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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, Logical Reasoning	430
Topic 2, Reading Comprehension	256
Topic 3, Analytical Reasoning	60
Total	746

QUESTION NO: 1

Joseph: My encyclopedia says that the mathematician Pierre de Fermat died in 1665 without leaving behind any written proof for a theorem that he claimed nonetheless to have proved. Probably this alleged theorem simply cannot be proved, since – as the article points out – no one else has been able to prove it. Therefore, it is likely that Fermat was either lying or else mistaken when he made his claim.

Laura: Your encyclopedia is out of date. Recently someone has in fact proved Fermat's theorem. And since the theorem is provable, your claim – that Fermat was lying or mistaken – clearly is wrong.

Which one of the following most accurately describes a reasoning error in Laura's argument?

A. It purports to establish its conclusion by making a claim that, if true, would actually contradict that conclusion.

B. It mistakenly assumes that the quality of a person's character can legitimately be taken to guarantee the accuracy of the claims that person has made.

C. It mistakes something that is necessary for its conclusion to follow for something that ensures that the conclusion follows.

D. It uses the term "provable" without defining it.

E. It fails to distinguish between a true claim that has mistakenly been believed to be false and a false claim that has mistakenly been believed to be true.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Laura’s evidence is that someone has proved the theorem, and her conclusion is that Fermat was not lying nor mistaken. She assumes that because the theorem has now been proven, Fermat must have also proved it. For her conclusion to be correct that Fermat was not lying or mistaken, it is necessary that the theorem be proved, but the fact that someone has proved the theorem isn’t sufficient to make her case. With all due respect to Fermat, the fact that someone else has proved the theorem does not necessarily mean that Fermat has. Choice [mistakes something that is necessary for its…] identifies the necessary/sufficient flaw in Laura’s argument.

QUESTION NO: 2

Professor Beckstein: American Sign Language is the native language of many North Americans. Therefore, it is not a foreign language, and for that reason alone, no student should be permitted to satisfy the university's foreign language requirement by learning it.

Professor Sedley: According to your argument, students should not be allowed to satisfy the university's foreign language requirement by learning French or Spanish either, since they too are the native languages of many North Americans. Yet many students currently satisfy the requirement by studying French or Spanish, and it would be ridiculous to begin prohibiting them from doing so.

Professor Sedley uses which one of the following strategies of argumentation in responding to Professor Beckstein's argument?

A. attempting to demonstrate that the reasoning used to reach a certain conclusion leads to another conclusion that is undesirable

B. trying to show that a certain conclusion contradicts some of the evidence used to support it

C. questioning an opponent's authority to address the issue under discussion

D. offering an alternative explanation of the facts used to arrive at a specific conclusion

E. agreeing with the conclusion of a particular argument while rejecting the evidence used to support the conclusion

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Now to this business of Sedley's "strategy of argumentation"; this is, as mentioned above, LSAT-speak for a Method of Argument question. This is actually not an uncommon line of reasoning:

Sedley tries to show that if Beckstein's argument holds (if a language shared by many North Americans can't be used to satisfy the university's foreign language requirement), French and Spanish would not be able to satisfy the requirement either, based on Beckstein's criterion. But that, in Sedley's words, would be "ridiculous." The elements in option [attempting to demonstrate that the reasoning…] match his method perfectly: He's trying to show that the reasoning (stated above) used to form a conclusion (ASL should not be allowed to satisfy the requirement) would lead to another conclusion (don't allow French or Spanish either) that's undesirable (it would be ridiculous to prohibit French or Spanish from satisfying the requirement).

QUESTION NO: 3

Town councillor: The only reason for the town to have ordinances restricting where skateboarding can be done would be to protect children from danger. Skateboarding in the town's River Park is undoubtedly dangerous, but we should not pass an ordinance prohibiting it. If children cannot skateboard in the park, they will most certainly skateboard in the streets. And skateboarding in the streets is more dangerous than skateboarding in the park.

Which one of the following principles, if established, would provide the strongest support for the town councillor's argument?

A. Ordinances that restrict the recreational activities of a town's inhabitants should not be passed unless those activities pose a danger to participants.

B. Since the town could be legally liable for accidents that occur on public property, town ordinances should restrict any unnecessarily dangerous activities in publicly owned areas.

C. Since safety in a recreational activity depends on the level of skill of the participant in that activity, the regulation of children's recreational activities should be left to the discretion of the children's parents.

D. If recreational activities constitute a danger to the participants in those activities, then the town council should enact ordinances prohibiting those activities.

E. Ordinances that seek to eliminate dangers should not be enacted if their enactment would lead to dangers that are greater than those they seek to eliminate.

