

## GMAT Verbal Practice Paper

### CRITICAL REASONING:

#### Question: 1

Lauren is clearly going to make an awful professor. Nearly half of her students failed their final this past spring. She should probably choose another career path, because her students' performance demonstrates that she doesn't teach very well.

What statement, if true, most weakens the argument above?

- This was Lauren's second time teaching a college class.
- The class Lauren was teaching is a required class for all freshmen.
- The students who failed the exam also had poor attendance.
- The students who passed the exam attended an optional review session Lauren's teaching assistant held.
- Lauren struggled early in the semester with lesson planning.

#### Question: 2

Three years ago, Ron gave up eating anything with wheat in it. In that time, he lowered his cholesterol by 100 points and lost nearly 85 pounds. He says he feels better than he has in years. As a result, he is writing a book which says that everyone should stop eating wheat products. He says people are not made to eat wheat and that giving it up is the key to losing weight and being healthier.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument above?

- Wheat is found in nearly all processed foods.
- Ron has a family history of celiac disease, which is an extreme sensitivity to wheat gluten.
- Some studies have shown that a lower carbohydrate diet can help people lose weight and feel better.
- Ron runs three miles every morning.
- Ron used to be a vegetarian but has resumed eating meat.

**Question: 3**

Gina doesn't understand why she cannot get a job as a computer engineer. She even went back to school and got a degree in computer science. After two years on the job market with only a few interviews and no offers, she is starting to wonder if she is not getting hired because she is a woman. One of her friends told her that women seldom succeed in technology fields, and she is beginning to believe it.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument above?

- Gina got her degree online.
- All the people Gina has interviewed with have been men.
- Gina had both female and male professors in college.
- Gina graduated with a C average.
- Gina interviews very well.

**Question: 4**

It seems like every day you turn on the local news and you hear about someone being murdered in our city. It is really frightening. I am not sure I want to live somewhere so violent, and crime is clearly going up here. Otherwise the news shows wouldn't have so many murders to report.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument above?

- Federal statistics show that crime in the city has dropped by 2% over the last year.
- Local groups have encouraged the media to do more reporting on crimes committed against minorities in the city.
- Studies have shown that as crime rates decrease in a city, media coverage of violent crime often increases, giving a false impression of more crime.
- The speaker watches three different newscasts every day.
- Federal statistics show that the crime rate in the city has remained steady.

**Question: 5**

Sarah: "I don't understand why you recycle so much. The recycling program costs the city several million dollars a year. Trash disposal at the landfill costs half as much per household than the municipal recycling program. It just doesn't seem cost effective to have a recycling program."

Lauren: "The point of recycling isn't to save money. By recycling, we keep thousands of tons of materials out of our landfills, which mean we can use the same landfills longer. It's about conserving our resources, not about saving money on trash pickup."

Lauren's response to Sarah serves to

- Support Sarah's contention that recycling is too expensive.
- Refute Sarah's argument that recycling is more expensive than taking trash to the landfill.
- Suggest to Sarah that there is an alternate view of why recycling makes good sense for the people of their city.
- Points to a fundamental value difference between the two when it comes to conservation.
- Points out her ignorance of municipal finances.

**Question: 6**

Recently, All Trees Lumber Company has been accused of racial discrimination in hiring and promotion practices. The plaintiffs point to the fact that, of top executives, only 3 of 30 are people of color. At the same time, the majority of the people doing entry-level labor in the lumber mills are people of color. They assert that people of color are only hired to do lower-paid, high risk work at All Trees.

How could the lawyers for All Trees best refute the claims of racial discrimination?

- By showing that all executives at the same level make the same salary, regardless of race.
- By showing that people awarded promotions had the same or better qualifications than those rejected.
- By demonstrating that it is necessary to have a college degree to earn a promotion.
- By giving the statistics of the number of white employees doing entry-level jobs.
- By actively recruiting white applicants for entry-level jobs.

**Question: 7**

Jensen Strawberry Farms in Central Texas went organic two years ago. The first year, they had a bumper crop of strawberries and could barely keep up with the demand from local restaurants and markets. This year, however, their yield fell by more than 50%. The Jensens are now considering going back to conventional farming, since organic farming does not appear to be sustainable.

Which of the following, if true, weakens the argument above?

- It takes up to three years for traces of some pesticides used on strawberries to leave the soil.
- Other organic strawberry farms in California and Oregon produced larger-than-normal crops this year.
- Organic lettuce farms near to Jensen Strawberry Farms also saw a lower-than-normal yield this year.
- Central Texas experienced temperatures above 100 degrees and had no rain for 75 straight days this year.
- Jensen Strawberry Farms got its crop in a week earlier this year than last year.

