

CSS General Abilities Topic 4 Logical Reasoning

Sr	Questions	Answers Choice
1	<p>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.</p> <p>Which of the following statements, if true would most seriously weaken the above conclusion ?</p>	<p>A. Some generals have claimed that the country's defense has weakened in the past year.</p> <p>B. More soldiers were drafted during the former president's term of office.</p> <p>C. The incumbent president advocates peaceful resolution of international disputes.</p> <p>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</p> <p>E. A disarmament treaty with a major adversary was signed by the incumbent president.</p>
2	<p>If we are doomed to have local drug rehabilitation centers - and society has determined that we are - then society ought to pay for them.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, would weaken the above argument ?</p>	<p>A. Drug rehabilitation centers are too expensive to be locally funded.</p> <p>B. Many neighborhood groups oppose rehabilitation centers.</p> <p>C. Drug rehabilitation centers are expensive to maintain.</p> <p>D. Drug addicts may be unwilling to receive treatment.</p> <p>E. A government committee has convinced many groups that local rehabilitation centers are ineffective</p>
3	<p>Pioneers of the motor-car industry realized that if they were going to meet the growing demand for their product, they had to adapt the labor force used in the productive process. Instead of many men working to complete all the stages of one car at a time, they assigned defined tasks to each man which they would repeat on every car.</p> <p>Which of the following can be concluded from the passage ?</p>	<p>A. Early motor car manufacturers intended to increase productivity by applying the principle of division of labor.</p> <p>B. The car workers became disgruntled because they were assigned monotonous, repetitive tasks on the assembly line.</p> <p>C. Economies of scale enabled early motor companies to expand.</p> <p>D. A bad worker would perform the same task badly on each car, leading to many more rejects.</p> <p>E. The new production process enabled certain car workers to become specialists in the part of the process to which they were assigned.</p>
4	<p>Inflation rose by 5.1 % over the second quarter, up from 4.1 % during the first quarter of the year and higher than the 3.3% record during the same time last year. However, the higher price index did not seem to alarm Wall street, as stock prices remained steady.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, could explain the reaction of Wall Street ?</p>	<p>A. Stock prices were steady because of a fear that inflation would continue.</p> <p>B. The President announced that he was concerned about rising inflation.</p> <p>C. Economists warned that inflation would persist.</p> <p>D. Much of the quarterly increase in the price level was due to a summer droughts effect on food prices.</p>
5	<p>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.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, would weaken the above argument ?</p>	<p>A. Free education is not guaranteed by the constitution.</p> <p>B. New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and California have more qualified high school graduates than other states.</p> <p>C. Most other states do not have the tax base that new york, ohio, Pennsylvania, and California have.</p> <p>D. Other states do not have as many high school graduates.</p> <p>E. Quality education cannot be free; it must be paid for</p>
	<p>In August 1980, according to a new york. 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</p>	<p>A. Republicans were a minority in 1984, but a Republican president was elected.</p> <p>B. People tend to switch their votes at the last minute.</p> <p>C. D. ...</p>

