shopping for yachts will likely choose an older-model with a Jacuzzi than an older-model without a Jacuzzi.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage mentions that almost 80% of the yachts sold in the past ten years in Cannes were older models, and none had Jacuzzis. This implies that new yacht models are more likely to feature Jacuzzis, and people shopping for yachts may prefer a Jacuzzi, even if the model is older.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This is not supported, as the passage doesn't explicitly state that only new yacht models come with Jacuzzis.
- (B) There is no indication that newer models with Jacuzzis won't be sold in the next ten years.
- (C) The passage does not mention that all yachts without Jacuzzis were sold in the past ten years.
- (D) This is the most plausible option because people may prefer an older yacht with a Jacuzzi to a newer one without it, given the focus on Jacuzzis in the passage.
- (E) The passage does mention new yacht models, so this option is true, but it doesn't directly support the main idea of the passage.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (D) because the passage emphasizes the appeal of Jacuzzis and implies that buyers might choose an older yacht with a Jacuzzi over a newer one without.

Quick Tip

When interpreting a passage, consider what is most likely implied by the context, rather than what is explicitly stated.

Q5. According to a recent census, West Egg had more mansions per capita last year than East Egg, while East Egg had slightly fewer residents than West Egg. Since the census, West Egg and East Egg have each seen the demolition of a dozen dilapidated mansions within their respective borders, and no new mansions have begun construction. It must be true, therefore, that:

Which of the following best completes the passage?

- (A) West Egg and East Egg both have more cared-for mansions than dilapidated mansions.
- (B) West Egg has more mansions than East Egg.
- (C) West Egg has more mansions per capita than East Egg.
- (D) West Egg and East Egg have the same number of mansions.
- (E) West Egg has more residents than East Egg.

Correct Answer: (C) West Egg has more mansions per capita than East Egg.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the given information.

The passage compares the number of mansions per capita in West Egg and East Egg, stating that West Egg has more mansions per capita last year. This suggests that despite demolition, West Egg continues to have a higher number of mansions relative to its population.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This option is likely true but doesn't directly follow from the passage.
- (B) This option is not necessarily true because the passage doesn't provide direct information about the total number of mansions in both areas.
- (C) This is supported by the passage as it explicitly mentions that West Egg has more mansions per capita.
- (D) This is not necessarily true, as the passage doesn't claim the two areas have the same number of mansions.
- (E) This is not supported by the passage, which does not mention the total number of residents in each area.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C) because the passage directly states that West Egg has more mansions per capita than East Egg.

Quick Tip

When evaluating logical conclusions, focus on what the passage explicitly states rather than making assumptions.

Q6. Botanist: The Lady's Slipper is a type of orchid that requires bright light, but no direct sun, relatively consistent room temperature, and water no more than twice a month for maximum growth. Our newest greenhouse comes with a watering system that has been tested with the Lady's Slipper orchids, and can be programmed to release water onto the orchids once every two weeks. The new greenhouse is already capable of maintaining a constant room temperature and blocking out direct sunlight, so we can confidently state the new greenhouse is ideal for their growth.

Which of the following is an assumption required by the botanist's conclusion?

- (A) The watering system will not over-water the orchids when it does release water.

- (B) The new greenhouse is capable of either emitting or permitting light to reach the Lady's Slipper.
- (C) The average consumer will have the ability to program the watering system.
- (D) The constant room temperature can be set at a variety of degrees.
- (E) The greenhouse is large enough to accommodate the average maximum growth of the Lady's Slipper.

Correct Answer: (A) The watering system will not over-water the orchids when it does release water.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The botanist claims that the new greenhouse is ideal for the Lady's Slipper, assuming that the watering system functions as intended. For this conclusion to hold, we must assume that the watering system will not over-water the orchids.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This is the correct assumption, as over-watering would contradict the botanist's claim that the greenhouse is ideal for the orchids.
- (B) The passage doesn't discuss the greenhouse emitting or permitting light, so it is not a required assumption.
- (C) While consumers programming the watering system is important, it is not explicitly required for the conclusion that the greenhouse is ideal for the orchids.
- (D) The constant room temperature is mentioned, but the ability to set it at various degrees is not necessary for the conclusion.
- (E) The passage doesn't mention the size of the greenhouse relative to the orchids' growth, so it's not a required assumption.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A), as the watering system's ability to avoid over-watering is essential for the botanist's conclusion.

