GMAT VERBAL PRACTICE PAPER

READING COMPREHENSION

QUESTION 1

A medical article once pointed with great alarm to an increase in cancer among milk drinkers. Cancer, it seems, was becoming increasingly frequent in New England, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Switzerland, where a lot of milk is produced and consumed, while remaining rare in Ceylon, where milk is scarce. For further evidence it was pointed out that cancer was less frequent in some states of the southern United States where less milk was consumed. Also, it was pointed out, milk-drinking English women get some kinds of cancer eighteen times as frequently as Japanese women who seldom drink milk.

A little digging might uncover quite a number of ways to account for these figures, but one factor is enough by itself to show them up. Cancer is predominantly a disease that strikes in middle life or after. Switzerland and the states of the United States mentioned first are alike in having populations with relatively long spans of life. English women at the time the study was made were living an average of twelve years longer than Japanese women.

Professor Helen M. Walker has worked out an amusing illustration of the folly in assuming there must be cause and effect whenever two things vary together. In investigating the relationship between age and some physical characteristics of women, begin by measuring the angle of the feet in walking. You will find that the angle tends to be greater among older women. You might first consider whether this indicates that women grow older because they toe out, and you can see immediately that this is ridiculous. So it appears that age increases the angle between the feet, and most women must come to toe out more as they grow older.

Any such conclusion is probably false and certainly unwarranted. You could only reach it legitimately by studying the same women—or possibly equivalent groups—over a period of time. That would eliminate the factor responsible here, which is that the older women grew up at a time when a young lady was taught to toe out in walking, while the members of the younger group were learning posture in a day when that was discouraged.

When you find somebody—usually an interested party—making a fuss about a correlation, look first of all to see if it is not one of this type, produced by the stream of events, the trend of the times. In our time it is easy to show a positive correlation between any pair of things like these: number of students in college, number of inmates in mental institutions, consumption of cigarettes, incidence of heart disease, use of X-ray machines, production of false teeth, salaries of California school teachers, profits of Nevada gambling halls. To call some one of these the cause of some other is manifestly silly. But it is done every day.

1. **The author's conclusion about the relationship between age and the ways women walk indicates he believes that**

(A) toeing out is associated with aging
(B) toeing out is fashionable with the younger generation
(C) toeing out was fashionable for an older generation
(D) studying equivalent groups proves that toeing out increases with age
(E) studying the same women over a period of time proves that toeing out increases with age

2. **The author describes the posited relationship between toeing out and age (Paragraph two and three) in order to**

(A) illustrate a folly
(B) show how social attitudes toward posture change
(C) explain the effects of aging
(D) illustrate a medical problem
(E) offer a method to determine a woman's age from her footprints

3. **Given the author's statements in the passage, his advice for evaluating statistics that show a high positive correlation between two conditions could include all the following statements EXCEPT**

(A) look for an explanation in the stream of events
(B) consider some trend of the times as the possible cause of both conditions
(C) account for the correlations in some way other than causality
(D) determine which of the two conditions is the cause and which is the effect
(E) decide whether the conclusions have been reached legitimately and the appropriate groupings have been made

4. **Assume that there is a high statistical correlation between college attendance and individual earnings. Given this, the author would most probably agree with which one of the following statements about the cause-effect relationship between college attendance and income?**

(A) Someone's potential earnings may be affected by other variables, like wealth or intelligence, that are also associated with college attendance.
(B) Someone who attends graduate school will be rich.
(C) Someone who attends graduate school will earn more money than someone who does not.
(D) Someone who attends college will earn more money than someone who does not attend college.
(E) Someone who attends college will earn more money only because she does attend college.

