

CSS General Abilities Topic 4 Logical Reasoning

Sr	Questions	Answers Choice
1	<p>Typically, the entrepreneur is seen as an individual who owns and operates a small business. But, simply to own and operate a small business-or even a big business-does not make someone an entrepreneur. If this person is a true entrepreneur, then new products are being created, new ways of providing services are being implemented.</p> <p>Which of the following conclusions can best be drawn from the above passage?</p>	<p>A. An owner of large business may be an entrepreneur. B. Someone who develops an enterprise may be considered an entrepreneur. C. Entrepreneurs do not own and operate small businesses. D. Entrepreneurs are the main actors in economic growth E. Entrepreneurs are inventors.</p>
2	<p>Significant beneficial effect of smoking occur primarily in the area of mental health, and the habit originates in a search for contentment. The life expectancy of our people has increased greatly in recent years; it is possible that the relaxation and contentment and enjoyment produced by smoking has lengthened many lives. Smoking is beneficial.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, weaken the above conclusion ?</p>	<p>A. That cigarettes are a major health hazard cannot be traced to the willfull act of any human or organization. B. The government earns millions of dollars from the tobacco tax and tens of thousands of civilians are employed in the tobacco industry. C. The evidence cited in the statement covers only one example of the effects of cigarette smoking. D. No mention is made of possible harmful side-effects of smoking. E. No statistical evidence has proven link between smoking and longevity.</p>
3	<p>A local garbage disposal company increased its profitability even though it reduced its prices in order to attract new customers. This was made possible through the use of automated trucks, thereby reducing the number of workers needed per truck. The company also switched from a concentration on household hauling to a concentration on commercial hauling. As a result of its experience, company management planned to replace all their old trucks and increase the overall size of the truck fleet, doubling hauling capacity.</p> <p>The company's plan as outlined above, takes into consideration each of the following except:</p>	<p>A. Commercial clients have more potential than household customers. B. The demand for garbage removal services is sensitive to price. C. Demand for garbage removal services would increase in the future. D. Doubling of capacity would not encessitate; a substantial increase in the work force. E. Doubling of capacity would not cause bottlenecks, leading to a decrease in productivity.</p>
4	<p>During 1999, advertising expenditures on canned food products increased by 20 percent, while canned food consumption rose by 25 percent.</p> <p>Each of the following, if true, could help explain the increase in food consumption except:</p>	<p>A. Advertising effectiveness increased. B. Canned food prices decreased relative to substitutes. C. Canned food products were available in more stores. D. Can opener production doubled. E. Per-capita consumption of frozen foods declined.</p>
5	<p>In August 1980, according to a new your. Times/CBS news poll, 36 percent of the voters called themselves Republicans or said they were independents leaning toward being Republicans. In November 1984, the Republican figure rose to 47 percent. But in the latest Times/CBS survey, the Republicans were down to 38 percent. Therefore, the Democrats are likely to win the next election.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the above conclusion ?</p>	<p>A. Republicans were a minority in 1984, but a Republican president was elected. B. People tend to switch their votes at the last minute. C. People vote for the best candidate, not for a political party. D. No one can predict how people will vote. E. It has been shown that 85 percent of Republicans vote in an election, compared to 50 percent of the Democrats.</p>
6	<p>Ali is a terrible driver. He has had at least five traffic violations, int he past year.</p> <p>Which of the following can be said about the above claim ?</p>	<p>A. This is an example of an argument that is directed against the source of the claim rather than the claim itself. B. The statement is fallacious because it contains an illegitimate appeal to authority. C. The above argument obtains its strength from a similarity of two compared situations. D. The argument is built upon an assumption that is not stated but rather is concealed. E. In the above statements, there is a</p>