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

Last up is another Principle question that plays off the same scenario. What general rule is the town councillor applying in making her argument? We've already deciphered the argument and abstracted its general structure in our effort to parallel it in the previous question, so this one is somewhat of a gift. We said above that the argument, in general terms(which is what Principle questions are always after), boils down to this: "Something is bad, but we shouldn't apply a specific remedy because that will cause a situation that's worse." Sticking to the terms of this argument, ordinances and danger, this matches up perfectly with the principle in option [Ordinances that seek to eliminate dangers should not be enacted if…]

QUESTION NO: 4

In a school function ceremony, seven students, Amy, Bob, Chad, Dom, Elisa, Fischer, and Grant have to deliver their performances in seven consecutive slots, not necessarily in the order of their given names. The following information is known about the order in which the students perform:

Chad performs immediately before

Dom Grant performs sometime after Chad

There are exactly two performances made between the performances of Amy and Elisa

If Amy was the second to perform, who was the third performer in the ceremony?

A. Bob

B. Chad

C. Dom

D. Grant

E. Fischer

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

We know that Amy is the second performer. Thus, we can deduce that E must be in the 5th slot (since E cannot be before A in this case).

We know that C and D are consecutive with G following them. Thus, the only way possible is if C and D take up the 3rd and 4th slots. However, G can be either in the 6th or 7th slot. This is represented below:

Case I:

Case II:

However, in any of the three scenarios, the 3rd performer is Chad.

General

Let us denote the seven slots using the numbers 1 through 7 as shown below:

We need to fill in the names of the performers in each slot depending on the information provided.

Let us name the performers Amy, Bob, Chad, Dom, Elisa, Fischer, and Grant as A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

Let us look at the information given in the question stem and see what we have got:

1. Since Chad performs immediately before Dom, we can write "CD" as an element implying that there is no one else performing between them.

2. Since Grant performs sometime after Chad, and Chad and Dom are consecutive performers, Grant must perform after Dom as well. Thus, we can represent the information as shown below:

The "…" above implies that there could be none or at least 1 performer between D and G.

3. There are exactly two performers between Amy and Elisa. This information can be represented as shown below:

Thus, we see that the above information is NOT sufficient to assign even one of the performers to his/her corresponding slot number. This implies that there would possibly be multiple solutions to the arrangements of the performers. Thus, in order to solve the questions, we would need to use the information given in the questions.

QUESTION NO: 5

All Italian greyhounds are graceful and fast, but some are nervous. Graceful and fast greyhounds are slender, but nervous greyhounds are unpredictable. If the statements are true, all of the following must be true EXCEPT

A. all Italian greyhounds are slender

B. some greyhounds are nervous

C. no Italian greyhounds are slow

D. No Italian greyhounds are predictable

E. all Italian greyhounds are graceful

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

All Italian greyhounds are graceful and fast and graceful and fast greyhounds are slender, so all Italian greyhounds are slender. If some graceful and fast Italian greyhounds are nervous, then some greyhounds are nervous.

QUESTION NO: 6

Tony: A new kind of videocassette has just been developed. It lasts for only half as many vie wings as the old kind does but costs a third as much. Therefore, video rental stores would find it significantly more economical to purchase and stock movies recorded on the new kind of videocassette than on the old kind.

Anna: But the videocassette itself only accounts for 5 percent of the price a video rental store pays to buy a copy of a movie on video; most of the price consists of royalties the store pays to the studio that produced the movie. So the price that video rental stores pay per copy would decrease by considerably less than 5 percent, and royalties would have to be paid on additional copies.

Which one of the following, if true, would contribute most to a defense of Tony's position against Anna's reply?

A. The price that video rental stores pay for movies recorded on videocassettes is considerably less than the retail price of those movies.

B. A significant proportion of the movies on videocassette purchased by video rental stores are bought as replacements for worn-out copies of movies the stores already have in stock.

C. The royalty fee included in the price that video rental stores pay for movies on the new kind of videocassette will be half that included in the price of movies on the old kind.

D. Given a choice, customers are more likely to buy a movie on videocassette than to rent it if the rental fee is more than half of the purchase price.

E. Many of the movies rented from video rental stores, particularly children's movies, average several viewings per rental fee.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Our familiarity with Anna’s argument should now help us to turn the tables on her as we rush to Tony’s defense. Remember, the sticking point for Anna is royalties. If we can somehow get around that, or at least lessen the impact of the royalty fees, we’d be able to revive Tony’s argument. And that’s all the prephrase we need: Only one choice even mentions royalties, and it turns out to be the winner here. If, as option [The royalty fee included in the price that…] maintains, royalties on the new videocassettes are half that of the old, then the force of Anna’s response would be severely weakened, and Tony’s advocacy of the new tapes would once again seem reasonable.

QUESTION NO: 7

There are no edible fish in the streams of this county because there are no pesticide controls. Which one of the following assumptions must be made before the conclusion above can be reached?

