

**1. Beginning in 1997, high school seniors in State Q have been required to pass a comprehensive proficiency exam before they are allowed to graduate. The exam requirement was intended to ensure that a minimum level of academic quality will be achieved by the students in the state. In 1997, 20 percent of the seniors did not pass the exam and were, therefore, not allowed to graduate. In 1998, the number of seniors who passed the exam decreased by 10% from the previous year. The argument above, if true, LEAST supports which of the following statement.**

(a) If the percentage of high school seniors who passed the exam increased from 1997 to 1998, the number of high schools seniors decreased during that time period.

(b) If the percentage of high school seniors who passed the exam decreased from 1997 to 1998, the number of high schools seniors increased during that time period.

(c) Unless the number of high school seniors was lower in 1998 than in 1997, the number of seniors who passed the exam in 1998 was lower than 80 percent. (d) If the number of high school seniors who did not pass the exam decreased by more than 10 percent from 1997 to 1998, the percentage of high school seniors who passed the exam in 1998 was greater than 80 percent.

(e) If the percentage of high school seniors who passed the exam in 1998 was less than 70 percent, the number of high school seniors in 1997 was higher than the number in 1998.

**2. In 1990, the number of new students admitted to Ph.D. programs each year averaged 1,250 students per university, while the total number of Ph.D. students enrolled averaged 7,500 students per university. By 2000, the number of new students admitted to Ph.D. programs each year had fallen to an average of 900 students per university, while the total number of Ph.D. students enrolled averaged 8,100 students per university.**

Which of the following conclusions is most strongly supported by the statements above?

(a) The total number of students enrolled in Ph.D. programs increased from 1990 to 2000.

(b) The average length of time a student remained enrolled in a Ph.D. program increased between 1990 and 2000.

(c) The percentage of applicants accepted by Ph.D. programs declined from 1990 to ns declined from 1990 2000.

(d) The number of universities remained constant from 1990 to 2000. (e) The demand for Ph.D. degrees declined from 1990 to 2000.

**3. Between 1986 and 1991, the restaurant industry saw an average table occupancy rate (i.e., percent of the time that a table was occupied) of 74 percent, while the number of meals eaten out by Americans stayed constant, at an average of 212 meals out per month per 1000 people. Between 1991 and 1996, however, the average table occupancy rose to 81 percent, while the number of meals eaten out by Americans declined to 195 meals out per month per 1000 people.**

If the statements above are true, which of the following conclusions can be most properly drawn?

- (a) The average amount of time spent per meal by Americans eating out increased between 1991 and 1996.
- (b) The proportion of very lengthy meals to somewhat lengthy meals was greater in 1996 than in 1986.
- (c) The average number of Americans dining out per month tends to decline whenever table occupancy rates increase.
- (d) The number of meals served between 1986 and 1991 was fewer than the number of meals served between 1991 and 1996.
- (e) The more tables a restaurant has, the higher its occupancy rate is likely to be

**4. Any successful business leader has deep personal resources. All people with deep personal resources have undergone trials in their lives. The experience of trials is more prevalent among those who were not born to great wealth and privilege.**

- (a) The statements above support which of the following propositions? Those who currently lack deep personal resources can never become successful business leaders.
- (b) It is more likely for a person not born to wealth and privilege to become a successful business leader than for one who is born to wealth and privilege.
- (c) The number of business leaders who were born to wealth is smaller than the number of business leaders who were not born to wealth.

(d) Those who are born to privilege are more likely to be successful than those who were born to wealth.

(e) An absence of trials in a person's life indicates that that person cannot have deep personal resources.

**5. Malcolm: I refuse to feel any contrition about failing to report all of my income on my income tax return last year. I have discussed this topic extensively with many friends, family members, and business associates, and it is clear to me that most Americans have bent the truth on their income tax returns at one time or another. Luka: It is improper for you to rationalize your actions that way. Regardless of how often it occurs, an illegal deed is still illegal and should be punished.**

Which of the following statements summarizes Luka's reasoning in response to Malcolm's admission?

(a) She questions the credibility of the sources whom Malcolm has consulted.

(b) She offers evidence that Malcolm's actions were much more severe than he perceived them to be.

(c) She demonstrates that Malcolm's rationalizations are based on insufficient evidence.

(d) She asserts that the frequency of a crime does not lessen its severity.

(e) She introduces the possibility that the moral convictions of different people can differ greatly.