		<p>E. In the above statements, there is a shifting in the meaning of terms, causing a fallacy of ambiguity.</p>
7	<p>Contrary to charges made by opponents of the new trade bill, the bill's provisions for taking action against foreign countries that place barriers against American exports, is justified. Opponents should take note that restrictive trade legislation in the 1930s succeeded in improving the U.S. trade balance even though economists were against it. The author's method of rebutting opponents of the new trade bill is to</p>	<p>A. attack the patriotism of its opponents. B. attack the opponents' characters rather than their claims. C. imply an analogy between the new trade bill and previous trade legislation. D. suggest that economists were against both pieces of legislation. E. imply that previous legislation also permitted retaliatory action against foreign countries.</p>
8	<p>Farmers in the North have observed that heavy frost is usually preceded by a full moon somehow generates the frost. Which of the following, if true, would weaken the farmers' conviction?</p>	<p>A. The temperature must fall below 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit) for frost to occur. B. Absence of a cloud cover cools the ground which causes frost. C. Farmers are superstitious. D. No one has proven that the moon causes frost. E. Farmers are not experts in meteorology.</p>
9	<p>The Monopoly is characterized by absence of or decline in competition. The ABC Company realizes that its operations are in competitive industries. Which of the following conclusions may be inferred from the above?</p>	<p>A. ABC market is not monopolistic. B. Monopoly is defined as one seller in a market. C. The ABC Company has no domestic competitors. D. The ABC company is publicly owned. E. The ABC Company is in a service industry.</p>
10	<p>An economist was quoted as saying that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) will go up next month because of a recent increase in the price of fruit and vegetables. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the statement?</p>	<p>A. The cost of fruits and vegetables has risen sharply. B. Consumers have decreased their consumption of fruits and vegetables. C. The cost of fruit and vegetables is a major item in the CPI. D. Food cost changes are reflected quickly in the CPI. E. Other items that make up the CPI have not significantly decreased in price.</p>
11	<p>Forty years after African colonies began emerging as nations, modern loyalties still often go first to the tribe. From Angola to Ethiopia, ethnic hatred has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes, making Africa the continent with the world's largest number of refugees. Which of the following statements best summarizes the above?</p>	<p>A. Africa is best characterized as ethnic fractionalization. B. Angola and Ethiopia have the worst record of inter-ethnic strife in Africa. C. Continued warfare has made Africa a nation of refugees. D. Africa is best characterized as a federation of many states. E. Africa is best characterized as a continent without loyalties.</p>
12	<p>Most large retail stores hold sales in the month of January. The original idea of price reduction campaigns in January became popular when it was realized that sales or products would generally slow down following the Christmas rush, were it not for some incentive. The lack of demand could be solved by the simple solution of reducing prices. There is now an increasing tendency among major department stores in large urban centers to have their January sales before Christmas, some time before the end of the calendar year. The idea behind this trend is to endeavor to sell the maximum amount of stock at a profit, even if that may not be at the maximum profit. Which of the following conclusions cannot be drawn from the above?</p>	<p>A. The incidence of early January sales results in the lower holdings of stocks with the corollary of lower stock holding costs. B. Demand is a function of price; as you lower price, demand increases. C. Major stores seem to think it makes sense to have to January sales campaigns pre-Christmas. D. It is becoming less popular to start the January sales in the New Year. E. The major department stores do not worry as much about profit maximization as they do about sales maximization.</p>
13	<p>You have three boxes, each containing two balls, one containing a black pair; one, a white pair; and third, one white ball and one black ball. On each box are pictures of two balls - either two black ones, two white ones, or one white and one black. You are told that the markings on the boxes are all wrong. You are asked to ascertain the colors of the balls contained in each box.</p>	<p>A. You can take out one ball from the box marked with two black balls and, without looking at the second ball, know that each box actually contains. B. You can take out one ball from the box marked with two white balls and, without looking at the second ball, know what each box actually contains. C. You can take out one ball from the box marked with one white ball and</p>

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the above ?

one black ball and, without looking at the second ball, know what each box contains.

- D. You cannot know which balls are contained in which box until you take a ball out of more than one box.
- E. You cannot know which boxes contain which color balls until you take a ball out of all three boxes.

14

The states of New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and California provide extensive free higher education to their residents. Three states are representative of different geographic areas of the United States. There is little reason why most states cannot provide the same service to their residents.

Which of the following, if true, would weaken the above argument ?

