

## GMAT VERBAL PRACTICE PAPER

### CRITICAL REASONING:

#### QUESTION: 1

Online classes are clearly easier than face to face classes. Students can log in whenever they want, and they do not have to show up to class or listen to lectures. I am going to take as many online classes as possible so I can breeze through my degree.

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

- A) Online courses require students to log in five days a week.
- B) Face to face classes only meet twice a week.
- C) Online courses require students to participate in the discussion by posting to a discussion board at least three times during the week, and also require a major research paper at the end of the course.
- D) Many upper level courses are not offered online.
- E) There is a higher faculty/student ratio in online courses.

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

#### QUESTION: 2

A major natural grocery chain wants to help address the problem of urban food deserts. It decides to build stores in three of the city's most impoverished neighborhoods. These neighborhoods have not had their own grocery stores in many years, leading residents to live on diets of fast food and convenience foods. The grocery chain feels that building the stores in these neighborhoods will encourage people to eat more healthy foods.

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

- People in poverty prefer quick, easy food.
- The prices at the natural food store are 10-20% higher than the prices at the convenience stores and fast food restaurants.

- The grocery store chain will give classes on how to cook with natural foods.
- The grocery store chain's other stores are in wealthier neighborhoods.
- Most people in the impoverished neighborhoods use food stamps.

**QUESTION: 3**

A recent study of heart disease interviewed people about what they had eaten for the past month. Researchers found that people who regularly ate pickles had lower rates of heart disease than people who ate them only infrequently. Therefore, eating pickles regularly must help prevent heart disease.

The above statement represents which kind of logical fallacy?

- Ad Hominem
- Confusing cause and effect
- Post Hoc
- Bandwagon
- Genetic Fallacy

**QUESTION: 4**

My uncle is a big supporter of off-shore drilling for oil as a solution to the nation's energy crisis. But of course he would say that. He works for one of the nation's biggest oil companies.

The above is an example of which kind of logical fallacy?

- Post Hoc
- Bandwagon
- Genetic Fallacy
- Ad Hominem
- Burden of Proof

**QUESTION: 5**

With the possible exception of Kristeva, all French feminist philosophers are incredibly anti-male.

If the above statement is true, which of the following can you infer?

- English feminist philosophers are anti-male.
- French feminist philosophy is entirely without merit.
- If someone is a French philosopher they are anti-male.
- Kristeva's work is not overtly anti-male.
- Men cannot be feminist philosophers.

**QUESTION: 6**

My history professor is recognized as an expert on the Kennedy assassination. He said in class that there had to be a second shooter on the grassy knoll. Therefore, there had to be another shooter, meaning Oswald was framed.

This argument falls prey to which type of logical fallacy?

- Ad Hominem
- Confusing cause and effect
- Post Hoc
- Bandwagon
- Appeal to Authority

**QUESTION: 7**

Researchers have noted that African Americans have higher rates of sickle cell anemia than do white Americans. They have also noted that people in some regions of Africa have high level of the sickle cell trait, which is believed to help protect people from malaria. Therefore, the majority of African Americans must be descended from people from the regions of Africa that have high levels of sickle cell trait.

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

- The areas of Africa with high levels of sickle cell trait were heavily involved in the slave trade.
- Slaves in the American South were exposed to malaria at high levels.

- People with sickle cell trait are less likely to die from malaria than those without this trait.
- The areas of Africa with high levels of sickle cell trait were not areas of heavy slave traffic.
- It is impossible to tell from DNA analysis what someone's ancestry is.

**QUESTION: 8**

In 2003, Alan used a new type of pesticides in order to increase the net yield of his crops. Because of these new pesticides, the net yield of his crops doubled which made him really happy and he decided to continue with these pesticides. For next four years, the yield of his crops increased consistently compared to the previous years. In 2008, the yield of his crops decreased exponentially, which caused severe financial problems for Alan.

Which of the following statements explains the reason for the drop in net yield this year?

- A) Significant and consistent increases in the net yield of the crops from previous years eventually lead to the exhaustion of essential nutrients from the soil.
- B) Alan was diagnosed with diabetes in 2006 and he didn't put in equally good effort this time to increase the yields.
- C) Other farms also started using the same pesticides which led to a decreased efficiency of these pesticides
- D) As a result of economic recession, the market size for the crops which Alan's farm produced shrank significantly.
- E) The region where Alan's farm was located experienced a historic drought two years ago which led to decreased overall yield.

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

**QUESTION: 9**

Our company wants to ensure that all employees are honest. One of the questions we ask each new job applicant is if he or she has ever stolen from an employer. We are confident that this will help weed out dishonest people.