5. **According to the author, Professor Walker believes that**

(A) women who toe out age more rapidly than women who do not
(B) most women toe out as they grow older because age increases the angle between the

feet
(C) older women tend to walk with a greater angle between the feet
(D) toeing out is the reason why women grow old
(E) a causal relationship must exist whenever two things vary together

6. **The author would reject all the following statements about cause-effect relationships as explanations for the statistics that show an increase in cancer rates EXCEPT that the**

(A) Ceylonese drink more milk than the English
(B) Swiss produce and consume large quantities of dairy products
(C) Women of New England drink more milk than the women who live in some states of the southern United States
(D) People of Wisconsin have relatively high life expectancies
(E) People who live in some states of the southern United States have relatively high life expectancies

7. **How would the author be most likely to explain the correlation between the "salaries of California school teachers [and the] profits of Nevada gambling halls" (Highlighted)?**

(A) There is a positive correlation that is probably due to California teachers' working in Las Vegas on weekends to increase both their salaries and increase both their salaries and Nevada's gambling profits.
(B) There is a positive correlation that is probably linked to general economic trends, but no direct causal relationship exists.
(C) There is a negative correlation that is probably linked to general economic trends, but no direct causal relationship exists.
(D) There is a negative correlation because the element that controls Las Vegas gambling probably has agents in the California school system.
(E) The author would deny the existence of any correlation whatsoever.

QUESTION 2

Line
Conodonts, the spiky phosphatic remains (bones and teeth composed of calcium phosphate) of tiny marine animals that probably appeared about 520 million years ago, were once among the most
(5)
controversial of fossils. Both the nature of the organism to which the remains belonged and the function of the remains were unknown. However, since the 1981 discovery of fossils preserving not just the phosphatic elements but also other remains
(10)
of the tiny soft-bodied animals (also called conodonts) that bore them, scientists' reconstructions of the animals' anatomy have had important implications for hypotheses concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton.

(15)
The vertebrate skeleton had traditionally been regarded as a defensive development, champions of this view postulating that it was only with the much later evolution of jaws that vertebrates became predators. The first vertebrates, which were soft-
(20)

bodied, would have been easy prey for numerous invertebrate carnivores, especially if these early vertebrates were sedentary suspension feeders. Thus, traditionalists argued, these animals developed coverings of bony scales or plates, and teeth were

(25)

secondary features, adapted from the protective bony scales. Indeed, external skeletons of this type are common among the well-known fossils of ostracoderms, jawless vertebrates that existed from approximately 500 to 400 million years ago.

(30)

However, other paleontologists argued that many of the definitive characteristics of vertebrates, such as paired eyes and muscular and skeletal adaptations for active life, would not have evolved unless the

(35)

first vertebrates were predatory. Teeth were more primitive than external armor according to this view, and the earliest vertebrates were predators.

The stiffening notochord along the back of the body, V-shaped muscle blocks along the sides,

(40)

and posterior tail fins help to identify conodonts as among the most primitive of vertebrates. The lack of any mineralized structures apart from the elements in the mouth indicates that conodonts were more primitive than the armored jawless fishes such as the

(45)

ostracoderms. It now appears that the hard parts that first evolved in the mouth of an animal improved its efficiency as a predator, and that aggression rather than protection was the driving force behind the origin of the vertebrate skeleton.

1. **According to the passage, the anatomical evidence provided by the preserved soft bodies of conodonts led scientists to conclude that**

   A. conodonts had actually been invertebrate carnivores
   B. conodonts' teeth were adapted from protective bony scales
   C. conodonts were primitive vertebrate suspension feeders
   D. primitive vertebrates with teeth appeared earlier than armored vertebrates
   E. scientists' original observations concerning the phosphatic remains of conodonts were essentially correct

2. **The second paragraph in the passage serves primarily to**

   A. outline the significance of the 1981 discovery of conodont remains to the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton
   B. contrast the traditional view of the development of the vertebrate skeleton with a view derived from the 1981 discovery of conodont remains
   C. contrast the characteristics of the ostracoderms with the characteristics of earlier soft-bodied vertebrates
   D. explain the importance of the development of teeth among the earliest vertebrate predators

E. present the two sides of the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton

3. **It can be inferred that on the basis of the 1981 discovery of conodont remains, paleontologists could draw which of the following conclusions?**

A. The earliest vertebrates were sedentary suspension feeders.
B. Ostracoderms were not the earliest vertebrates.
C. Defensive armor preceded jaws among vertebrates.
D. Paired eyes and adaptations for activity are definitive characteristics of vertebrates.
E. Conodonts were unlikely to have been predators.