- A. Free education is not guaranteed by the constitution.
- B. New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and California have more qualified high school graduates than other states.
- C. Most other states do not have the tax base that New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and California have.
- D. Other states do not have as many high school graduates.
- E. Quality education cannot be free; it must be paid for.

15

The director of the customs service suggested that customs taxes on automobiles not be reduced as planned by the government because of the high incidence of traffic accidents last year.

Which of the above statements weakens the argument above ?

1. Although the traffic accident rate last year was high, it was not appreciably higher than previous years and anyway, compulsory insurance covered most physical damage to automobiles and property.
2. A Commerce Department report showed that the demand for automobiles was highly inelastic. That is, as dealers lowered their prices, sales did not increase appreciably.
3. A study by the Economics Department at Classics University found that most traffic accidents had been caused by human error although it also concluded that an inadequate road network contributed to at least 40 percent of passenger injuries.

- A. I, but not II and III.
- B. II, but not I and III.
- C. I and III, but not II.
- D. II and III, but not I.
- E. I, II and III.

16

Ira is taller than Sam.

Elliot is taller than Harold.

Harold is shorter than Gene.

Sam and Gene are of the same height.

If the above is true, which of the following conditions, must also be true?

- A. Elliot is taller than Gene
- B. Elliot is taller than Ira
- C. Sam is shorter than Elliot
- D. Ira is taller than Harold
- E. Sam is shorter than Harold

17

Many of the convenience foods on the market today, like dry cereals, have less nutrients than natural foods, which were dominant a decade or two ago. Many nutritionists claim that dry cereal gives less nourishment than natural foods like eggs or bacon. Opponents of the nutritionists' views state that examination of grade-school students show less nutritional deficiency than in their parents' time.

Which of the following, if true, would tend to strengthen the opponents' view ?

- A. Grade-school children reported eating no breakfast at all.
- B. Fewer convenience foods were available to the parents.
- C. Adults claim to eat convenience foods as well as natural foods.
- D. Convenience foods can be digested just as quickly as natural foods.
- E. Consumers are not likely to sacrifice convenience for nutrition.

18

During the incumbent president's term of office he succeeded in limiting annual increases in the defense budget by an average of 5 percent. His predecessors experienced annual increases of 8 percent. Therefore, the incumbent president should be given credit for the downturn in defense outlays.

Which of the following statements, if true, would most seriously weaken the above conclusion ?

- A. Some generals have claimed that the country's defense has weakened in the past year.
- B. More soldiers were drafted during the former president's term of office.
- C. The incumbent president advocates peaceful resolution of international disputes.
- D. The average annual inflation rate during the incumbent president's term was 4 percent, while during his predecessor's term it was 10 percent.
- E. A disarmament treaty with a major adversary was signed by the incumbent president.

19

Many countries are facing a potential crisis in 20 to 30 years time. The ratio of pensioners to workers will be changing drastically with a declining birth rate, with more lengthy education of the young, and with a reduced working life. In general, the number of people paying into pension schemes is decreasing all the time. Meanwhile, with increased health care and living standards, more people are living long enough to draw their pension funds.

A controversial solution to this problem has been proposed in Germany—changing the age of retirement, for both men and women, from the current qualifying age of 63 for men and 60 for women.

A radical, but socially acceptable, solution to this problem must be found. If this is not done, it is predicted that by the year 2050, one person in three will be 65 or over and the projected work force will be unable to support pensions.

- A. Lower the retirement age.
- B. Decrease the school-leaving age.
- C. Impose larger contributions on employees and employers.
- D. Cut pensions in half.
- E. Only give state pensions to retired persons whose income is below a certain level.

Assuming the following were all socially acceptable, which one would not improve the situation in the future ?

20

Ever since I arrived at the college last week, I've been shocked by the poor behavior of students and the unfriendly attitude of the towns-people, but the professors are very erudite and genuinely helpful. Still, I wonder if I should have come here in the first place. Which of the following, if true, would weaken the above conclusion ?

- A. Professors are not always helpful to students.
- B. The college numbers over 50,000 students.
- C. The college is far from the student's home.
- D. Not all professors have doctorates.
- E. The narrator was unsure of staying at the college.