**6. Recently, a team of urban archaeologists uncovered a journal kept by an elderly woman who lived in Charleston in the late eighteenth century. In the volume, the woman expressed her fear that she was being haunted by a ghost. She described in exhaustive detail the nature of the hauntings, systematically recording the time and duration of over 100 encounters with the apparition. The archaeologists, impressed by the scientific rigor present in this unprecedented find, concluded that the ghosts must exist.**

Which one of the following represents the conclusion that can be most reasonably drawn from the information in the passage above?

(a) The woman who keep the journal most likely suffered from a chronic mental disorder.

(b) The woman who keep the journal sincerely believed that she was being haunted by a ghost.

(c) A detailed record of times and duration of supposed encounters with an apparition does not provide sufficient evidence to prove the existence of a ghost.

(d) The archaeologists had never found a record of hauntings as detailed and careful as the one written by the elderly lady.

(e) Since the late 18th century, more sophisticated instruments for tracking the comings and goings of ghosts have been developed.

**7. Traditionally, candidates for elected offices have concentrated their efforts on the early stages of the campaign during which, as most people believed, the voters' perceptions of candidates were formed. It is now becoming clear, however, that elections can be decided in the few days preceding the Election Day; public opinion polls taken during recent elections provide evidence of several such races. In those cases, the losing candidates would have been well advised to have forgone early spending and instead saved funds for television advertisements late in their campaigns.**

Which of the following inferences can be most reasonably drawn from the information in the passage above?

(a) Television has had an adverse effect on political campaigns, making them less issue-oriented.

(b) Politicians of the pre-television era fail to understand the important role television advertising plays in today's political campaigns.

(c) Public opinion polls often inaccurately reflect the mood of the electorate in the early stages of a political campaign.

(d) Polls taken in the days preceding a major election may not accurately predict the outcome of an election.

(e) Candidates should not try to define the key issues of a race until late in the campaign.

**8. A taxi driver earns a flat amount per passenger plus a charge per mile driven. Based on current gas prices, she estimates that approximately 35 percent of the money she earns per mile driven will be spent on gasoline. However, for the past two weeks, the taxi driver has in fact spent about 45 percent of the money she earns per mile on gasoline. Yesterday, while performing routine maintenance on her car, she noticed that her tires were somewhat underinflated, which would negatively affect her car's gas mileage.**

Of the following claims, which is most strongly supported by the passage?

(a) The taxi driver's gas mileage has steadily gotten worse over the past two weeks. (b) Even before discovering the issue with her tires, the taxi driver had reason to believe that on at least some nights her car's gas mileage was worse than anticipated.

(c) When her car is in perfect maintenance, the taxi driver spends 35 percent of the money she earns per mile on gasoline.

(d) The taxi driver's gas mileage fluctuated greatly over the past two weeks. (e) The increased proportion of earnings spent on gasoline decreased the taxi driver's overall income.

**9. Temperatures in the Pacific Northwest have risen steadily since 1981, averaging 2.07 degrees Fahrenheit warmer north of the 46th parallel than in the previous decade. Precipitation and water-table levels, which have historically maintained a measurable relationship to each other (within a scaled range of two to four points), have varied drastically from 1987 to 1991, sometimes deviating as much as six points in fewer than eight months. Reports from Canada indicate a similar median temperature increase, estimated at 2.02 degrees Fahrenheit; research from a 1992 study measures the relational swing in moisture levels at no more than three points.**

Of the following, which conclusion is best supported by the evidence above?

(a) The higher the temperature of a given area, the more likely it is that the water levels will vary.

(b) The variation in temperature in the last decade has been less than the fluctuation of moisture.

(c) When temperatures rise north of the 46th parallel, natural water exchange between land and atmosphere must change in the same proportion.

(d) Within the last ten years, water table and precipitation levels have varied more in the Pacific Northwest than they have in Canada.

(e) Canada will have more stability in weather than will the area of the United States above the 46th parallel.

**10. A telephone poll conducted over two states asked respondents whether their homes were ever cold during the winter months. 99% of respondents said they were never cold**

**during the winter months. The pollsters published their findings, concluding that 99% of all homes in the United States have adequate heating.**

Which of the following most accurately describes what might be a questionable technique employed by the pollsters in drawing their conclusion?

- (a) The poll wrongly ascribes the underlying causes of the problem.
- (b) The poll assumes conditions in the two states are representative of the entire country.
- (c) The pollsters conducted the poll by telephone, thus relying on the veracity of the subjects they spoke to.
- (d) The pollsters did not go to the houses in person, thus precluding the actual measurement of temperatures in the subjects' homes.
- (e) The pollsters never defined the term "cold" in terms of a specific temperature.

