

GMAT Verbal Practice Paper

Critical reasoning

1. Pollution levels in natural habitats have risen so much that many wild game animals have been dangerously contaminated. New legislation is needed to further regulate the processing and distribution of wild-animal meat.
 - Which of the following, if true, most strengthens this argument?

A Habitat destruction presents a greater threat to wild game populations than does hunting.

B Game meat is lower in unhealthy hormones and antibiotics than meat from commercially raised animals.

C Purchased game meat is the primary source of animal protein for a significant number of people.

D The wild animal population has held fairly steady over the past decade.

E Drafting appropriate legislation would be a lengthy and expensive process.

2. A business is considering changing its work week structure. At present, employees work the standard Monday to Friday work week. The new structure would allow employees to choose which two days to claim as their weekend, opening up the option to work on Saturdays and Sundays.
 - The adoption of this plan would be most likely to decrease employees' productivity if the employees' job functions required them to _____.

A work undisturbed for several hours at a time.

B submit their work for weekly managerial appraisal.

C work late hours.

D collaborate on monthly group projects.

E correspond with banks daily, which are usually closed on Sundays.

3. Cheddar cheese is higher in saturated fats than Gouda cheese. Because Brie cheese is higher in saturated fat than Camembert cheese, we can conclude that Cheddar cheese has more saturated fat than Camembert cheese.
 - Any of the following statements, if introduced as an additional premise, makes the above argument logically correct EXCEPT:

A Camembert cheese has less fat than Gouda cheese.

B Gouda cheese is higher in fat than Brie cheese.

C Gouda cheese and Brie cheese have the same fat content.

D The fat content of Cheddar cheese is equal to the fat content of Brie.

E Brie cheese is higher in saturated fat than cheddar cheese.

4. Composer: The works of Mozart's sister, Maria Anna Mozart (nicknamed Nannerl), unfortunately have not survived to the present-day. However, there is evidence as a child she travelled between European cities with her famous brother, showcasing her considerable harpsichord and pianoforte skills. Had her work survived, it's likely posterity would have recognized two genius Mozarts, rather than one.

- Which of the following best suggests that the conclusion suggested by the composer is justified?

A There are diary entries and correspondence that have survived to present-day which indicate Nannerl was as prolific as her brother.

B Most of Mozart's musical ability was inherited from his parents who were themselves talented musicians.

C The composer's opinion is shared by most experts on the Mozart family.

D Women were not encouraged in Mozart's day to become professional musicians.

E Mozart's earliest contributions were on the violin, while Nannerl's were likely to be on the keyboard.

5. A study of 1,000 elementary school students across the nation found that those who had received some training in the violin performed better academically, on average, than those who had not. This suggests that learning to play a musical instrument makes children that age academically stronger.

- The conclusion of this argument assumes which of the following?

A Better academic performance can be attributed to factors other than musical ability.

B The skills required to learn to play the violin are common to all musical instruments.

C High academic prowess results from the skills nurtured by learning to play an instrument.

D There is no proven correlation between musical skill and academic ability.

E Many high-ranked schools require students to learn to play an instrument at this age.

6. Although both white and black moths can be found in the relatively new industrial area of City X, the fact that only the white version can be found in the original, residential part of City X indicates that the black moth in City X is a recent evolutionary development. While the City X moth was originally white, **mutant black moths living near the factories in the industrial area enjoyed a competitive survival advantage, since they blended in better with the sooty air**

and buildings. Also noteworthy is that **the moths in nearby City Y, where there never were any factories, are all white.**

- In the given argument, what role do the boldfaced selections play?

- A The first is the argument's main conclusion; the second suggests an exception to that conclusion.
- B The first is evidence in support of the argument's main conclusion; the second is evidence in support of an alternative, rejected conclusion.
- C The first is an interpretation of evidence offered in support of the main conclusion; the second is other evidence offered in support of the main conclusion.
- D The first is an interpretation of evidence that would support an alternate conclusion; the second is evidence in support of the argument's main conclusion.
- E They are both evidence offered in support of a conclusion that is rejected.

7. Eatco, a restaurant equipment supply firm, has decided to pay all of its salespeople on a commission structure rather than the salary structure previously used at the company. Eatco executives have assured the sales staff that, with the busy holiday season coming up, the commission structure will either maintain or increase the salespeople's current pay.

- Which of the following could cause the assurances given by Eatco executives to the sales staff to be untrue?