A. Edible fish cannot be found in areas where there are no pesticide controls.

B. If there are pesticide controls, there will be many edible fish.

C. Without adequate pesticide controls, the fish population will rapidly decline.

D. If there are pesticide controls, there will be some edible fish.

E. With pesticide controls, the fish population will rapidly increase.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The assumption is that where there are no pesticide controls, no edible fish can be found, not the reverse as in options [If there are pesticide controls, there will be there will be many edible fish],

[If there are pesticide controls, there will be some edible fish.] and [With pesticide controls, the fish…]

QUESTION NO: 8

By the year 2030, the Earth's population is expected to increase to 10 billion; ideally, all would enjoy standards of living equivalent to those of present-day industrial democracies. However, if 10 billion people consume critical natural resources such as copper, nickel, and petroleum at the current per capita rates of industrialized countries, and if new resources are not discovered or substitutes developed, such an ideal would last a decade or less. Moreover, projections based on the current rate of waste production in many industrialized countries suggest that 10 billion people would generate enough solid waste every year to bury a large city and its surrounding suburbs 100 meters deep.

These estimates are not meant to predict a grim future. Instead they emphasize the incentives for recycling, conservation, and a switch to alternative materials. They also suggest that the traditional model of industrial activity, in which individual manufacturing processes take in raw materials and generate products to be sold plus waste to be disposed of, should be transformed into a more integrated model: an industrial ecosystem. In such a system the consumption of energy and materials is optimized, wastes and pollution are minimized, and the effluents of one process – whether they are spent catalysts from petroleum refining or discarded plastic containers from consumer products – serve as the raw material for another process.

Materials in an ideal industrial ecosystem would not be depleted any more than are materials in a biological ecosystem, in which plants synthesize nutrients that feed herbivores, some of which in turn feed a chain of carnivores whose waste products and remains eventually feed further generations of plants. A chunk of steel could potentially show up one year in a tin can, the next year in an automobile, and 10 years later in the skeleton of a building. Some manufacturers are already making use of "designed offal" in the manufacture of metals and some plastics: tailoring the production of waste from a manufacturing process so that the waste can be fed directly back into that process or a related one. Such recycling still requires the expenditure of energy and the unavoidable generation of some wastes and harmful by-products, but at much lower levels than are typical today.

The ideal industrial ecosystem, in which there is an economically viable role for every product of a manufacturing process, will not be attained soon; current technology is often inadequate to the task. However, if industrialized nations embrace major and minor changes in their current industrial practices and developing nations bypass older, less ecologically sound technologies, it should be possible to develop a more closed industrial ecosystem that would be more sustainable than current industrial practices, especially in the face of decreasing supplies of raw materials andincreasing problems of waste and pollution.

The author of the passage would most probably agree with which one of the following statements about standards of living?

A. An increase in the standard of living in developing countries will be accompanied by a decrease in the standard of living in industrialized countries.

B. It is likely that the standard of living of both industrialized and developing countries will decrease substantially by the year 2030.

C. The current standard of living of industrialized countries cannot be sustained if the population of the world increases.

D. All countries could enjoy a high standard of living without depleting natural resources if industrialized and developing countries implemented an ideal industrial ecosystem.

E. Supplies of critical natural resources will be in serious danger of depletion by the year 2030 unless the current standard of living of both industrialized and developing countries is reduced.

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The sentence “Most probably agree” signals Inference, and the Buzzword phrase “standards of living” should send you up top, where the author asserts his “ideal” of everyone, all 10 billion of us, enjoying the same standards. Think Globally does the author think that that can happen? Sure, if the “iie” ever came to pass Remember, he explicitly told us to reject the prediction of a grim future. A quick scan of the choices in search of this kind of optimism must yield option [All countries could enjoy a high standard of living…], it’s the idea that underlies the entire plan thereafter outlined.

QUESTION NO: 9

After the United Nations Security Council authorized military intervention by a coalition of armed forces intended to halt civil strife in a certain country, the parliament of one UN member nation passed a resolution condemning its own prime minister for promising to commit military personnel to the action. A parliamentary leader insisted that the overwhelming vote for the resolution did not imply the parliament's opposition to the anticipated intervention; on the contrary, most members of parliament supported the UN plan.

Which one of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the apparent discrepancy presented above?

A. The UN Security Council cannot legally commit the military of a member nation to armed intervention in other countries.

B. In the parliamentary leader's nation, it is the constitutional prerogative of the parliament, not of the prime minister, to initiate foreign military action.

C. The parliament would be responsible for providing the funding necessary in order to contribute military personnel to the UN intervention.

D. The public would not support the military action unless it was known that the parliament supported the action.

E. Members of the parliament traditionally are more closely attuned to public sentiment, especially with regard to military action, than are prime ministers.

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The paradox or “discrepancy” is that a country’s parliament was all for the UN decision to send in an international peacekeeping force, yet censured its own prime minister for promising troops to that force. Option [In the parliamentary leader's nation…] resolves the dilemma by implying that it wasn’t the promise of troops that irked the parliament, but rather the unconstitutional involvement of the prime minister in that promise. It’s not at all paradoxical, in light of [In the parliamentary leader's nation…], for a parliament to say “We’re in favor of sending troops, but we not you, prime minister, are supposed to make that judgment.”