**11. A new disease called Probibelcosus has emerged in Oceania. Though non-fatal, Probibeleosus leads to disfigurement, reduced mobility and chronic pain. Medical researchers have thus far discovered two variants of the disease which they have labelled Probibeleosus-A (P-A) and Probibeleosus-B (P-B). Sex partners and siblings of those with P-A are four times as likely as the general population to have P-A. Sex partners of those with P-B are no more likely than the general population to have P-B, but siblings of those with P-B are over eight times more likely to have the disease than the average person.**

Which of the following statements is best supported by the above information?

- (a) of those with P-A their parents would be no more likely than average to have the condition.
- (b) Somewhere between one-in-eight and one-in-four people in Oceania have either P-A or P-B.
- (c) The sex partners of those who do not have P-A are less likely than average to have P-A.
- (d) Those who have never had sex are less likely to have P-B than P-A.
- (e) Vulnerability to P-B is more likely hereditary than is vulnerability to P-A.

**12. Through "pay-per-click" advertising, also known as PPC, an Internet advertisement appears in designated sections of a results page when a person enters certain keywords into a search engine. While many Web users ignore such results, given that those listings**

**look different from the non-sponsored results listed in the main body of the page, people who do see PPC ads will be pre-qualified sales prospects, given that such ads are specific to the keywords entered by the person seeing them. PPC offers advertisers control over their budgets, since only ads for the highest bidders on specific keywords appear at the top of a search results page. Which of the following conclusions is most supported by the statements above?**

- (a) Most Web users do not consider paid search engine results legitimate.
- (b) The visibility of some kinds of Internet advertising is inversely proportional to the revenue spent on such advertising.
- (c) Companies that do not offer products or services online will not derive a significant benefit from PPC advertising.
- (d) Print and broadcast advertising is not as effective for online businesses as is PPC advertising.
- (e) PPC advertisers may be forced to choose between spending more than they intended or missing potential sales opportunities.

**13. A study showed that only ten percent of American dog owners enrol their dogs in formal obedience training classes. More than twenty percent of these dog owners, the study also showed, participate in dog shows. Thus, it is obvious that people who train their dogs are more likely to participate in dog shows than are people who do not train their dogs.**

The conclusion above is correct provided which of the following statements is also true?

- (a) It is impossible for a dog to compete in a dog show if the dog has not completed at least one formal obedience training class.
- (b) The proportion of dog owners who enrol their dogs in formal obedience training classes is representative of the proportion who train their dogs outside such classes.
- (c) Dog owners who participate in dog shows only train their dogs by enrolling them in formal obedience training lessons.
- (d) Participation in dog shows is a reliable indicator of how much attention a dog owner pays to his dog.

(e) Only purebred dogs can participate in dog shows, so many owners who enroll their dogs in formal obedience training classes are excluded from this activity.

**14. Corncob Industries has instituted an employee shuttle program to provide a free transportation option to its workers who would otherwise need to commute via public transit or automobile. To help subsidize the program, the company cut its cafeteria budget, and now requires employees who choose to eat company-provided meals to pay normal fees for its previously complementary foods and beverages. Meanwhile, no additional benefit programs have been created.**

From the above statements, it can be reasonably concluded that:

(a) Corncob employees who use the company shuttle generally don't have more convenient transportation options.

(b) Fewer Corncob workers have used the company cafeteria since the shuttle program began.

(c) Some workers who still commute to Corncob on their own are unhappy about the shuttle program.

(d) More Corncob employees have begun bringing their own meals since the shuttle program began.

(e) The shuttle program is not truly free for any Corncob worker, since it affects another employee perquisite.

**15. The World Bank has developed a computer program that assesses the authenticity of world currency suspected of being counterfeit. The program contains extensive profiles of the printing techniques and components of currencies of all major nations; such profiles include chemical composition of paper, density of ink, and details in the printing plates that are invisible to the naked eye. Counterfeiters, including the best counterfeiters known from history, cannot hope to reproduce all facets of a particular nation's currency.**

Which of the following can be logically concluded from the passage above?

(a) The staff resources required to prepare currency for analysis by the program make use of the program prohibitively expensive.

(b) Consumer banks will soon purchase the right to use the program on their own computers.