- A A competing restaurant equipment supply firm also switches its salespeople over to a commission structure.
- B Some customers requesting items that are out of stock and have to be ordered.
- C The old salary structure did not include health insurance, but the commission structure provides the salespeople with the option to subscribe to a cafeteria-style insurance plan.
- D Several new restaurants are opening in the area.
- E The Eatco executives decided to hire several new salespeople on the commission structure, in order to make sure that all customers are getting the best possible service.

8. Psychologists have noticed that the vast majority of diagnosed sociopaths were juvenile delinquents in their youth. They hypothesize that a juvenile delinquent is more likely than youth in the general population to become a diagnosed sociopath as an adult because punishment at a young age fosters antisocial behavior.

- Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the psychologists' interpretation of the link between punishment and antisocial behavior?

- A The rate of adults diagnosed as sociopaths who were not juvenile delinquents is four times lower than the rate of adults diagnosed as sociopaths who were juvenile delinquents.
- B The correlation found by the psychologists has been noted to be true for psychopaths and those with borderline personality disorder.
- C Almost everyone who spent time in juvenile hall as a youth exhibits abnormal behavior as an adult.
- D The likelihood of a juvenile delinquent becoming a diagnosed sociopath later in life increases the longer he or she remains incarcerated.

E Less than half of adults who are diagnosed sociopaths have reported they spent less than one year in juvenile delinquent facilities in their youth.

9. A poll conducted last month suggested that a McDonald's branch with a displayed specials menu was more likely to sell super-size meals, even if they weren't specials. The manager of McDonald's came to the conclusion that having a displayed specials menu makes customers more likely to super-size orders since the specials menu features large, mouth-watering images of food.
- Which of the following, if true, would bolster the McDonald's manager's interpretation?

A According to the poll, customers who ordinarily super-sized their orders tended to order less food when the specials menu was not displayed.

B 80% percent of those surveyed who ordered the super-sized meals did not order a special.

C When the specials menu was taken down to be cleaned, no one purchased any specials.

D Most of the customers who super-sized their orders responded that they had seen the specials menu prior to ordering.

E The Burger King restaurant next door without a specials menu reported fewer "super-size" sales than the surveyed restaurant.

Question 10

Despite suggestions that there is a need to find alternative energy sources, the demand for Wobsqua grass, which is a source of renewable energy, has not grown in the past decade. Even though the crop size and the market price for Wobsqua grass have also remained constant during this decade, last year Wobsqua grass farmers enjoyed a 15% increase in their profits over the previous year.

- All of the following statements, if true for last year, could help to explain the profit growth EXCEPT:

A Wobsqua grass is highly desirable as an import-crop for its energy production potential, but is no longer widely considered a useful food source for grazing animals, so overall importing has actually decreased.

B The price of raw fuel, needed to power harvesting machines for Wobsqua grass, decreased by 20% overall in the past decade.

C Interest in developing alternative energy sources led the United Nations to subsidize Wobsqua grass production in many principalities.

D Wobsqua grass farmers, once relegated to the periphery of farmers' associations, have created their own cooperative association to share in common costs like lobbying government.

E Newly developed technology for Wobsqua grass harvesting was introduced, allowing some of the work that could previously only be done manually to be done by means of the new technology.

SENTENCE CORRECTION

1. Charles Bell, in his drawings, publishing them with his scientific findings, leveraged his artistic ability and his grasp of anatomical principles.

- A Charles Bell, in his drawings, publishing them with his scientific findings,
- B In his drawings, publishing them with his scientific findings, Charles Bell
- C In his drawings, which he published with his scientific findings, Charles Bell
- D Published with his scientific findings, Charles Bell, in his drawings
- E Charles Bell, in his drawings, published them with his scientific findings and

2. National debates are the engine that powers political campaigns, dissecting issues and not oversimplifying them, as in campaign commercials.

- A dissecting issues and not oversimplifying them, as in campaign commercials
- B dissecting issues instead of oversimplifying them, like campaign commercials
- C dissecting issues rather than oversimplifying them, as campaign commercials do
- D and dissects the issues but does not oversimplify them, as is done in campaign commercials
- E and dissects the issues, unlike campaign commercials that oversimplify them

3. In his memoir, the news anchor distinguished student rebellions, which may be raucous without their being driven by activism, from authentic political upheaval.

