

GMAT Verbal practice paper

Sentence correction

1. In order to better differentiate its product from generic brands, the cereal company first hired a marketing firm that specializes in creating campaigns to build brand awareness and then retools its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal.

- (A) then retools its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal
- (B) retools its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal
- (C) then retooled its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal
- (D) then will retool its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal
- (E) then produces a variety of different shapes of cereal through retooling its factory

2. Believed to be one of the first widely read female authors of the Western world, Christine de Pizan's masterwork *The Book of the City of the Ladies*, was written in 1405 and is a history of the Western world from the woman's point-of-view.

- (A) Believed to be one of the first widely read female authors of the Western world
- (B) Written by one of the first widely read female authors of the Western world
- (C) One of the first widely read female authors of the Western world, as some believe
- (D) Written by what some believe as one of the first widely read female authors of the Western world
- (E) Believed by some as one of the first works by a widely read female author in the Western world

3. Periodic changes in the shape of Earth's orbit around the sun lead to Milankovitch cycles that create a complex but predictable change in the temperatures of Earth's surface.

- A) lead to Milankovitch cycles that create
- B) leads to Milankovitch cycles creating
- C) led to Milankovitch cycles that had created
- D) has led to Milankovitch cycles that create
- E) lead to Milankovitch cycles, that will create

Critical Reasoning

1. One food writer wrote that reducing the amount of animal products in one's diet can contribute to better health and well-being. Based on this claim, some people are completely eliminating meat from their diets in order to be healthier.

The argument above relies on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Increasing the amount of vegetables and grains in one's diet can contribute to better health.
- (B) There will be no corresponding increase in the amount of dairy products in the diets of those who are eliminating meat.
- (C) Most food writers believe that some amount of animal products is necessary to a health diet.
- (D) Not all healthy lifestyles require a vegetarian diet.
- (E) Many people who do not eat animal products make decisions for health reasons.

2. Studies reveal that a daily exercise regimen helps stroke survivors regain dexterity in their extremities. Being given an exercise routine and having a consultation with a doctor about the exercise routine have been shown to be effective mechanisms to get patients to exercise daily.

From the above information, which of the following statements can be reasonably inferred?

- (A) A stroke survivor that is given a detailed exercise plan and consults her physician about the plan will regain full dexterity in her extremities.
- (B) If a stroke survivor is not given an exercise plan and does not consult with a doctor, she will not regain dexterity in her extremities.
- (C) Stroke survivors who are given an exercise routine and consult with a doctor about that routine will sometimes regain dexterity in their extremities.
- (D) Being given an exercise routine and having a consultation with a doctor about the routine is the best way to help a stroke survivor regain dexterity in their extremities.
- (E) Only being given an exercise routine is necessary to regenerate dexterity in the extremities of seniors who have suffered a stroke.

3. Despite being known for a decade to recruit most of its automobile mechanics from Main Street Technical School and like schools, this year Ace Motor Company recruited a significantly lesser number of automobile mechanics from these schools, and recruited a significantly greater number of automobile mechanics who did not do any qualifying course at a formal technical school.

Which of the following best resolves the discrepancy reflected in this year's recruiting policy of Ace Motor Company?

- A) Three years back, Ace Motor Company had a major restructuring in its production department.
- B) One of the reputed automobile industry magazines ranked Downhill Technical School ahead of Main Street Technical School.
- C) Ace Motor Company opened its in-house technical training school to train newly recruited automobile mechanics.
- D) The salary gap between the recruits who did a qualifying course from a formal technical school and those who did not is narrowing.
- E) The automobile mechanics who do not do a qualifying course from a formal technical School have always been talented but they could not afford the fee for such a course.

Reading comprehension

Passage 1

Although oft-maligned in modern culture, the pigeon once stood not only for speed and reliability but also for grace and beauty. Darwin himself became a pigeon fancier after beginning to work with the humble *Columbia livia*, discovering them to be more fascinating than he had formerly believed. During the Victorian age, in fact, raising show pigeons was a popular hobby, with new breeds continuously arising as amateur (and not-so-amateur) ornithologists crossed animals in the hopes of creating ever more fantastic creatures. One of the most sought-after varieties was known as the Almond Tumbler, a name presumably

derived from the color of the birds combined with the distinctive flight style. Over the course of many generations, this bird was so manipulated as to have a beak so small as to prevent the adult birds from feeding their offspring. And yet, it was wildly popular, drawing high prices at auctions and high prizes at competitions.