Quick Tip

When identifying assumptions, focus on the underlying conditions necessary for the argument to hold true.

Q7. A small group of law professors have suggested that the university's current JD program be restructured so students can spend more time reading case studies and studying independently since a wide knowledge of legal precedent is key to the success of its alumni. These professors are advocating an end to the public-speaking class requirement. But there is an obvious benefit to training young attorneys to speak confidently and articulately in court, and recent graduates of the program have remarked that they were frequently required to verbally describe case studies to colleagues.

Which of the following most logically concludes the argument?

- (A) These law professors are incorrect in their assumption that more time reading case studies independently will lead to alumni success.
- (B) Alumni success, therefore, is contingent upon an equal balance between public-speaking and reading case studies.
- (C) Attorneys who cannot verbally articulate case studies will not have as much success in the workplace as those who can.
- (D) Keeping the public-speaking class in the curriculum is not wholly inconsistent with the law professors' goal of fostering alumni success.
- (E) The university should expand the public-speaking requirement, rather than omit it, as verbal skills are just as valuable as case study knowledge in the workplace.

Correct Answer: (B) Alumni success, therefore, is contingent upon an equal balance between public-speaking and reading case studies.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the argument.

The professors suggest restructuring the program to emphasize reading case studies over public speaking, but the passage highlights the importance of both skills for alumni success.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This option doesn't logically follow because the argument doesn't reject the value of reading case studies.
- (B) This is the correct conclusion, as it stresses the importance of both reading case studies and public speaking for alumni success.
- (C) This is related to the importance of speaking skills but doesn't logically conclude the argument about balancing both skills.
- (D) This option partially addresses the issue but doesn't provide a clear conclusion about the necessity of balancing both skills.
- (E) This option calls for expanding the requirement, but the argument doesn't suggest it's about expanding the requirement specifically.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B), as it logically concludes the argument by emphasizing the need for a balance between both public speaking and case study reading.

Quick Tip

Look for conclusions that logically follow the argument's key points and emphasize the importance of all factors mentioned.

Q8. In most truck drivers, taking caffeine pills regularly usually leads to a higher average efficiency in terms of miles travelled each day. Recent data has shown that the locations of the greatest number of car accidents involving multiple trucks occurred near stores selling large quantities of the types of caffeine pills most frequently purchased by truck drivers. Thus, caffeine pill intake among truck drivers leads to an increased number of car accidents.

Which of the following most accurately describes the major flaw in the author's reasoning?

- (A) The author assumes that truck drivers speed because of the caffeine pills.
- (B) The author does not allow for other reasons for the proximity of the caffeine suppliers to the location of the car accidents.
- (C) The argument assumes that higher average efficiency means truck drivers are less likely to be involved in accidents.
- (D) The author assumes that caffeine pills are the only cause of truck drivers' speed because of the caffeine pills.
- (E) The argument fails to take into account the actions of any non-trucks potentially involved in these accidents.

Correct Answer: (B) The author does not allow for other reasons for the proximity of the caffeine suppliers to the location of the car accidents.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the flaw in the reasoning.

The author assumes a direct causal link between caffeine pill consumption and car accidents without considering other possible factors, like the proximity of the suppliers to accident-prone areas.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The author does not assume that caffeine pills directly cause speeding, just that they correlate with higher efficiency.
- (B) This is the correct flaw, as the author doesn't account for other potential reasons for the high number of accidents near caffeine suppliers.
- (C) The argument does not suggest that higher efficiency makes truck drivers less likely to be involved in accidents; it just correlates caffeine consumption with accidents.
- (D) The argument doesn't claim that caffeine pills are the only cause of speeding.
- (E) While non-truck actions could be involved, the flaw is more about the proximity of caffeine suppliers, which is not addressed.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B) because the author fails to consider other factors that could explain the proximity of caffeine suppliers to the accidents.

Quick Tip

Always consider other factors that could explain the correlation presented in an argument, especially in causality-based reasoning.

CRITICAL REASONING

Q1. Historian: The Russian Revolution in the early 20th century was sparked not by the proletariat, but by the bourgeoisie, or intellectual middle-class, a fact that is widely accepted in modern academia. The French Revolution of 1789 was also largely ignited by a rising middle class. The idea that political upheavals are

initiated by the populist "peasant-class" is widely accepted as a fallacy today. Therefore, political commentators analyzing the "Arab Spring" movement in the past two years are inaccurate in suggesting that the movement is truly populist. Which of the following best describes the flaw in the historian's argument?