- (c) The program cannot fail to identify as inauthentic counterfeit currency that has previously escaped detection.
- (d) The authentication program has taken a number of years to develop.
- (e) In numerous cases, authentic currency is not recognized as authentic by the program.

**16. In 1994, the most common eye-related disease from which Americans suffered was conjunctivitis, and glaucoma distant second. Glaucoma is much more common among patients who are more than 50 years old than it is among those who are 50 or younger, but the incidence rate for conjunctivitis for people of all ages is the same. The average age of all Americans is expected to exceed 50 by the year 2010. Which of the following conclusions can be most properly drawn about eye-related diseases from the information given?**

- (a) Conjunctivitis will remain the most common eye-related disease among Americans in 2010.
- (b) By the year 2010, glaucoma will overtake conjunctivitis as the most common eye-related disease.
- (c) More people will suffer from conjunctivitis in 2010 than did in 1994.
- (d) Most Americans will encounter either conjunctivitis or glaucoma by 2010.
- (e) The average age of Americans suffering from conjunctivitis will increase between 1994 and 2010.

**17. Representation of performers by agents is still the predominant way in which theatrical and other performers secure employment, even though agents may take between 10 and 15 percent of a performer's income. Apparently, most performers reason that agents have the resources to find roles to which the performers might not otherwise have access.**

Which of the following can be properly concluded from the passage above?

- (a) The work accomplished by a performer's agent is too extensive for the performer to accomplish alone.
- (b) When a performer and a performer's agent work together, the results are far superior to those of a performer working alone.

(c) The representation of performers by agents is not an entirely new method by which performers secure employment.

(d) The financial results of the 10 to 15 percent earned from the representation of a performer are enough to provide a living for a performer's agent.

(e) When a performer and a performer's agent work together, generally the company or person offering the performer employment is the one who will benefit most from the relationship.

**18. Interest in a 3,200-acre parcel of barren land in Welsh County has been virtually non-existent because it is not zoned for commercial use. A real estate developer, though, has created a business plan to convert the property into a low-grade airport that, when completed, would drive the value of the surrounding properties lower. Many local residents, therefore, are trying to pool their assets and buy the property outright.**

Last week, the Welsh County town council voted to repeal the restriction in the town charter that prohibits all commercial development on parcels of land smaller than 5,000 acres.

The statements above, if true, best support which of the following conclusions?

(a) The people who have property adjacent to the land in question will seek out other real estate developers who might want to use the land for other more aesthetically pleasing uses.

(b) The Welsh County town council does not always act solely in the financial interest of town's residents.

(c) Though short-term property values will probably drop, the community will ultimately benefit when young families arrive to take advantage of the bargains. (d) If residents can persuade the town council to reconsider its decision, their property values will rise.

(e) The original zoning laws in Welsh County were enacted because of pressure from the area's wealthiest residents.

**19. The transit authority of a certain city announced plans for a daily subway pass, which would cost \$2.50 and afford a passenger unlimited access to the subway over a twenty-four-hour period. A consumer advocate was unimpressed with this offer because it benefited only tourists and did nothing for the average city commuter, who rides the subway only to and from work each business day.**

If each of the statements above is true, which of the following conclusions can be drawn about the city's subway system?

- (a) The transit authority's special committee will weigh the merits of the day pass when it reconvenes.
- (b) The average commuter is dissatisfied with the price of the subway and is turning to other methods of transportation.
- (c) Discounting the day pass would put a strain on funds normally reserved for emergency measures.
- (d) The cost of one ride on the subway, regardless of the length of the ride or the time of day, is no more than \$1.25
- (e) A four-day pass at a cost of \$10 would be equally useful to tourists.

**20. Health professionals have argued that too much butter in a person's diet can cause the dangerous overdevelopment in the bloodstream of high-density Lipoproteins that can clog arteries and put that person at risk of a heart attack. In South Korea, however, where per-capita butter consumption is almost non-existent. The incidence of heart attacks is no less than that in countries where butter is commonly served at every meal.**

Which of the following statements represents the most reliable conclusion that can be drawn from the information above?

- (a) Most people, if told of the potential risk of butter consumption, would willingly switch to margarine or some other butter substitute.
- (b) Despite arguments to the contrary, butter does not have a deleterious effect on the human heart.
- (c) Koreans avoid butter because they dislike the taste, not because of the health risk.
- (d) Butter consumption is probably not the only factor that can be linked to the incidence of heart attacks.
- (e) Other dairy products such as cheese and yogurt pose an equal threat to cardiovascular fitness.