- A student rebellions, which may be raucous without their being driven by activism, from authentic political upheaval
- B student rebellions, perhaps raucous without being driven by activism, and authentic political upheaval
- C between student rebellions, which may be raucous without being driven by activism, and authentic political upheaval
- D between student rebellions, perhaps raucous without being driven by activism, from authentic political upheaval
- E authentic political upheaval and student rebellions, which may be raucous without being driven by activism

4. As a building's structure rises from the ground with a rudimentary level of earthquake resistance, it would be rated about 70%, or "substandard" if it were a finished structure with that level of earthquake resistance.

A As a building's structure rises from the ground with a rudimentary level of earthquake resistance, it would be rated about 70%, or "substandard" if it were a finished structure with that level of earthquake resistance.

B A building's structure rises from the ground with a rudimentary level of earthquake resistance that would be rated about 70%, or "substandard" as a finished structure.

C As a building's structure rises from the ground, its rudimentary level of earthquake resistance that would be rated about 70%; qualifying it to be "substandard" if a finished structure.

D A building's structure rises from the ground with a rudimentary level of earthquake resistance that would be rated about 70%; a finished structure with such earthquake resistance would be deemed "substandard."

E As a building's structure rises from the ground, its rudimentary level of earthquake resistance, which would be deemed "substandard" for a finished structure, would be rated about 70%.

5. The researcher's theory of there being different feelings associated with different chemicals in the body has not yet been proven.

A of there being different feelings associated with different chemicals in the body has not yet been proven

B of different feelings that are associated with different chemicals in the body has not yet been proven

C that different feelings are associated with different chemicals has not yet been proven

D which is that there are different feelings associated with different chemicals has not yet been proven

E which has not yet been proven is that there are different feelings associated with different chemicals

6. Out of our national fondness for all things pet-related have grown a market for human-inspired accessories and accoutrements that are

bringing forth gold-studded dog collars, silk pet sweaters, and high thread-count cat beds.

- A** things pet-related have grown a market for human-inspired accessories and accoutrements that are bringing
- B** things pet-related has grown a market for human-inspired accessories and accoutrements that is bringing
- C** things that are pet-related has grown a market for human-inspired accessories and accoutrements that bring
- D** pet-related things have grown a market for human-inspired accessories and accoutrements that are bringing
- E** pet-related things has grown a market for human-inspired accessories and accoutrements that bring

7. In the German occupation of Eastern Europe in 1941-42, Hitler invaded Russia in the winter months of his campaign, which was a singular strategic error and that ultimately cost him the entire Eastern Front.

- A** In the German occupation of Eastern Europe in 1941-42, Hitler invaded Russia in the winter months of his campaign, which was a singular strategic error and that ultimately cost
- B** In the winter months of his campaign, Hitler invaded Russia in the German occupation of Eastern Europe in 1941-42, which was a singular strategic error that ultimately cost
- C** With the 1941-42 German occupation of Eastern Europe, Hitler invaded Russia in the winter months of his campaign, making a singular strategic error that ultimately cost
- D** During the 1941-42 German occupation of Eastern Europe, Hitler invaded Russia in the winter months of the campaign, making a singular strategic error that ultimately cost
- E** Invading Russia in the winter months of his campaign, in the German occupation of Eastern Europe in 1941-42, Hitler made a singular strategic error, ultimately costing

8. Newly-released data published by City Hall reveals that in 2012 the rate of knife crime was estimated at 9.7 per 200,000 inhabitants, 2.7% fewer as the 2011 rate.

- A 2.7% fewer as the 2011 rate.
- B 2.7% less than 2011.
- C a 2.7% decrease when compared with the rate in 2011.
- D 2.7% what it was in 2011.
- E 2.7% the rate in 2011.

9. Algae can be found living in almost all parts of the world's oceans; they are an important part of the world-wide ecosystem by virtue of their constant re-oxygenation of the water which allowed them to rejuvenate even the most polluted environments.

- A by virtue of their constant re-oxygenation of the water which allowed them
- B by virtue of their constant re-oxygenation of the water, which allows them
- C on the grounds that their constant re-oxygenation of the water which has allowed them
- D since the constant re-oxygenation of the water that has been allowing them
- E by virtue of their constant re-oxygenation of the water allowing them

10. Similar to the Incan Temple at Winay Wayna, the Maya culture constructed pyramids to use as observatories, religious shrines, and political centers, like those at Tikal, located in the north of Guatemala.