- (A) It accepts that movements cannot be both populist and spurred by the middle class.
- (B) The argument draws a conclusion based on a claim which may not be universally true.
- (C) The historian's argument is based on what is "widely accepted" by contemporary historians and not on established facts.
- (D) The argument implies that the Arab Spring is relatively similar to historical revolutions with no concrete evidence.
- (E) It overlooks the cultural and temporal differences between the Russian, French, and Arab political climates.

Correct Answer: (E) It overlooks the cultural and temporal differences between the Russian, French, and Arab political climates.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the historian's argument.

The historian compares revolutions across different historical and cultural contexts (Russian, French, and Arab). However, this overlooks the significant cultural and temporal differences between these revolutions.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The historian does not explicitly claim that movements cannot be both populist and spurred by the middle class.
- (B) The argument doesn't necessarily rely on a claim that may not be universally true but instead overlooks other factors.
- (C) The historian's use of "widely accepted" is not the core flaw; the main issue is the failure to account for context.
- (D) There is no direct evidence suggesting the Arab Spring is similar to other revolutions, but this is not the key flaw.
- (E) This option correctly identifies the flaw in the historian's argument, which fails to consider the different cultural and temporal contexts of the revolutions.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E), as the key flaw lies in overlooking the differences in cultural and temporal contexts.

Quick Tip

When evaluating arguments, always consider the context and the time frame in which events took place.

Q2. Although Apple products have continued to enjoy record-breaking profits worldwide, iPod retailers have recently reported that the numbers of the touch-screen devices sold have steadily decreased in the past two years. However,

in the past two years, the numbers of iPhones sold have nearly doubled. Thus, more people are choosing to buy iPhones than iPods when selecting from Apple's products.

The reasoning in the argument is questionable primarily because the argument:

- (A) assumes an inherent preference in people for one product over another.
- (B) lacks specific numbers to bolster the conclusion.
- (C) doesn't admit alternative explanations for the situation.
- (D) suggests iPod retailers and iPhone retailers are one and the same.
- (E) limits the scope of its argument to only two of Apple's products.

Correct Answer: (C) doesn't admit alternative explanations for the situation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the flaw in the argument.

The argument assumes that the increase in iPhone sales is the result of a preference for iPhones over iPods, but it doesn't consider other possible explanations, such as marketing strategies, changes in pricing, or demographic shifts.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The argument doesn't explicitly assume a preference for one product over another; it focuses on sales figures.
- (B) While lacking numbers may be an issue, the main flaw is not addressing other factors that might explain the sales increase.
- (C) This option is correct, as the argument fails to consider other reasons for the sales changes, such as changes in market conditions or consumer behavior.
- (D) The argument doesn't suggest that iPod and iPhone retailers are the same, it focuses on the products themselves.
- (E) The argument's focus on two products doesn't create a flaw in reasoning but rather narrows the scope to compare their sales.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C), as the argument fails to consider other factors that could explain the sales shift.

Quick Tip

When evaluating an argument, always consider other possible explanations or factors that could influence the results.

Q3. Though the Great Fakir is a well-respected illusionist and escape artist, he has recently become outspokenly critical of the performance act of the Magnificent Mystic, calling it largely staged and fake. The Magnificent Mystic's stage act involves a "Buried Alive" set-piece, wherein he appears to be placed in a coffin which is then wrapped in chains, and lowered into a make-shift grave, only to reappear from the side of the stage after several minutes. The Great Fakir criticized the Magnificent Mystic's act in an editorial as "an obvious form

of mechanical trickery,” but the Great Fakir’s own world-famous performance act uses mechanical devices such as boxes, ladders, and glass panes to create his own stage illusions, which have helped him become the world’s most popular touring magician.

The argument’s reasoning is most open to criticism on the basis that it:

- (A) attacks the morality of the Magnificent Mystic’s stage act rather than its efficacy.
- (B) implies popularity lends credibility.
- (C) undermines the credentials of the Great Fakir.
- (D) differentiates between types of mechanical trickery.
- (E) suggests that there is no difference between the two magicians’ acts.

Correct Answer: (A) attacks the morality of the Magnificent Mystic’s stage act rather than its efficacy.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the flaw in the argument.