QUESTION NO: 10

More and more computer programs that provide solutions to mathematical problems in engineering are being produced, and it is thus increasingly unnecessary for practicing engineers to have a thorough understanding of fundamental mathematical principles. Consequently, in training engineers who will work in industry, less emphasis should be placed on mathematical principles, so that space in the engineering curriculum will be available for other important subjects.

Which one of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument given for the recommendation above?

A. The effective use of computer programs that provide solutions to mathematical problems in engineering requires an understanding of mathematical principles.

B. Many of the computer programs that provide solutions to mathematical problems in engineering are already in routine use.

C. Development of composites and other such new materials has meant that the curriculum for engineers who will work in industry must allow time for teaching the properties of these materials.

D. Most of the computer programs that provide solutions to mathematical problems in engineering can be run on the types of computers available to most engineering firms.

E. The engineering curriculum already requires that engineering students be familiar with and able to use a variety of computer programs.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

We’re told in the stem that we need a choice that weakens a recommendation, so we should search for the recommendation while at the same time keeping our eye out for possible problems with it. According to the author, practicing engineers need not be math whizzes any longer due to the abundance of computer programs that solve engineering math problems. “Consequently. . .” (note the excellent conclusion Keyword), engineering programs “should” place less emphasis on math to free up time for other subjects. That, of course, is the recommendation we’re looking to weaken. A good weakner would seek to demonstrate that math is not as superfluous as the author maintains, and Option [The effective use of computer programs that…] accomplishes this by forging a link between math skills and the operation of the programs that the author believes makes math skills unnecessary. If no special skills are required to utilize the programs, then the author may have a point. But if the programs themselves require a certain level of math proficiency to use effectively, the author’s recommendation to deemphasize math in engineering training would seem ill-advised.

QUESTION NO: 11

So-called "engineered foods," usually in powder or liquid form, consist of protein that is distilled from natural sources and supplemented with vitamins and minerals. Although the amino acids contained in such products stimulate the production of

growth hormones, these hormones produce growth in connective tissue rather than in muscle mass; this does not improve muscle strength.

Hence, athletes, who need to improve their muscular strength, should not consume engineered foods.

The argument depends on assuming which one of the following?

A. An increase in muscle mass produces an increase in strength.

B. People who are not athletes require neither stronger connective tissue nor muscle strength.

C. If an engineered food does not improve muscle strength, there is no other substantial advantage to athletes from consuming it.

D. Consuming engineered foods that provide nutrients that can be obtained more easily elsewhere is unhealthy.

E. Growth of muscle mass enhances muscle strength only when accompanied by growth of connective tissue.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Here's another assumption question, so let's zero in on the components of the argument. The last sentence (signaled by the Keyword "Hence") contains the conclusion: Athletes looking to improve muscle strength should not consume engineered foods. The first sentence is largely irrelevant to this conclusion, but the muscle issue comes up in the second sentence, where we learn that the amino acids in engineered foods stimulate growth hormones, which causes growth of connective tissue but not muscle mass. The argument seems to make sense if increasing muscle mass is the only possible benefit from engineered foods—but what if there are other benefits? Wouldn't it then be reasonable to infer that even athletes who are interested in increasing muscle still might benefit from these foods, and should consider consuming them? This alternative possibility would wreak havoc with the argument, so the author must be assuming that outside of increasing muscle strength, consuming engineered foods confers no benefits at all to athletes.

QUESTION NO: 12

A music store carries exactly ten types of CDs — both new and used of each of jazz, opera, pop, rap, and soul. The store is having a sale on some of these types of CDs. The following conditions must apply:

Used pop is on sale; new opera is not.

If both types of pop are on sale, then all soul is.

If both types of jazz are on sale, then no rap is.

If neither type of jazz is on sale, then new pop is. If either type of rap is on sale, then no soul is.

If exactly four of the five types of used CDs are the only CDs on sale, then which one of the following could be true?

A. Used jazz is not on sale.

B. Used opera is not on sale.

C. Used rap is not on sale.

D. Neither type of jazz is on sale.

E. Neither type of rap and neither type of soul is on sale.

in no time. If all the rap and soul (R, r, S, s) are crossed out, then we cannot fulfill the requirement that 4 out of 5 used CDs be on sale.
We're down to options [Used opera is not on sale.] and [Used rap is not on sale.]. Suppose option [Used opera is not on sale.] is the statement that "could be true"; suppose used opera is not on sale. Can the four on-sale CDs be "p, j, r, s"? No way! Putting both a rap and a soul CD on sale simultaneously is a blatant violation of Rule 5. And indeed, if "p, j, o, s" are all on sale and everything else is not, no rules are violated.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The only CDs on sale are exactly four of the five used ones. So your sketch needs first to have all the new CDs (i.e. the CAPITALIZED LETTERS) crossed out; and then you have to deal with the 4/1 split. One of those 4 on-sale CDs is used pop (Rule 1). What about the others? More importantly, which is the one and only used CD not on sale?