Which of the following, if true, exposes the major flaw in the argument?

- It is illegal to ask people if they have ever committed a crime.
- People who have stolen from a former employer are unlikely to admit this to a prospective new employer.
- Just because someone has never stolen before doesn't mean he or she might not steal in the future.
- Just because someone has stolen in the past doesn't mean he or she will steal again.
- People lie when they really want a job.

### QUESTION: 10

Diane does not think that gay people should get married. She argues that, if gay couples are allowed to get legally married, the next step will be to legalize polygamy and child marriage. Clearly, if we are going to save American society, we must not legalize gay marriages.

Which logical fallacy does Diane's argument employ?

- Red Herring
- Post Hoc
- Bandwagon
- Confusing cause and effect
- Slippery Slope

### SENTENCE CORRECTION

**Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised.**

### QUESTION: 1

Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.

- Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.
- Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, is an accessory used by members of all

classes.

- Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, are an accessory used by members of all classes.
- Jewelry is accessorized by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.
- Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes which includes watches, necklaces and wearing earrings.

**QUESTION: 2**

There are many reasons to see I Heart Huckabees, Jason Schwartzman's performance being one reason.

- Huckabees, Jason Schwartzman's performance being one reason.
- Huckabees, Jason Schwartzman's performance is only one of them.
- Huckabees; Jason Schwartzman's performance, for one.
- Huckabees, the performance of Jason Schwartzman is one of them.
- Huckabees, including Jason Schwartzman's performance.

**QUESTION: 3**

Fraternities are a great way to make friends and learn important lessons of loyalty and compassion.

- are a great way to make friends and
- is a great way to make friends and
- will have been a great way to make friends and
- will be a great way to make friends and
- is a great way to make friends however

**QUESTION: 4**

Lindsey knows that the reason people dislike her is because of her being a Philadelphia Phillies fan.

- is because of her being a
- is because she is a
- is that she is a
- is her being a
- is that of her being a

**QUESTION: 5**

Sports commentators often provide informative and witty insight during games that enhance the sports-watching experience.

- enhance the sports-watching experience.
- enhance the experience.
- enhances the sports-watching experience.
- enhances the sports-watching experience for fans.
- have enhanced the sports-watching experiences for fans.

**QUESTION: 6**

A shockingly indelible moment, I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when I found out that Kurt Cobain had died.

- A shockingly indelible moment,
- A shocking, indelible moment,
- It was a shocking and indelible moment;
- Shocked and indelible,
- Shocking and I will never forget it,

**QUESTION: 7**

Since the work force is becoming increasingly competitive in light of technological advances and outsourcing, therefore, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.

- therefore, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- moreover, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- but, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- so it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.

**QUESTION: 8**

Study the ancient fighting art of Hapkido and you will learn to avoid directly matching your strength against your opponent's.

- your strength against your opponent's.
- yours against your opponent.
- your strength against your opponent.
- your strength with your opponent.
- your opponent's strength against one's own.

**QUESTION: 9**

Plenty of high school students spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.

- spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.
- spend his time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.
- spend one's time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.d.



- spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and senior citizens.
- spend their time involving in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.

**QUESTION: 10**

McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States state department.

- McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States stat
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**READING COMPREHENSION:**

**Question: 1**

In this passage a Mexican American historian describes a technique she used as part of her research.

Doña  
Teodora  
offered  
me yet  
another  
cup of  
strong,

black coffee. The aroma of the big, paper-thin Sonoran  
tortillas filled the small, linoleum-covered kitchen, and I  
Line knew that with the coffee I would receive a buttered tortilla  
5 straight from the round, homemade comal (a flat, earthen-  
ware cooking pan) balanced on the gas-burning stove. For

three days, from ten in the morning until early evening, I had been sitting in the same comfortable wooden chair, taking cup after cup of black coffee and consuming hot tortillas. Doña Teodora was ninety years old, and although she would take occasional breaks from patting, extending, and turning over tortillas to let her cat in or out, it appeared that I was the only one exhausted at the end of the day. But once out, as I went over the notes, filed and organized the tape cassettes, exhilaration would set in. The intellectual and emotional excitement I had previously experienced when a pertinent document would suddenly appear now waned in comparison to the gestures and words, the joy and anger doña Teodora offered.

20 She had not written down her thoughts; but the ideas, recollections, and images evoked by her lively oral expression were jewels for anyone who wanted to know about the life of Mexicanas \* in booming mining towns on both sides of the Mexico-United States border in the early twentieth century. She never kept a diary. The thought of writing a memoir would have been put aside as presumptuous. But all her life doña Teodora had lived amidst the telling and retelling of family stories. Genealogies of her own family as well as complete and up-to-date information of the marriages, births, and deaths of numerous families that made up her community were all well-kept memories. These chains of generations were fleshed out with recollections of the many events and tribulations of these families. Oral history had proven to be a fertile field for my research on the history of Mexicanas.