The Great Fakir criticizes the Magnificent Mystic’s act for being “an obvious form of mechanical trickery” but does not focus on the effectiveness or creativity of the stage act. The flaw in reasoning lies in attacking the morality of the act rather than addressing the actual quality or efficacy of the performance.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This is the correct answer, as the criticism targets the moral aspect of the act, rather than its practical effectiveness.
- (B) Popularity is not the primary focus of the argument.
- (C) The argument does not attack the credentials of the Great Fakir.
- (D) The distinction between types of mechanical trickery is not the flaw in the argument.
- (E) The argument does not suggest that both magicians’ acts are the same; it focuses on a moral critique.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A), as the argument focuses on attacking the morality of the Mystic’s act rather than discussing its effectiveness.

Quick Tip

When critiquing an argument, focus on whether the critique is based on relevant aspects, such as efficacy or creativity, rather than irrelevant ones, such as morality.

Q4. Many of the yachts anchored in Cannes boast a luxurious Jacuzzi on their uppermost deck. Almost 80% of the yachts that were sold in the past ten years in Cannes are older models, and none of them had built-in Jacuzzis.

The information above most strongly supports which of the following?

- (A) Only new yacht-models come with Jacuzzis.
- (B) None of the newer yacht-models with Jacuzzis will be sold in the next ten years.

- (C) All yachts in Cannes without Jacuzzis were sold in the past ten years.
- (D) People shopping for yachts will likely choose an older-model with a Jacuzzi than an older-model without a Jacuzzi.
- (E) Some newer yacht-models were sold in the past ten years in Cannes.

Correct Answer: (D) People shopping for yachts will likely choose an older-model with a Jacuzzi than an older-model without a Jacuzzi.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage mentions that many yachts have Jacuzzis, but 80% of yachts sold in the last ten years were older models and none had Jacuzzis. This implies that people may prefer to buy yachts with Jacuzzis, even if they are older models.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The passage does not state that only new models have Jacuzzis; it focuses on the preference for Jacuzzis.
- (B) This does not follow from the passage, as it doesn't mention future sales of new yachts with Jacuzzis.
- (C) The passage does not say that all yachts without Jacuzzis were sold in the past ten years.
- (D) This is the correct answer, as it aligns with the implication that people may prefer an older yacht with a Jacuzzi to one without.
- (E) While new yacht models are mentioned, the passage doesn't focus on the sale of newer models but on the preference for Jacuzzis.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (D) because it suggests that people shopping for yachts are likely to choose older models with Jacuzzis over those without.

Quick Tip

When interpreting the implications of a passage, focus on the preferences or choices that are suggested by the given facts.

Q5. According to a recent census, West Egg had more mansions per capita last year than East Egg, while East Egg had slightly fewer residents than West Egg. Since the census, West Egg and East Egg have each seen the demolition of a dozen dilapidated mansions within their respective borders, and no new mansions have begun construction. It must be true, therefore, that:

Which of the following best completes the passage?

- (A) West Egg and East Egg both have more cared-for mansions than dilapidated mansions.
- (B) West Egg has more mansions than East Egg.
- (C) West Egg has more mansions per capita than East Egg.
- (D) West Egg and East Egg have the same number of mansions.
- (E) West Egg has more residents than East Egg.

Correct Answer: (C) West Egg has more mansions per capita than East Egg.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the passage.

The passage indicates that West Egg has more mansions per capita than East Egg, and the demolitions mentioned do not affect the conclusion. The comparison is based on mansions per capita, so the conclusion should follow that West Egg has more mansions relative to its population.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This statement is not necessarily true because the passage doesn't discuss the condition of all the mansions, only that dilapidated ones were demolished.
- (B) This is not supported by the passage, as the comparison is about mansions per capita, not total mansions.
- (C) This is correct because it is directly supported by the information in the passage.
- (D) This option is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that West Egg and East Egg have the same number of mansions.
- (E) The number of residents is not relevant to the comparison of mansions per capita.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C), as the passage compares the mansions per capita in West Egg and East Egg.

Quick Tip

When analyzing logical reasoning, focus on the key factors used in the comparison (e.g., per capita) and avoid jumping to conclusions that are not supported by the text.

Q6. Botanist: The Lady's Slipper is a type of orchid that requires bright light, but no direct sun, relatively consistent room temperature, and water no more than twice a month for maximum growth. Our newest greenhouse comes with a watering system that has been tested with the Lady's Slipper orchids, and can be programmed to release water onto the orchids once every two weeks. The new greenhouse is already capable of maintaining a constant room temperature and blocking out direct sunlight, so we can confidently state the new greenhouse is ideal for their growth.