6	<p>Republicans. In November 1964, 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>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>
7	<p>In the human body, platelets, promote blood clotting by clumping together. Aspirin has been found to prevent clotting by making platelets less sticky. Research has now shown that heart attacks and strokes caused by blood clots could be avoided by taking one aspirin a day. Statistics show that the incidence of second heart attacks Unfortunately, the drug has several unpleasant side effects, including nausea, gastric bleeding, and, in severe cases, shock. In children, it has been linked to Reye Syndrome, a rare, but occasionally fatal, childhood illness.</p> <p>One balance, however, for men aged 40 and over, an aspirin a day may present an excellent prophylactic measure for a disease that affects 1.5 million Americans yearly and claims the lives of about 540,000.</p> <p>Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above ?</p>	<p>A. All people should take an aspirin a day to prevent heart attacks. B. Painkillers prevent heart attacks. C. Smokers can safely continue smoking, provided that they take at least one aspirin a day. D. The majority of people suffering second subsequent cardiac arrests could have been saved by taking an aspirin a day. E. Aspirin can be used to reduced mortality rates who have already suffered heart attacks.</p>
8	<p>The burning of coal, oil, and other combustible energy sources produces carbon dioxide, a natural constituent of the atmosphere. Elevated levels of carbon dioxide are thought to be responsible for half the greenhouse effect. Enough carbon dioxide has been sent into the atmosphere already to cause a significant temperature increase. Growth in industrial production must be slowed, or production processes must be changed.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, would tend to weaken the strength of the above conclusion ?</p>	<p>A. Many areas of the world are cold anyway, so a small rise in temperature would be welcome. B. Carbon dioxide is bad for the health. C. Most carbon dioxide is emitted by automobiles. D. Industry is switching over to synthetic liquid fuel extracted from coal. E. A shift to other energy sources would be too costly.</p>
9	<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 necessitate; a substantial increase in the work force. E. Doubling of capacity would not cause bottlenecks, leading to a decrease in productivity.</p>
10	<p>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.</p> <p>Which of the above statements weakens the argument above ?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>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.</p>
11	<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>
12	<p>Professor Akram told his class that the method of student evaluation of teachers is not a valid measure of teaching quality. Students should fill out questionnaires at the end of the semester when courses have been completed.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, provides support for Professor Akram proposal ?</p>	<p>A. Professor Akram received low ratings from his students. B. Students filled out questionnaires after the midterm exam. C. Students are interested in teacher evaluation. D. Teachers are not obligated to use the survey results. E. Student evaluation of teachers is voluntary.</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>Which of the following statements can be inferred from the above ?</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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>C. You can take out one ball from the box marked with one white ball and one black ball and, without looking at the second ball, know what each box contains.</p> <p>D. You cannot know which balls are contained in which box until you take a ball out of more than one box.</p> <p>E. You cannot know which boxes contain which color balls until you take a ball out of all three boxes.</p>
14	<p>Ali is a terrible driver. He has had at least five traffic violations, in the 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.</p> <p>B. The statement is fallacious because it contains an illegitimate appeal to authority.</p> <p>C. The above argument obtains its strength from a similarity of two compared situations.</p> <p>D. The argument is built upon an assumption that is not stated but rather is concealed.</p> <p>E. In the above statements, there is a shifting in the meaning of terms, causing a fallacy of ambiguity.</p>
15	<p>Professor Bilal had the task of giving grades (ranging from A - D in descending value) to her 100 students, based upon the marks they received in three examinations in which the passing mark was 50%. She was instructed to follow the following criteria:</p> <p>i. All students that scored between 90 and 100% in any two examinations could receive an A grade.</p> <p>ii. Students that came in the top decile overall were to be awarded an A.</p> <p>iii. Notwithstanding I and II, if any student failed an exam, the highest he or she could get was a B.</p> <p>iv. The top 20 students in the whole year, when the overall exam percentages were averaged, could receive an A.</p> <p>Given the above criteria, which of the following in the absence of further information, would definitely not be permissible ?</p>	<p>A. A. Brown, who got 95% in Chemistry and 95% in Biology, received a B grade.</p> <p>B. B. White, who was first in Physics and got 96% in History, received a B grade.</p> <p>C. C. Green failed English, but because he ranked ninth overall out of the 100 students, he was awarded an A grade.</p> <p>D. D. Black was given an A after she came twentieth out of the 100 students and failed to get above 90% in any of the three examinations.</p> <p>E. E. Gray failed his Math exam, but came top in his other two tests and was awarded a B.</p>
16	<p>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.</p> <p>Which of the following, if true, would tend to strengthen the opponents' view ?</p>	<p>A. Grade-school children reported eating no breakfast at all.</p> <p>B. Fewer convenience foods were available to the parents.</p> <p>C. Adults claim to eat convenience foods as well as natural foods.</p> <p>D. Convenience foods can be digested just as quickly as natural foods.</p> <p>E. Consumers are not likely to sacrifice convenience for nutrition.</p>
17	<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.</p> <p>Which of the following statements best summarizes the above ?</p>	<p>A. Africa is best characterized by ethnic fractionalization.</p> <p>B. Angola and Ethiopia have the worst record of inter-ethnic strife in Africa.</p> <p>C. Continued warfare has made Africa a nation of refugees.</p> <p>D. Africa is best characterized as a federation of many states.</p> <p>E. Africa is best characterized as a continent without loyalties.</p>
18	<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.</p> <p>The author's method of rebutting opponents of the new trade bill is to</p>	<p>A. attack the patriotism of its opponents.</p> <p>B. attack the opponents' characters rather than their claims.</p> <p>C. imply an analogy between the new trade bill and previous trade legislation.</p> <p>D. suggest that economists were against both pieces of legislation.</p>

E. imply that previous legislation also permitted retaliatory action against foreign countries.

19

In winning its bitter, protracted battle to acquire Blue Industries, Inc., Belle industries has fulfilled its goal to lessen its reliance on tobacco holdings, while the \$5.2 billion deal may spur more takeover activity in the insurance industry, analysts said.
Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- A. Blue Industries is in the tobacco industry.
- B. Belle industries is in the insurance business.
- C. Blue Industries is in the insurance business.
- D. More divestment takes place in the tobacco industry than in the insurance industry.
- E. More divestment takes place in the insurance industry than in the tobacco industry.

20

During 1999, advertising expenditures on canned food products increased by 20 percent, while canned food consumption rose by 25 percent.
Each of the following, if true, could help explain the increase in food consumption except:

- 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.