QUESTION 3

In *American Genesis*, which covers the century of technological innovation in the United States beginning in 1876,Thomas Hughes assigns special prominence to Thomas Edison as archetype of the independent nineteenth-century inventor. However, Hughes virtually ignores Edison's famous contemporary and notorious adversary in the field of electric light and power, George Westinghouse. This comparative neglect of Westinghouse is consistent with other recent historians' works, although it marks an intriguing departure from the prevailing view during the inventors' lifetimes (and for decades afterward) of Edison and Westinghouse as the two "pioneer innovators" of the electrical industry.

My recent reevaluation of Westinghouse, facilitated by materials found in railroad archives, suggests that while Westinghouse and Edison shared important traits as inventors, they differed markedly in their approach to the business aspects of innovation. For Edison as an inventor, novelty was always paramount: the overriding goal of the business of innovation was simply to generate funding for new inventions. Edison therefore undertook just enough sales, product development, and manufacturing to accomplish this. Westinghouse, however, shared the attitudes of the railroads and other industries for whom he developed innovations: product development, standardization, system, and order were top priorities. Westinghouse thus better exemplifies the systematic approach to technological development that would become a hallmark of modern corporate research and development.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to

(A) reevaluate a controversial theory
(B) identify the flaws in a study
(C) propose a new method of historical research
(D) compare two contrasting analyses
(E) provide a fresh perspective

2. According to the passage, Edison’s chief concern as an inventor was the

(A) availability of a commercial market
(B) costs of developing a prototype
(C) originality of his inventions

(D) maintenance of high standards throughout production
(E) generation of enough profits to pay for continued marketing

3. The author of the passage implies that the shift away from the views of Westinghouse's contemporaries should be regarded as

(A) a natural outgrowth of the recent revival of interest in Edison
(B) a result of scholarship based on previously unknown documents
(C) reflective of modern neglect of the views of previous generations
(D) inevitable, given the changing trends in historical interpretations
(E) surprising, given the stature that Westinghouse once had

QUESTION 4

Classified as a Cepheid variable and about 500 to 800 light-years from Earth, Polaris, the North Star, has long been known as a pulsating star that dims and then brightens approximately every four days. If new findings are correct, Polaris now appears to be changing into a star whose brightness remains constant, providing scientists the unique opportunity to witness sidereal evolution. The latest observations apparently point to the cessation of pulsations within a few years. The results of these studies also suggest that the four-day pulsation period is slowly lengthening, and establish that this decline is occurring gradually rather than by abrupt jumps, slowing as the star ages, cools, and expands. More surprisingly, the pulsations themselves--even as they slow down--now appear to be fading away. This drop in amplitude suggests a cessation of the internal conditions that drive the pulsations will result in a disappearance of the pulsations.

Current interpretation suggests that we may be observing the star as it moves out of its phase of pulsational instability. Cepheids spend 40,000 years or more in an unstable, pulsating phase before reaching non-pulsing stability, and accordingly, the chance of observing a star during its transition, which lasts only a short time, is small. Rare as this event may be, it provides the most logical explanation of the decline in both the frequency and the amplitude of the star's pulsations.

1. **The primary purpose of the passage is to**

A. refute the conventional explanation for the stellar behavior of Polaris
B. provide an interpretation of recently observed phenomena
C. present evidence that confirms an unorthodox theory
D. confirm the value of a recent research project
E. defend an established theory against unwarranted attacks

2. **According to the passage, the pulsations of a Cepheid variable most probably cease**

A. when the star is no more than 40,000 years old
B. soon after the interior forces creating pulsation cease
C. as the star enters its transformational phase
D. with the onset of cooling and expansion
E. when the star's pulsation period shortens to fewer than four days

3. **The author mentions that Polaris is aging, cooling and expanding in order to**

A. describe the definitive characteristics of stars classified as Cepheid variables
B. explain the importance attached to the study of Polaris
C. describe the effects that internal conditions have on the brightness of Polaris
D. provide an explanation for the incremental lengthening of the star's pulsations
E. raise doubts about the traditional description of Polaris as stable

4. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following about Cepheid variables?