Jazz may come to mind first because its rule (Rule 4) is the only one that begins in the negative. Suppose used jazz, j, is the one and only crossed-out used CD. What happens then? Rule 4 kicks in and says that new pop is on sale. But that can't happen: In this question, none of the new CDs is on sale. So our original premise is wrong. Used jazz must be on sale, so options [Used jazz is not on sale.] and [Neither type of jazz is on sale.] are false statements; toss them out. Meanwhile, your eye might alight on E., and you can toss

E. in no time. If all the rap and soul (R, r, S, s) are crossed out, then we cannot fulfill the requirement that 4 out of 5 used CDs be on sale.

We're down to options [Used opera is not on sale.] and [Used rap is not on sale.]. Suppose option [Used opera is not on sale.] is the statement that "could be true"; suppose used opera is not on sale. Can the four on-sale CDs be "p, j, r, s"? No way! Putting both a rap and a soul CD on sale simultaneously is a blatant violation of Rule 5. And indeed, if "p, j, o, s" are all on sale and everything else is not, no rules are violated.

QUESTION NO: 13

From among ten stones, a jeweler will select six, one for each of six rings. Of the stones, three — F, G, and H — are rubies; three — J, K, and M — are sapphires; and four — W, X, Y, and Z — are topazes. The selection of stones must meet the following restrictions:

At least two of the topazes are selected.

If exactly two of the sapphires are selected, exactly one of the rubies is selected.

If W is selected, neither H nor Z is selected. If M is selected, W is also selected.

If J and M are the only sapphires selected, which one of the following could be true?

A. F and G are both selected.

B. F and X are both selected.

C. G and H are both selected.

D. G and K are both selected.

E. Y and Z are both selected.

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Interestingly—if frustratingly—this last question proves to be one of the most concrete, and hence one of the easiest. We hope that you didn't get bogged down on some of the earlier ones and miss out onthis one. In your roster, select J and M, and cross out K, in line with the question stem's if. Rule 4 requires that you select W, and Rule 3 requires that you cross out H and Z. At the same time, Rule 2 (we use it at last!) kicks in—there will be exactly 1 ruby chosen, and hence 3 sapphires. And with Z gone, those 3sapphires are W, X, and Y. So: J, M, W, X, and Y are definitely chosen, and the final stone will be a ruby, either F or G.

Option [F and X are both selected.] is therefore the only possibility among the choices. Option [F and G are both selected.] would stick us with a total of 7 stones. And each of the remaining choices mentions a stone that we have definitively rejected: H in option [G and H are both selected.], K in option [G and K are both selected], and Z in option [Y and Z are both selected].

QUESTION NO: 14

A chess tournament is occurring in the local community school, and the players at all four of the tables are engaged in their fourth game against their prospective opponents.

The players with white pieces are: David, Gerry, Lenny and Terry

The players with black pieces are: Don, Mike, Richie and Stephen

The scores are 3:0, 2.5:0.5, 2:1, 1.5:1.5

[note: tied games result in a score of 0.5 points for each player]

Lenny is playing at the table to the right of Stephen, who has lost all of his games until now.

Gerry is playing against Mike.

At least one game at table 1 has resulted in a tie.

Richie, who is not in the lead over his opponent, has not been in a tied game.

The player who is using the white pieces at table 4 is Terry, however, the current score at table 4 is not 2:1. Don is leading his match after his last three games.

Which player has black pieces and is tied?

A. Mike

B. David

C. Richie

D. Don

E. Terry

ANSWER: A

QUESTION NO: 15

Barnes: The two newest employees at this company have salaries that are too high for the simple tasks normally assigned to new employees and duties that are too complex for inexperienced workers. Hence, the salaries and the complexity of the duties of these two newest employees should be reduced.

Which one of the following is an assumption on which Barnes's argument depends?

A. The duties of the two newest employees are not less complex than any others in the company.

B. It is because of the complex duties assigned that the two newest employees are being paid more than is usually paid to newly hired employees.

C. The two newest employees are not experienced at their occupations.

D. Barnes was not hired at a higher-than-average starting salary.

E. The salaries of the two newest employees are no higher than the salaries that other companies pay for workers with a similar level of experience.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

This is an Assumption question, so we will need the answer choice that connects the evidence with the conclusion. Barnes' conclusion is that the salaries and complexity of the duties of these two newest employees should be reduced. (Conveniently, the conclusion is pointed out by the Keyword "Hence".) Why should they be reduced? Because these employees have salaries that are too high for the simple tasks normally assigned to new employees and they have duties that are too complex for inexperienced workers. Can you see what's going on here? By concluding from this evidence that the two new employees should have their salaries and duties reduced, the author is just assuming that these two new employees are like typical new employees: they must have simple tasks assigned to them, and they are inexperienced. But what if that weren't true? What if they have nonsimple tasks assigned to them, or they are, in fact, experienced workers? Then there would be no reason to reduce their salaries and duties; Barnes' conclusion would not logically follow. So the author must be assuming that they are just like the typical new employee. Once you have this kind of prephrase in your head, you can attack the answer choices. [The two newest employees are not experienced at their occupations] is correct because it tells us that the new employees are just like typical new employees in one important respect—they are not experienced at their occupations.