**Question: 8**

Lefty is certain that he only pitches well if he eats fried chicken for lunch the day of a game. The last three times he's eaten fried chicken for lunch, he has pitched a shut-out. He is sure that if he eats something else on his team's next road trip, he will not have a good outing.

Which of the following would be a good way to test Lefty's theory about fried chicken?

- Lefty should eat something different before his next game and see how he pitches.
- Lefty's manager should have him keep a food diary for the next month to see how what he eats correlates with how he pitches that day.
- Lefty's manager should point out that Lefty has pitched as many shut-outs on days when he didn't eat fried chicken as he did on fried chicken days.
- Lefty should continue to eat fried chicken on game days.
- Lefty should ask his doctor if eating too much fried food is dangerous.

**Question: 9**

According to latest research by some professors at Michigan State University, Ozone layer depletion is one of the major causes of Global Warming. Also, because of ozone depletion, there are some noxious rays which enter the earth's environment and cause permanent eye infection in some animals.

Which of the following options support the above stated argument?

- All wavelengths are not harmful for eyes
- Human eyes are not infected by harmful wavelengths
- Very few species of animals are exposed to these harmful wavelengths of light
- Some harmful radiations can easily enter earth's environment due to ozone depletion
- Due to global warming, the temperature of the earth is increasing which in turn cause eye infection in some species of animals

**Question: 10**

Recent research has shown that giving pregnant women Pitocin to induce labor results in longer labors, more fetal distress, and more emergency Caesarean sections. Pitocin speeds up labor contractions, resulting in more pain for the woman and thus more need for epidurals and pain medications. These medications can cause the fetus's heart rate to drop, which in turn makes a Caesarean necessary. Many times, women are given Pitocin so that they deliver on the doctor's schedule, rather than because their babies are ready to be born. Fetuses that were not in distress before the administering of Pitocin sometimes quickly become distressed after the drug is given, which leads to more medical interventions.

Which of the following states the point of this passage?

- Medical interventions during labor cause the very problems they were meant to prevent.
- All medical intervention in pregnancy is unnecessary.
- Administering Pitocin to speed labor may result in a series of other medical interventions that are distressing to both mother and baby.
- Doctors care more about efficiency than patient care.
- Caesarean deliveries are always unnecessary.

**SENTENCE CORRECTION**

**Question: 1**

For homes in typically colder geographic regions, it is particularly important to have effective and efficient heating systems.

- For homes in typically colder geographic regions
- For people in homes in typically colder geographic regions
- For homes in typically cold geographic regions
- People in typically colder geographic regions
- Homes in typically colder geographic regions

**Question: 2**

Inside the glove compartment were legal documents, pictures, and there were a few napkins from the coffee shop, but no gloves.

- and there were a few napkins from the coffee shop, but no gloves.
- and there were a few napkins from the coffee shop, but not any gloves.
- and napkins from the coffee shop, no gloves were there.
- and napkins from the coffee shop, but no gloves.
- and napkins from the coffee shop, there were no gloves.

**Question: 3**

Concerns about global warming have grown into actual efforts sanctioned by non-governmental organizations and governments that not only work to understand global warming and also to prevent it.

- understand global warming and also to prevent it.
- understand global warming but also to prevent it.
- understand global warming yet also to prevent it.

- understand global warming but also to prevent its growth.
- understand global warming yet also to prevent it's growth.**

**Question: 4**

Even though I have seen the movie countless times, I still laughed when the sheriff throws his mug.

- laughed when the sheriff throws his mug.
- laugh when the sheriff throws his mug.
- laugh when the sheriff threw his mug.
- laughed whenever the sheriff throws his mug.
- laugh when the sheriff will throw his mug.

**Question: 5**

High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.

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- High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider yourselves successful.

**Question: 6**

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**Question: 7**

Lockers in schools are often dilapidated, making student's valuables susceptible to theft.

- making student's valuables susceptible to theft
- which makes student's valuables susceptible to theft
- that makes student's valuables susceptible to theft
- that makes students' valuables susceptible to theft
- making students' valuables susceptible to theft

**Question: 8**

Fleeing the horde of zombies on foot, an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple.

- an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple.
- the terrified couple spotted a building that looked safe.
- a safe looking building was spotted by the terrified couple.
- the terrified couple's luck changed when they spotted a safe looking building.
- their fear subsided somewhat when the terrified couple would spot a safe looking building.



**Question: 9**

Natural disasters have been increasingly effecting nearly every part of the world in the past decade with catastrophic tornadoes, hurricanes and tsunamis.

- have been increasingly effecting
- has been increasingly effecting
- have been increasingly affecting
- will be increasingly effecting
- will be increasingly affecting

**Question: 10**

For every song that is a hit, it is critical to have a quality “beat” and quality lyrics; however, music companies hire professional producers and song writers.