A. They are often a part of major constellations.
B. Their pulsations are difficult to detect.
C. They eventually reach a stable, non-pulsating state.
D. They are fewer than 800 light-years from the earth.
E. They undergo a lengthy transition
between phases.

5. The author would most likely argue that which of the following descriptions is most analogous to the gradually slowing pulsations of Polaris?

A. Water in a beaker contract as it cools until it reaches a point just above freezing, after which it begins to expand, and continues to expand through its phase change into ice.
B. The echo off a canyon wall takes longer to return to a listener as the origin of the noise moves further away from the wall.
C. A tuning fork is struck, giving off a high-pitched tone, and the pitch gets lower as the vibration of the tines slows over time.
D. An unevenly weighted lump of clay begins to rotate in an eccentric manner as a potter's wheel increases its speed of revolution.
E. The earth's moon goes through a nightly cycle of becoming more visible until it is in its full phase, and then incrementally wanes until it is no longer visible.

6. The passage suggests that all of the following are accurate statements about Polaris EXCEPT

A. Its distance from the earth has not been precisely established.
B. Its pulsations are now longer than the four-day period previously recorded.
C. It can be located in the Northern hemisphere of the night sky.
D. The amplitude of its pulsations has been declining for 40,000 years.
E. Its current transition status is a comparatively brief phase.

7. The passage suggests that the pulsations of Polaris can be expected to

A. continue to decline in both frequency and amplitude as the star becomes more stable
B. continue at the current rate of frequency and degree of amplitude indefinitely
C. build in frequency and drop in amplitude until the star reaches a stable state
D. increase in both frequency and amplitude as the star leaves its unstable phase
E. remain perceptible and stable for at least 40 QO0 years while internal forces cease

QUESTION 5

Many dangerous microbes co-opt their host's own molecular structures. For example, Shigella flexneri is a rod-shaped bacterium that causes severe intestinal discomfort in humans. Shigella contains a gene called IcsA that allows it to appropriate actin filaments inside the host's infected cell. Actin is normally used to provide structure and form to the cell, but the microbe forms the fibers into a propulsive tail that moves it freely from cell to cell. To appropriate the actin, Shigella sticks to the epithelial cells of the intestinal lining. Once there,it signals the epithelial cell to alter its own shape and pulls the microbe inside. Once Shigella is ensconced within the cytoplasm, it begins replicating. The replicants can then make use of the IcsA gene and create their own tails from the cell's actin, spreading the infection to other cells. Thus, the bacterium bypasses the blood and lymph systems entirely, which allows it to avoid alerting the body's immune system.

Researchers tested the IcsA hypothesis by transferring the gene into E. coli bacteria and then placing the bacteria inside host cells. The organisms formed actin tails and began behaving much as the Shigella bacteria did. Such microbes as Listeria monocytogenes also co-opt host actin, though a different gene is involved in the process.

1. **It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is true of the blood and lymph systems?**

   A. The blood and lymph systems are in some way linked to the immune system.
   B. The blood and lymph systems are not able to overcome most bacterial infections.
   C. The blood and lymph systems are used by IcsA genes to obtain actin for the creation of propulsion tails.
   D. The blood and lymph systems signal noninfected epithelial cells to deny actin filaments to intrusive microbes.
   E. The blood and lymph systems will be alerted to the presence of a Shigella flexneri infection when a microbe infects a white blood cell.
2. **According to the author, what happens after a Shigella flexneri microbe enters a host cell?**

   A. The microbe depletes the nutrients in the cytoplasm and creates a replica of the original cell.
   B. The microbe duplicates itself, and the duplicates form actin tails and spread to other cells.
   C. After using the IcsA gene to signal to the invaded cell, the microbe spreads through the cellular lining.
   D. By avoiding the immune system, the microbe spreads quickly through the blood stream.
   E. The microbe first develops a propulsive tail out of actin, then co-opts the host's molecular form.
3. **According to the passage, the IcsA gene is believed to control the development of actin tails for which of the following reasons?**

   I. The formation of actin tails cannot be attributed to any other cellular structure associated with Shigella flexneri.
   II. Experiments have shown that when IcsA genes are transferred into E. coli, they develop

actin tails.
III. Shigella flexneri without the IcsA gene do not grow tails formed from actin filaments.