QUESTION NO: 16

The village of Vestmannaeyjar, in the far northern country of Iceland, is as bright and clean and up-to-date as any American or Canadian suburb. It is located on the island of Heimaey, just off the mainland. One January night in 1973, however, householders were shocked from their sleep. In some backyards red-hot liquid was spurting from the ground. Flaming "skyrockets" shot up and over the houses. The island's volcano, Helgafell, silent for seven thousand years, was violently erupting! Luckily, the island's fishing fleet was in port, and within twenty-four hours almost everyone was ferried to the mainland. But then the agony of the island began in earnest.

As in a nightmare, fountains of burning lava spurted three hundred feet high. Black, baseball-size cinders rained down. An evil-smelling, eye-burning, throat-searing cloud of smoke and gas erupted into the air, and a river of lava flowed down the

mountain. The constant shriek of escaping steam was punctuated by ear-splitting explosions. As time went on, the once pleasant village of Vestmannaeyjar took on a weird aspect. Its street lamps still burning against the long Arctic night, the town lay under a thick blanket of cinders. All that could be seen above the ten-foot black drifts were the tips of street signs. Some houses had collapsed under the weight of cinders; others had burst into flames as the heat ignited their oil storage tanks. Lighting the whole lurid scene, fire continued to shoot from the mouth of the looming volcano.

The eruption continued for six months. Scientists and reporters arrived from around the world to observe the awesome natural event. But the town did not die that easily. In July, when the eruption ceased, the people of Heimaey Island returned to assess the chances of rebuilding their homes and lives. They found tons of ash covering the ground. The Icelanders are a tough people, however, accustomed to the strange and violent nature of their Arctic land. They dug out their homes. They even used the cinders to build new roads and airport runways. Now the new homes of Heimaey are warmed from water pipes heated by molten lava. The color of the hot liquid was

A. orange

B. black

C. yellow

D. red

E. gray

ANSWER: D

QUESTION NO: 17

A metropolitan area that has a population of more than 10 million and a population density of more than 2000 people per square kilometer is termed a megacity. Among the metropolitan areas of the United States, X and Z are megacities but Y is not.

If the statements above are true, each of the following statements must also be true EXCEPT:

A. Y is a metropolitan area with a population density of less than 2000 people per square kilometer.

B. X is a metropolitan area with a population density of more than 2000 people per square kilometer.

C. Z is a metropolitan area with a population of more than 10 million.

D. X is a metropolitan area with a population of more than 10 million.

E. At least some metropolitan areas of the United States have a population density of more than 2000 people per square kilometer.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Argument construction

This argument is about one specific type of areas, namely 'metropolitan' areas, and further about a sub-type of metropolitan areas, namely 'megacities.' So, the hierarchy of the areas is like this: ▪ All Areas

1. Non-metropolitan areas

2. Metropolitan areas (MA henceforth)

1. Megacities (MC henceforth)

2. Non-megacities

From this visual representation, it is easy to see to draw inferences like: All MC are MA but the vice-versa is not true.

The first statement of the argument is also its Premise 1. A metropolitan area that has a population of more than 10 million and a population density of more than 2000 people per square kilometer is termed a megacity.

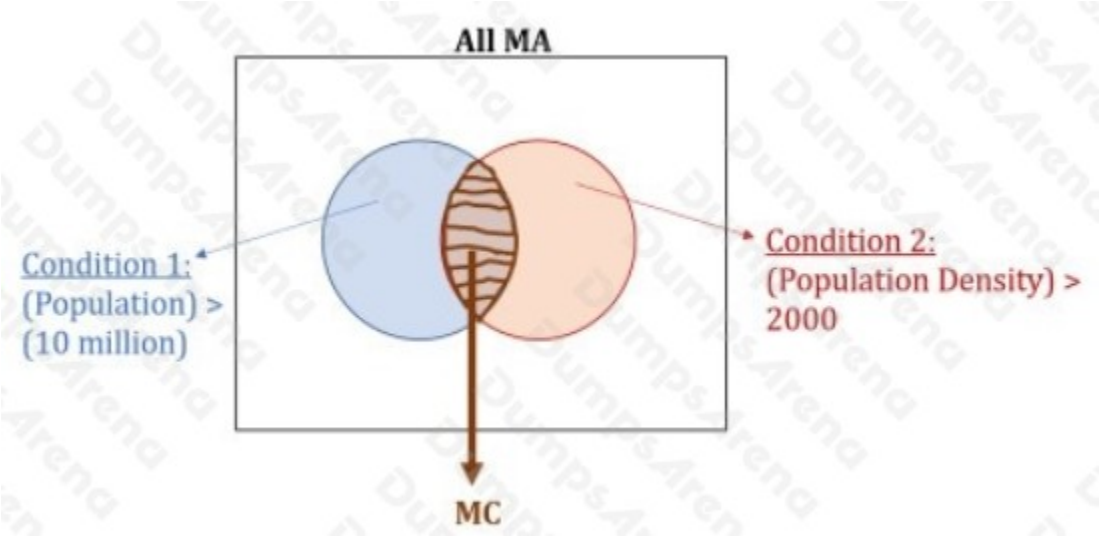
From this premise, we learn that to be termed a MC, a MA must fulfill two conditions – it should have:

1. Population > 10 million and

2. Population Density > 2000 per sq. km.

It is important to note that the word used to join the two conditions together in one sentence is 'and', not 'or.' This tells us that it is important that a MA fulfill both these conditions to get termed as a MC. Suppose it fulfills only condition 1 but not condition 2? Sorry, that won't do.

We may depict the 'and' requirement visually using the idea of overlapping sets as follows:



So, for a MA to be termed a MC, it must lie in the brown zone of the above diagram.

Now, coming to the second statement of the argument, which is also Premise 2: Among the metropolitan areas of the United States, X and Z are megacities but Y is not.

The first thing to note is the phrase "among the metropolitan areas of the United States." From this, we can be sure that the names that follow in this statement are all MA of the United States. So,

- X and Z are MA of the US
- Y is an MA of the US

Among these three MA of the US,

- X and Z are MC. This means, they do fulfill both the conditions mentioned in Premise 1. So, we may infer that both X and Z have: 1. Population > 10 million and

2. Population Density > 2000 per sq. km.

- Y is not a MC. What may we infer from this fact? Refer to the visual depiction above. If Y is not a MC, this means that it does not lie in the brown zone of the diagram. So, the possible zones in which Y may lie in the above diagram are:

Zone	Meaning
(That part of the blue circle which is outside the brown zone)	○ (Population) > (10 million) ○ (Population Density) NOT > 2000 ○ So, (Population Density) ≤ 2000
(That part of the red circle which is outside the brown zone)	○ (Population Density) > 2000 ○ (Population) NOT > (10 million) ○ So, (Population) ≤ 10 million
The white zone	○ (Population) ≤ 10 million ○ (Population Density) ≤ 2000

Let us analyze the options one by one.

Answer choices explanation

[Y is a metropolitan area with a population density of less than…] This option is correct. As discussed in the 'Argument Construction' part above, it is possible that Y lies in 'that part of the red circle which is outside the brown zone,' and, therefore, has a population density greater than 2000. Thus, this answer choice does not contain a "must be true" statement.

[X is a metropolitan area with a population density of more than...] This option is incorrect. This inference indeed must be true. We have already drawn this inference in the analysis done by us in the 'Argument Construction' part above.

[Z is a metropolitan area with a population of more than 10 million.] This option is incorrect. This inference indeed must be true. We have already drawn this inference in the analysis done by us in the 'Argument Construction' part above.

[X is a metropolitan area with a population of more than 10 million.] This option is incorrect. This inference indeed must be true. We have already drawn this inference in the analysis done by us in the 'Argument Construction' part above.

[At least some metropolitan areas of the United States have…] This option is incorrect. This inference indeed must be true. We know from the argument that there at least 2 MA in the US that have a population density >2000 (X and Z). So, even if no other MA in the US has a population density >2000, this option statement still holds true. Note that though inferring generalizations from specific facts is usually risky, the reason why this particular generalization works is because it is cautious in what it is claiming. Its claim is merely that "at least some" MA fulfill Condition 2 of becoming a MC. Had the claim been more exaggerated, like say, "Most MA fulfill Condition 2" or to go in the opposite direction, "Very few MA fulfill Condition 2," then the generalization would have ceased to be a "must be true" statement, because the facts of the case – which mentions only 3 of all the MA of the US – would have been insufficient to support the extent of the claim.

QUESTION NO: 18

It is impossible to do science without measuring. It is impossible to measure without having first selected units of measurement. Hence, science is arbitrary, since the selection of a unit of measurement — kilometer, mile, fathom, etc. — is always arbitrary.

The patteni of reasoning in which one of the following is most similar to that in the argument above

A. Long hours of practice are necessary for developing musical skill. One must develop one's musical skill in order to perform difficult music. But long hours of practice are tedious. So performing difficult music is tedious.

B. You have to advertise to run an expanding business, but advertising is expensive. Hence, it is expensive to run a business.

C. It is permissible to sit on the park benches. To sit on the park benches one must walk to them. One way to walk to them is by walking on the grass. So it is permissible to walk on the grass.

D. It is impossible to be a manager without evaluating people. The process of evaluation is necessarily subjective. Thus, people resent managers because they resent being evaluated subjectively.