- however
- therefore
- nevertheless
- and
- yet

**READING COMPREHENSION**

**Question: 1**

The following passage is from a discussion of various ways that living creatures have been classified over the years.

	The world can be classified in different ways,
	depending on one's interests and principles of clas-
	sification. The classifications (also known as
Line	taxonomies) in turn determine which comparisons
5	seem natural or unnatural, which literal or analog-
	ical. For example, it has been common to classify

living creatures into three distinct groups—plants, animals, and humans. According to this classification, human beings are not a special kind of animal, nor animals a special kind of plant. Thus any comparisons between the three groups are strictly analogical. Reasoning from inheritance in garden peas to inheritance in fruit flies, and from these two species to inheritance in human beings, is sheer poetic metaphor.

Another mode of classifying living creatures is commonly attributed to Aristotle. Instead of treating plants, animals, and humans as distinct groups, they are nested. All living creatures possess a vegetative soul that enables them to grow and metabolize. Of these, some also have a sensory soul that enables them to sense their environments and move. One species also has a rational soul that is capable of true understanding. Thus, human beings are a special sort of animal, and animals are a special sort of plant. Given this classification, reasoning from human beings to all other species with respect to the attributes of the vegetative soul is legitimate, reasoning from human beings to other animals with respect to the attributes of the sensory soul is also legitimate, but reasoning from the rational characteristics of the human species to any other species is merely analogical. According to both classifications, the human species is unique. In the first, it has a kingdom all to itself; in the second, it stands at the pinnacle of the taxonomic hierarchy.

Homo sapiens is unique. All species are. But this sort of uniqueness is not enough for many (probably most) people, philosophers included. For some reason, it is very important that the species to which we belong be uniquely unique. It is of utmost importance that the human species be insulated from all other species with respect to how we explain certain qualities. Human beings clearly are capable of developing and learning

languages. For some reason, it is very important that the waggle dance performed by bees \* not count as a genuine language. I have never been able to understand why. I happen to think that the waggle dance differs from human languages to such a degree that little is gained by terming them both "languages," but even if "language" is so defined that the waggle dance slips in, bees still remain bees. It is equally important to some that no other species use tools. No matter how ingenious other species get in the manipulation of objects in their environment, it is absolutely essential that nothing they do count as "tool use." I, however, fail to see what difference it makes whether any of these devices such as probes and anvils, etc. are really tools. All the species involved remain distinct biological species no matter what decisions are made. Similar observations hold for rationality and anything a computer might do.

**A. According to the author, what is most responsible for influencing our perception of a comparison between species?**

- The behavior of the organisms in their natural environment
- The organizational scheme imposed on the living world by researchers and philosophers
- The style of language used by scientists in presenting their research
- The sophistication of the communication between organisms
- The magnitude of hierarchical distance between a species and Homo sapiens

**B. Which of the following is NOT possible within an Aristotelian classification scheme?**

- Two species that are alike in having sensory souls but differ in that one lacks a rational soul
- Two species that are alike in having vegetative souls but differ in that only one has a sensory soul
- A species having a vegetative soul while lacking sensory and rational souls

- A species having vegetative and rational souls while lacking a sensory soul
- A species having vegetative and sensory souls while lacking a rational soul

**C. Which of the following comparisons would be "legitimate" for all living organisms according to the Aristotelian scheme described in paragraph two?**

- I. Comparisons based on the vegetative soul
- II. Comparisons based on the sensory soul
- III. Comparisons based on the rational soul

- I only
- II only
- III only
- II and III only
- I, II, and III

**D. If the author had wished to explain why "most" people (line 40) feel the way they do, the explanation would have probably focused on the**

- reality of distinct biological species
- most recent advances in biological research
- behavioral similarities between Homo sapiens and other species
- role of language in the development of technology
- lack of objectivity in the classification of Homo sapiens

**E. The author uses the words "For some reason" in lines 40-41 to express**

- rage
- disapproval
- despair

- sympathy
- uncertainty

**F. Which best summarizes the idea of "uniquely unique" (line 42)?**

- We are unique in the same way that all other species are unique.
- We are defined by attributes that we alone possess and that are qualitatively different from those of other species.
- We are, by virtue of our elevated rank, insulated from many of the problems of survival faced by less sophisticated species.
- Our awareness of our uniqueness defines us as a rational species.
- Our apparently unique status is an unintended by-product of classification systems.

**G. In line 44, "insulated from" means**

- warmed by
- covered with
- barred from
- segregated from
- protected from

**H. In the third paragraph, the author criticizes those who believe that**

- the similarities between Homo sapiens and other species are more significant than their differences
- the differences between Homo sapiens and other animals are those of degree, not kind
- Homo sapiens and animals belong to separate and distinct divisions of the living world
- Homo sapiens and animals have the ability to control their environment
- Homo sapiens and other organisms can be arranged in Aristotelian nested groups