A. I only
B. II only
C. I and II only
D. I and III only
E. II and III only

4. **According to the passage, which of the following best describes one function served by actin?**

A. Regulating the speed at which bacterial infections move through the body
B. Supplying the material needed to provide the shape of a typical cell
C. Releasing specific chemical agents which counteract foreign microbes
D. Interacting with the cytoplasm to aid the replication of epithelial cells
E. Providing necessary genes for invading *Shigella flexneri* bacterium

5. **According to the passage, the *Shigella flexneri* bacterium is a dangerous microbe because it**

A. has a unique shape that allows it to control cells in the intestinal lining
B. forms its actin tails by depleting necessary actin from infected cytoplasm
C. manipulates the IcsA gene within the epithelial cells
D. is not involved in the genetic co-opting of the cell
E. exploits existing cell structures to spread undetected by the body's defenses

6. **According to the passage, *Shigela flexneri* invades epithelial cells by**

A. attacking the actin reservoirs within host intestinal cells, thereby affecting epithelial genes
B. replicating corollary cells within the human blood and lymph system
C. attaching itself to epithelial cells and gradually consuming the outer membrane of the cells
D. entering epithelial cells by prompting them to modify their existing form
E. weakening the epithelial lining and opening the body for further infection

7. **Which of the following is an assumption made by the researchers mentioned in highlighted text?**

A. E. coli do not typically spread among cells by forming tails out of actin filaments.
B. The IcsA gene of Shigeila faxneri will not directly affect a host cell.
C. The *listeria monocytogenes* microbe operates in a manner analogous to the Shigella faxneri bacterium.
D. Epithelial cells react in a consistent way when removed from a human body.
E. The formation of a propulsive tail from nreeyistina cell matter is an uncommon method of microbial dissemination.

SENTENCE CORRECTION

Question 1

The budget constraints that have caused many state governments to impose spending freezes are similar to the spending freezes imposed by many large municipalities a decade ago.

(A) the spending freezes imposed by many large municipalities a decade ago

(B) the spending freezes that many large municipalities imposed a decade ago

(C) those that many large municipalities imposed a decade ago

(D) those that led many large municipalities to impose spending freezes a decade ago

(E) what many large municipalities imposed a decade ago

Question 2

The hognose snake puts on an impressive bluff, hissing and rearing back, broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but, having no dangerous fangs and no venom, eventually, if its pursuer is not cowed by the performance, will fall over and play dead.

(A) broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but, having no dangerous fangs and no venom,

(B) broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigns repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom,

(C) broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigning repeated strikes, but it has no dangerous fangs and no venom, and

(D) broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigns repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom, and

(E) broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom, and

Question 3

The hognose snake puts on an impressive bluff, hissing and rearing back, broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but, having no dangerous fangs and no venom, eventually, if its pursuer is not cowed by the performance, will fall over and play dead.

(A) broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but, having no dangerous fangs and no venom,

(B) broadens the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigns repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom,

(C) broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigning repeated strikes, but it has no dangerous fangs and no venom, and

(D) broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does and feigns repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom, and

(E) broadening the flesh behind its head the way a cobra does, feigning repeated strikes, but with no dangerous fangs and no venom, and

Question 4

Although the market tempts guitarists with digital signal processors of every shape and size, few of these products manage to come close to creates the characteristic analog sound that hand-made effects pedals provide.