40 My search had begun in libraries and archives—repositories of conventional history. The available sources were to be found in census reports, church records, directories, and other such statistical information. These, however, as important as they are, cannot provide one of the essential dimensions of history, the full narrative of the human experience that defies quantification and classification. In certain social groups this gap can be filled with diaries, memoirs, letters, or even reports from others. In the case of Mexicanas in the United States, one of the many devastating consequences of defeat and conquest has been that the traditional institutions that preserve and transfer culture (the documentation of the past) have ignored these personal written sources. The letters, writings, and documents of Mexican people have rarely, if ever, been included in

archives, special collections, or libraries. At best, some centers have attempted to collect newspapers published by Mexicans, but the effort was started late. The historian who tries to reconstruct the past from newspapers is constantly frustrated because, although titles abound, collections are scarce and often incomplete.

Although many hours of previous study and preparation had taken me to doña Teodora's kitchen, I was initially unsure of my place. Was I really an insider or were the experiences that had made the lives of my interviewees such that, although I could speak Spanish and am Mexicana, I was still an outsider?

I realized, nonetheless, that the richness and depth of the spoken word challenges the comforting theories and models of the social sciences. Mexican history challenges social-science models derived solely from victorious imperialistic experiences.

Our history cannot be written without new sources. These sources will determine which concepts are needed to illuminate and interpret the past, and these concepts will emerge from the people themselves. This will permit the description of events and structures to assume a culturally relevant perspective, thus emphasizing the point of view of the Mexican people. The use of theoretical constructs must follow the voices of the people who live the reality, consciously or not. For too long the experiences of women have been studied according to male-oriented sources and constructs. These must be questioned. For the history of Mexican people, the sources primarily exist in our own worlds. And it is here where we must begin. I often found that as the memory awakened, other sources would emerge. Boxes of letters, photographs, and even manuscripts and diaries would appear. Long-standing assumptions of illiteracy were shattered and had to be reexamined. I saw that constant reevaluation became the rule rather than the exception. I entered women's worlds created on the margin—not only of Anglo life, but of, and outside of, the lives of their own fathers, husbands, sons, brothers, or priests, bosses, and bureaucrats.

**A. The author's comments in the third paragraph (lines 36-56) suggest that her research project resembles more conventional research in its**

- attention to the details of everyday life in certain communities
- use of written public materials as a starting point
- adoption of family memories of past events as data
- reliance on church and state records to test new theories
- assumption that conventional sources are accurate but incomplete

**B. In what sense are "census reports, church records, directories" (line 38) inadequate?**

- They place too great a reliance on political factors.
- They blur the distinction between the political and the religious realm.
- They are not of sufficient accuracy to be of use to historians.
- They do not tell the human side of the story.
- They are often too difficult to obtain.

**C. The "gap" referred to in line 43 can best be described as the distance between the**

- politically motivated view of reality and the personally motivated view of reality
- abundance of concrete facts and the shortage of scholarly interpretation of them
- pictures presented by traditional historical sources and by subjective personal accounts
- information contained in libraries and the information that has been lost
- story of one person and the history of a nation as a whole

**D. In line 59, "place" most nearly means**

- home
- duty
- role
- appropriate moment
- geographical location

**E. What is the effect of the question in lines 59-62?**

- It suggests that sharing ethnicity and language might not be enough to make one an insider.
- It eliminates the distinction between insider and outsider.
- It refutes the claim that being an outsider is an important criterion for doing research.
- It suggests that only those with an outsider's perspective can see things objectively.
- It suggests that human sympathy is more important than ethnicity or language.

**F. Which statement most accurately presents the author's sense of the relationship between the "spoken word" (line 64) and the "theories and models of the social sciences" (lines 64-65)?**

- Theories and models must come first in order to make sense of the spoken word.
- The spoken word makes general theories and models unnecessary.
- Theories and models cannot account for quantitative data as well as the spoken word can.
- The spoken word is more likely to introduce errors into the historical record than are theories and models.
- The spoken word can yield greater insight than presently accepted theories and models can.

**G. The author indicates that the "concepts" mentioned in lines 69-70 originate in**

- informal records and information provided by ordinary people
- comments of senior members of a community on the ways the community has functioned
- patterns of social behavior that have been exhibited by previously studied cultures
- personal experiences of historians who have interviewed many people
- systematic categories devised by historians for various types of sources