E. Some farming on the plains requires irrigation. This irrigation now uses water pumped from aquifers. But aquifers have limited capacity and continued pumping will eventually exhaust them.
Thus, a new source of water will have to be found in order for such farming to continue indefinitely.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The most efficient way through this Parallel Reasoning question is to recognize the kinds of statements that comprise the original argument, and then to search for the argument that contains not only the same types of statements, but the same number of them as well. Hopefully you recognized the first two sentences as statements of necessity: Paraphrasing, these boil down to “science requires measuring” and “measuring requires selecting units.” These of course can be combined (science requires selecting units), another feature we’ll be looking for in the correct choice. Moving on, let’s hold the conclusion (signaled by “hence”) for last and finish with the evidence: “Selecting units is always arbitrary” — that’s a simple statement of fact — and that brings us to the conclusion that science is therefore arbitrary. So what do we have here? Two linked statements of necessity, a fact and a conclusion. That’s certainly enough to go on.

QUESTION NO: 19

Many educators in Canada and the United States advocate multicultural education as a means of achieving multicultural understanding. There are, however, a variety of proposals as to what multicultural education should consist of. The most modest of these proposals holds that schools and colleges should promote multicultural understanding by teaching about other cultures, teaching which proceeds from within the context of the majority culture. Students should learn about other cultures, proponents claim, but examination of these cultures should operate with the methods, perspectives, and values of the majority culture. These values are typically those of liberalism: democracy, tolerance, and equality of persons.

Critics of this first proposal have argued that genuine understanding of other cultures is impossible if the study of other cultures is refracted through the distorting lens of the majority culture's perspective. Not all cultures share liberal values. Their value systems have arisen in often radically different social and historical circumstances, and thus, these critics argue, cannot be understood and adequately appreciated if one insists on approaching them solely from within the majority culture's perspective.

In response to this objection, a second version of multicultural education has developed that differs from the first in holding that multicultural education ought to adopt a neutral stance with respect to the value differences among cultures. The values of one culture should not be standards by which others are judged; each culture should be taken on its own terms. However, the methods of examination, study, and explanation of cultures in this second version of multicultural education are still identifiably Western. They are the methods of anthropology, social psychology, political science, and sociology. They are, that is, methods which derive from the Western scientific perspective and heritage.

Critics of this second form of multicultural education argue as follows: The Western scientific heritage is founded upon an epistemological system that prizes the objective over the subjective, the logical over the intuitive, and the empirically

verifiable over the mystical. The methods of social-scientific examination of cultures are thus already value laden; the choice to examine and understand other cultures by these methods involves a commitment to certain values such as objectivity. Thus, the second version of multicultural education is not essentially different from the first. Scientific discourse has a privileged place in Western cultures, but the discourses of myth, tradition, religion, and mystical insight are often the dominant forms of thought and language of non-Western cultures. To insist on trying to understand nonscientific cultures by the methods of Western science is not only distorting, but is also an expression of an attempt to maintain a Eurocentric cultural chauvinism: the chauvinism of science. According to this objection, it is only by adopting the (often nonscientific) perspectives and methods of the cultures studied that real understanding can be achieved.

Critics who raise the objection discussed in the second paragraph would be most likely to agree with which one of the following?

A. The social and historical circumstances that give rise to a culture's values cannot be understood by members of a culture with different values.

B. The historical and social circumstances of a culture can play an important role in the development of that culture's values.

C. It is impossible for one culture to successfully study another culture unless it does so from more than one cultural perspective.

D. Genuine understanding of another culture is impossible unless that culture shares the same cultural values.

E. The values of liberalism cannot be adequately understood if we approach them solely through the methods of Western science.

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Would be most likely to agree" clearly signals an Inference question, and we are sent right to 2, which we ought to reread, or skim, before attacking the choices.

QUESTION NO: 20

There are exactly ten stores and no other buildings on Oak Street. On the north side of the street, from west to east, are stores 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9; on the south side of the street, also from west to east, are stores 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. The stores on the north side are located directly across the street from those on the south side, facing each other in pairs, as follows: 1 and 2; 3 and 4; 5 and 6;

7 and 8; 9 and 10. Each store is decorated with lights in exactly one of the following colors: green, red, and yellow. The stores have been decorated with lights according to the following conditions:

No store is decorated with lights of the same color as those of any store adjacent to it.

No store is decorated with lights of the same color as those of the store directly across the street from it. Yellow lights decorate exactly one store on each side of the street.

Red lights decorate store 4.

Yellow lights decorate store 5.

Suppose that yellow lights decorate exactly two stores, not just one, on the south side of the street and decorate exactly one store on the north side.

If all of the other conditions remain the same, then which one of the following statements must be true?

A. Green lights decorate store 1.

B. Red lights decorate store 7.

C. Red lights decorate store 10.

D. Yellow lights decorate store 2.

E. Yellow lights decorate store 8.

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The new “suppose” doesn’t affect the north side, but it means we have to rethink the south. We

need two yellows there. With stores 4 and 6 red and green respectively, and since we’re still unable to have adjacent yellows, the two yellows will be stores 2 and 8, or 2 and 10. You may have started to draw all of this out, but it is to be hoped that you quickly saw that we have just deduced that option [Yellow lights decorate store 2.] is true. Option [Green lights decorate store 1.] is false, the others possible only.