(A) few of these products manage to come close to creates the characteristic analog sound that hand-made effects pedals provide

(B) few of these products manage to come close to creating the characteristic analog sound that hand-made effects pedals providing

(C) only some of these products managing to come close to creating the characteristic analog sound that hand-made effects pedals provide

(D) hardly any of these products manage to came close to creating the characteristic analog sound that hand-made effects pedals provide

(E) a hand-made effects pedal provides a characteristic analog sound that only some of these products manage to come close to creating

Question 5

The degree to which the proposed changes in state policies surrounding the procurement of hunting licenses and the length of the hunting season will affect wolf and beaver populations remains unclear as the legislation moves forward.

A. the proposed changes in state policies surrounding the procurement of hunting licenses and the length of the hunting season will affect wolf and beaver populations remains unclear

B. the proposed change in state policies surrounding procuring hunting licenses and the length of the hunting season would affect wolf and beaver populations remains unclear

C. the proposed change in state policies surrounding the procurement of hunting licenses and the length of the hunting season would affect wolf and beaver populations remain unclear

D. the proposed changes in state policies surrounding procuring hunting licenses and the length of the hunting season will affect wolf and beaver populations remain unclear

E. the proposed changes in state policies surrounding the procurement of hunting licenses and the length of the hunting season would affect wolf and beaver populations remains unclear

Question 6

Noting that the Federal Reserve had raised a key short-term interest rate against last month, analysts said that they expected orders for durable goods to decline soon because rising interest rates makes it more expensive to buy them on credit.

(A) rising interest rates makes it more expensive to buy them on credit
(B) rising interest rates make buying on credit more expensive
(C) a rise in interest rates make it more expensive to buy on credit
(D) a rise in interest rates make buying on credit more expensive
(E) a rise in interest rates makes it more expensive for them to be bought on credit

Question 7

Researchers explain, being very eager to have constant access to food and secure backup from stronger members if they get caught in a fight, that baboons groom higher-ranking individuals in their group early in the day.

A) explain, being very eager to have constant access to food and secure backup from stronger members if they get caught in a fight, that baboons
B) explain that, being very eager to have constant access to food and secure backup from stronger members if they get caught in a fight, baboons
C) explain that because they are very eager to have constant access to food and secure backup from stronger members if they get caught in a fight, so baboons
D) explain, very eager to have constant access to food and secure backup from stronger members being caught in a fight, baboons
E) explain that baboons are very eager for constant access to food and backup from stronger members in a fight; they therefore

Question 8

Although preparation of a clearly stated fiscal policy can help coordinate the process of organizing the state's budget, **it is unlikely that the fiscal policy's effect on their actual expenditure is significant** if adequate funds are not available.

A. it is unlikely that the fiscal policy's effect on their actual expenditure is significant

B. the fiscal policy's effect on their actual expenditure is unlikely

C. the significance of the fiscal policies' effect is unlikely

D. the fiscal policy's effect on actual expenditures is not likely to be significant

E. the fiscal policy's affect on actual expenditures is unlikely to be significant

Question 9

Former Vice President Joe Biden picked Senator Kamala Harris of California as his running mate on Tuesday for the U.S. presidential elections.

A) Former Vice President Joe Biden picked Senator Kamala Harris of California as his running mate on Tuesday for the U.S. presidential elections.
B) Joe Biden, the Former Vice-President picked Senator Kamala Harris of California, for the U.S presidential elections, as his running mate on Tuesday.
C) Former Vice President, Joe Biden picked Senator Kamala Harris of California, who is his running mate on Tuesday for the U.S. presidential elections.
D) On Tuesday, the former Vice President Joe Biden had picked Senator Kamala Harris from California as its running mate at the U.S. presidential elections.
E) Former Vice President Joe Biden picked Senator Kamala Harris of California as his running mate on Tuesday in the U.S. presidential elections.

Question 10

The success of Khan Academy proves that learning online is much more effective online and students' preference is to learn at their own pace.
A- learning online is much more effective online and students' preference is
B- learning online is much more effective as students prefer
C- to learn online is much more effective since students preferring
D-online learning is more effective with students' preference
E- learning online is much more effective and that students prefer

CRITICAL REASONING

Question 1

Mayor: Local antitobacco activists are calling for expanded antismoking education programs paid for by revenue from heavily increased taxes on cigarettes sold in the city. Although the effectiveness of such education programs is debatable, there is strong evidence that the taxes themselves would produce the sought-after reduction in smoking. Surveys show that cigarette sales drop substantially in cities that impose stiff tax increases on cigarettes.