Which of the following is an assumption required by the botanist's conclusion?

- (A) The watering system will not over-water the orchids when it does release water.
- (B) The new greenhouse is capable of either emitting or permitting light to reach the Lady's Slipper.
- (C) The average consumer will have the ability to program the watering system.
- (D) The constant room temperature can be set at a variety of degrees.
- (E) The greenhouse is large enough to accommodate the average maximum growth of the Lady's Slipper.

Correct Answer: (A) The watering system will not over-water the orchids when it does release water.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the passage.

The botanist concludes that the new greenhouse is ideal for the Lady's Slipper, assuming that the watering system will not over-water the orchids. Without this assumption, the conclusion would not hold true.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This is the correct answer, as it addresses a key assumption that over-watering would contradict the conclusion that the greenhouse is ideal for the orchids.
- (B) The passage doesn't imply that light emission or permitting is a key assumption, as the primary concern is water and temperature.
- (C) While the ability to program the watering system is important, it isn't directly relevant to the conclusion that the greenhouse is ideal.
- (D) The passage does not discuss the ability to set a variety of temperatures, but rather the consistency of the temperature.
- (E) The passage doesn't address the size of the greenhouse in relation to the orchids' growth, so this isn't an assumption for the conclusion.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A) because the success of the greenhouse for the Lady's Slipper orchids depends on the watering system not over-watering them.

Quick Tip

When identifying assumptions, look for necessary conditions that must be true for the conclusion to hold.

Q7. A small group of law professors have suggested that the university's current JD program be restructured so students can spend more time reading case studies and studying independently since a wide knowledge of legal precedent is key to the success of its alumni. These professors are advocating an end to the public-speaking class requirement. But there is an obvious benefit to training young attorneys to speak confidently and articulately in court, and recent graduates of the program have remarked that they were frequently required to verbally describe case studies to colleagues.

Which of the following most logically concludes the argument?

- (A) These law professors are incorrect in their assumption that more time reading case studies independently will lead to alumni success.
- (B) Alumni success, therefore, is contingent upon an equal balance between public-speaking and reading case studies.
- (C) Attorneys who cannot verbally articulate case studies will not have as much success in the workplace as those who can.
- (D) Keeping the public-speaking class in the curriculum is not wholly inconsistent with the law professors' goal of fostering alumni success.
- (E) The university should expand the public-speaking requirement, rather than omit it, as verbal skills are just as valuable as case study knowledge in the workplace.

Correct Answer: (B) Alumni success, therefore, is contingent upon an equal balance between public-speaking and reading case studies.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the argument.

The argument discusses the law professors' suggestion to de-emphasize public-speaking training in favor of more case study reading. However, the counterargument is that public speaking is crucial for alumni success in the workplace. The most logical conclusion is that alumni success requires a balance of both skills.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This option rejects the law professors' assumption but doesn't directly conclude the argument.
- (B) This is the correct conclusion, as it emphasizes the need for a balanced approach to both public speaking and case study reading.
- (C) This option makes a valid point about success but doesn't directly follow from the argument's context.
- (D) This doesn't logically conclude the argument as it only addresses the public-speaking class, rather than the need for a balance.
- (E) This is a valid point, but it doesn't conclude the argument about the balance of skills needed.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B), as it logically concludes that alumni success is tied to balancing both public speaking and case study reading.

Quick Tip

When concluding an argument, focus on the central balance or relationship between the key factors discussed in the passage.

Q8. In most truck drivers, taking caffeine pills regularly usually leads to a higher average efficiency in terms of miles travelled each day. Recent data has shown that the locations of the greatest number of car accidents involving multiple trucks occurred near stores selling large quantities of the types of caffeine pills most frequently purchased by truck drivers. Thus, caffeine pill intake among truck drivers leads to an increased number of car accidents.

Which of the following most accurately describes the major flaw in the author's reasoning?

- (A) The author assumes that truck drivers speed because of the caffeine pills.
- (B) The author does not allow for other reasons for the proximity of the caffeine suppliers to the location of the car accidents.
- (C) The argument assumes that higher average efficiency means truck drivers are less likely to be involved in accidents.
- (D) The author assumes that caffeine pills are the only cause of truck drivers' speed because of the caffeine pills.

(E) The argument fails to take into account the actions of any non-trucks potentially involved in these accidents.