- A Similar to the Incan Temple at Winay Wayna, the Maya culture constructed pyramids to use as observatories, religious shrines, and political centers, like those
- B Just like the Incan Temple at Winay Wayna, the constructed ones in Maya culture were used as observatories, religious shrines, and political centers
- C As the Incan Temple at Winay Wayna was constructed for use as an observatory, religious shrine, and political center, so the Maya
- D Like the Inca, who constructed the Temple at Winay Wayna, the Maya used pyramids as observatories, religious shrines, and political centers,

such as those

E So with the Inca, who constructed the Temple at Winay Wayna, the Maya constructed pyramids for use as observatories, religious shrines, and political centers, like those

READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: *These GMAT reading comprehension practice questions are based on the content of a passage. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.*

Questions #1-6 refer to the following passage:

1. The study of cetacean intelligence has added to our understanding of dolphin behavior. Even though cetaceans, which are marine animals including dolphins, whales, and porpoises, are widely considered intelligent species, conclusions about the type and extent of dolphin intelligence have not yet been reached. However, there are several things that we do know about the ways in which dolphins communicate and behave in groups.

Researchers study the level of communication among dolphins because communication systems can offer insight into an animal's intelligence. Dolphins produce two primary types of vocalizations called clicks and whistles. Dolphins generally use clicks for the purposes of echolocation and whistles for communication. Dolphins emit clicks as rapid broadband bursts that are sent out into their environment and then echo back, giving them information about their surroundings. Whistles differ from clicks by being sent out as narrow-band frequency modulated signals, which are for communications such as contact calls. Strong evidence supports the idea that dolphins use signature whistles to identify and call to each other.

One hypothesis called the "acoustic flashlight" hypothesis maintains that dolphins may be able to learn passively about their surroundings by listening in on the echolocative inspections of other dolphins. Scientists are researching this idea by looking at how dolphins participate in postural pointing, an activity that humans perform when they point a finger to direct another person towards an object or location.

Communication is also an important part of how dolphins behave in groups, which can range in size from a pair of dolphins to a pod of hundreds of individuals. Researchers have noticed that large packs rely on a highly organized method of communication when responding to predators, such as sharks. When a group of dolphins reacts to an unexpected disturbance, it will quickly move in near-unison to avoid the threat. In this way, dolphins rely on visual and auditory cues to communicate their location and to interpret the locations of others in the pod.

Question 1

It can be inferred from the passage that a dolphin would use clicks instead of whistles to:

- A call to another member of the same pod
- B locate a possible route through an underwater obstacle
- C communicate a perceived threat to other dolphins
- D contact other dolphins when separated from a group
- E identify itself to another calling dolphin

Question 2

According to the passage, rapid communication enables dolphins to:

- A work in unison to locate food sources
- B move quickly as a group to escape a perceived threat
- C establish relationships quickly with their peers
- D have more highly organized hunting patterns
- E establish their territories when other cetaceans are present

Question 3

It can be inferred from the passage that if another animal does not have a communication system as highly advanced as that of a dolphin, then:

- A the other animal will be less likely to survive a shark attack
- B the other animal is probably a whale or porpoise
- C the other animal probably does not travel in a group with others of its kind
- D the other animal does not engage in postural pointing
- E the other animal is likely considered less intelligent than the dolphin

Question 4

Which of the following is the function of the first paragraph?

- A to contrast the communication styles of dolphins with those of other cetaceans
- B to define an abstract idea in order to simplify the discussion that follows
- C to introduce the passage's focus on how the dolphins communicate and behave in groups
- D to explain the cause of an event that the following paragraphs discuss in detail
- E to show the consequences of a mistake made in earlier research

Question 5

The author of this passage is primarily concerned with:

- A contrasting dolphin communications with those of other cetaceans
- B defining the term "cetacean intelligence" by offering an example of dolphin communication
- C offering an example of how dolphins used highly-developed communication patterns to escape predators
- D explaining how dolphins communicate and behave in groups
- E providing an in-depth analysis of a disputed claim

Question 6

The passage suggests that postural pointing provides evidence of a dolphin's ability to:

- A mimic a similar human action

- B** learn by listening to the clicks made by other dolphins
- C** comprehend visual cues such as light and shadow
- D** respond more intelligently to auditory cues than do other cetaceans
- E** rapidly react to perceived threats