How then did an animal once so well-loved come to be so loathed? As recently as World War II, the military used pigeons to carry messages but today, many people would kick a pigeon before they would feed one. Perhaps it is just a problem of population density - a lack of esteem for that which is ubiquitous. Pigeons have become our constant urban companions and, as such, have been transformed from symbols of peace, plenty, and prosperity, to representatives of disease and decay.

1. The primary purpose of this passage is to

- (A) convince the reader of the nobility of the pigeon, based on its history as a symbol of virtue
- (B) dissuade the reader from mistreating a once-majestic animal that has fallen from favor
- (C) rebut claims that the pigeon carries disease any more frequently than do other domestic animals
- (D) promote a renewal of pigeon fancying and a resurgence of breeds such as the Almond Tumbler
- (E) suggest that there might be more to the story of some urban wildlife than is commonly known

2. The case of the Almond Tumbler is most analogous to which of the following?

- (A) a strain of wheat that can be grown in plentiful quantities but loses much of its nutritional value in the process
- (B) Arabian horses that are able to run at phenomenal speeds due to centuries of careful breeding designed to enhance those physical attributes
- (C) vitamins that were purported to provide all of the necessary nutrients but have since been found not to be very effective
- (D) the dachshund, a popular breed of dog that is nonetheless prone to severe back problems, due to weaknesses exacerbated by targeted breeding
- (E) the wild rock doves that are most commonly found nesting in the faces of cliffs far from human habitation

3. The passage suggests that

- (A) pigeons were once known for flying with celerity
- (B) the Almond Tumbler was the most beautiful breed of pigeon
- (C) Darwin was infatuated with his fancy pigeons
- (D) modern pigeons are dirtier than the fancy pigeons of yore
- (E) only scientists should breed new kinds of animals

Passage 2

Chief Executive Officers are often driven more by their short-term personal interests than by the long-term good of their company. Therefore, it is a critical responsibility of the board of directors to ensure that executive compensation is linked to such performance targets that cannot be

easily gamed by the CEO and so, can be achieved only if he creates actual and sustainable value for the company. Only such performance targets may be deemed to be good. Also, since they are difficult to manipulate, CEOs would statistically be as likely to meet these targets as to miss them; it is unlikely that, if no manipulation takes place, CEOs will just over perform most of the time. However, recent research has found that, in actual practice, CEOs meet their targets far more often than they miss them.

The performance targets of CEOs are often based on a single metric such as quarterly profitability or earnings per share. Such a system can be easily manipulated by them – by, for example, cutting the research and development spending that is critical for the organization's future. In contrast, when their payouts depend on three to five performance targets – based on metrics that are not closely correlated – CEOs are found to be just as likely to miss a given target as they are to exceed it.

Boards often determine their CEO's performance goals based on the company and sector growth forecasts provided by external analysts and the CEO himself. In self-interest, CEOs often lowball forecasts to get easily achievable targets. However, the resulting low performance targets prevent their company from growing to its full potential. Another feature of the executive compensation structure compounds this problem. Most boards specify a minimum performance threshold for their CEOs, below which the CEO receives no bonus. Then, his rewards rise steeply until the target is reached. Rewards for performing beyond this target grow much more slowly and eventually taper off. Thus, a CEO does not receive much personal profit from achieving spectacular results as opposed to merely satisfactory ones and, therefore, rarely strives for them. The result of all this is a sated CEO but a stunted company.

Sub-Question 1 of 6

The author of the passage would be most likely to attribute the research finding mentioned in the first paragraph to which of the following causes?

- A) Most boards act in their personal best-interest even if it is to the detriment of their organization.
- B) Most boards fail to set such executive performance targets that cannot be manipulated by the CEOs.
- C) Most boards use closely correlated performance metrics to measure executive performance.
- D) Most boards accept without debate the company and sector growth forecasts presented to them by the CEOs.
- E) Most boards offer lucrative payouts to CEOs upon the achievement of the set performance targets.