Correct Answer: (B) The author does not allow for other reasons for the proximity of the caffeine suppliers to the location of the car accidents.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the flaw in the reasoning.

The author assumes that caffeine pills are directly linked to truck accidents without considering other possible factors, such as the proximity of caffeine suppliers to accident-prone areas. The reasoning neglects other potential explanations for the correlation.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) While the author does suggest a relationship between caffeine pill intake and truck driver accidents, it does not explicitly assume that the pills cause speeding.
- (B) This is the correct flaw, as the author overlooks other factors that could explain the proximity of caffeine suppliers to car accidents.
- (C) The argument doesn't make this assumption about efficiency; it focuses on the correlation between caffeine intake and accidents.
- (D) The author does not assume that caffeine pills are the only cause, but does assume they are a factor in speeding.
- (E) Non-truck vehicles might be involved, but the primary flaw is in overlooking other factors, not just the actions of non-trucks.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B), as the flaw lies in the failure to consider other factors that might explain the proximity of caffeine suppliers to the accidents.

Quick Tip

When evaluating causal reasoning, always consider alternative explanations and additional contributing factors.

Q9. An ancient palace in Mesopotamia was recently uncovered, revealing three antechambers relatively undamaged. The heights of the doorways between the chambers were measured, and found to be on average no greater than 4.5 feet tall. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the chambers found were intended for children and young adults, and could very well have been used as a nursery. Which of the following is NOT an assumption upon which the argument is based?

- (A) The height of the doorways did not shrink significantly over time prior to the palace's discovery.
- (B) Ancient Mesopotamians were not a lot shorter, on average, than modern humans.
- (C) The ancient Mesopotamians built doors to accommodate the people who would primarily occupy the rooms behind them.
- (D) Ancient Mesopotamians were not generally taller than 5 feet at adult height.
- (E) Human height in ancient times is comparable to modern human height.

Correct Answer: (E) Human height in ancient times is comparable to modern human height.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the argument.

The argument assumes that the small door heights are indicative of the size of the people for whom the rooms were intended. Several key assumptions are made about the height of the people and their living conditions.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This assumption is necessary, as it ensures that the door height measurements are valid and not altered over time.
- (B) The argument assumes that ancient Mesopotamians were similar in height to modern humans, so this assumption is necessary for the conclusion.
- (C) The argument assumes that the doors were built for the people who would occupy the rooms, a necessary assumption.
- (D) This assumption is critical, as it supports the idea that the rooms were likely built for shorter people (e.g., children or young adults).
- (E) This assumption is NOT required, as the argument does not rely on comparing ancient human height to modern height, but rather on the door height relative to the size of the occupants.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E) because the comparison between ancient and modern human height is not an assumption for the argument.

Quick Tip

In critical reasoning, always focus on assumptions that directly support the logic of the conclusion, not those that introduce irrelevant comparisons.

Q10. The city council of Town X has very little effective power. It has been primarily a deliberative body, with real decisions coming down from the mayor's office. No city can claim to have effective leadership without a strong city council, and Town X is widely praised for its effective leadership. It follows, then, that the city council of Town X

Which of the following best completes the argument?

- (A) could not be considered effective unless it's false that Town X has strong leadership.
- (B) actually wields the true power within Town X's leadership branch.
- (C) supports unilaterally the decisions from the mayor's office.
- (D) is representative of most deliberative bodies.
- (E) is able to bolster Town X's leadership through deliberation.

Correct Answer: (A) could not be considered effective unless it's false that Town X has strong leadership.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the argument.

The argument contends that a city cannot be said to have effective leadership without a strong city council. The conclusion follows that, since Town X is praised for its effective leadership, the city council must be strong in some way, even if it does not wield power directly.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) This is the correct conclusion. It emphasizes that for Town X to be praised for effective leadership, it must be true that the city council does not directly wield the power, which the argument implies is the case.
- (B) This option contradicts the argument, as the passage specifically states that the mayor's office holds the real power, not the city council.
- (C) This is not supported by the argument, as the city council's role is not to unilaterally support decisions but rather to have deliberative discussions.
- (D) While the council is deliberative, the argument doesn't say it's typical of most deliberative bodies.
- (E) The argument doesn't support the idea that deliberation alone bolsters the mayor's leadership; the focus is on the city council's indirect influence.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A), as it logically completes the argument about the city council's role in Town X's leadership.

Quick Tip

When completing an argument, focus on finding the option that logically connects the given premise with the conclusion based on the text.