Which one of the following, if true, most undermines the reasoning in the argument above?

(A) A city-imposed tax on cigarettes will substantially reduce the amount of smoking in the city if the tax is burdensome to the average cigarette consumer.
(B) Consumers are more likely to continue buying a product if its price increases due to higher taxes than if its price increases for some other reason.
(C) Usually, cigarette sales will increase substantially in the areas surrounding a city after that city imposes stiff taxes on cigarettes.
(D) People who are well informed about the effects of long-term tobacco use are significantly less likely to smoke than are people who are not informed.
(E) Antismoking education programs that are funded by taxes on cigarettes will tend to lose their funding if they are successful.

Question 2

In a monogamous culture, 100% of the adults are married. The average number of children per family is five and over-population is a threat. Programs to encourage birth-control have been ineffective. It has been suggested that this failure is due to these programs ignoring a tradition that values male children very highly, so that every parent wants to have at least one son. It is proposed that couples be encouraged to use birth-control measures after the birth of their first son.

If this proposal is widely accepted in the culture, we may expect that:

(A) the rate of population increase will be slowed, and future generations will contain a disproportionately high number of females.

(B) the rate of population increase will be slowed, and the gender balance in future generations will remain as it is at present.

(C) the rate of population growth will remain the same, and future generations will contain a disproportionately high number of females.

(D) there will be no significant effect either on population growth or on gender balance.

(E) the population will decline precipitously, because approximately half of all families will have only a single child.

Question 3

Many names that people think of as Irish were actually brought to Ireland by the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12th century. Names like Seamus, Patrick, and Sean are so widespread because of the Catholic Church's requirements that Irish sons and daughters be named after saints. Seamus is the Gaelic version of James, and Sean is the Gaelic version of John. Criminal laws in Ireland from the 1500s to the 1900s forbade parents from giving their children traditional Irish names like Cathal, Aodh, and Brian. Now that parents are free to do so, they should give their children these long-forgotten, traditional names that are truly Irish.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above argument?

(A) The author of the argument considers names like Aodh and Brian that were used in Ireland since before the 12th century to be "traditional."

(B) Irish parents prefer to give their children names that are as traditionally Irish as possible.

(C) Parents in Ireland are now free to give their children any name that they choose.

(D) The author of the argument feels that, even after hundreds of years of use, names like Patrick, Seamus, and Sean are still not "truly Irish."

(E) The author of the argument is still bitter about the introduction of non-Irish names into Ireland in the 12th century.

Question 4

Commemorative plaques cast from brass are a characteristic art form of the Benin culture of West Africa. Some scholars, noting that the oldest surviving plaques date to the 1400s, hypothesize that brass-casting techniques were introduced by the Portuguese, who came to Benin in 1485 A.D. But Portuguese records of that expedition mention cast-brass jewelry sent to Benin's king from neighboring Ife. So it is unlikely that Benin's knowledge of brass casting derived from the Portuguese.

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

(A) The Portuguese records do not indicate whether their expedition of 1485 included metalworkers.

(B) The Portuguese had no contact with Ife until the 1500s.

(C) In the 1400s the Portuguese did not use cast brass for commemorative plaques.

(D) As early as 1500 A.D., Benin artists were making brass plaques incorporating depictions of Europeans.

(E) Copper, which is required for making brass, can be found throughout Benin territory.

Question 5

In the past, every ten-percentage-point increase in cigarette prices in the country of Coponia has decreased per capita sales of cigarettes by four percent. Coponia is about to raise taxes on cigarettes by 9 cents per pack. The average price of cigarettes in Coponia is and has been for more than a year 90 cents per pack. So the tax hike stands an excellent chance of reducing per capita sales of cigarettes by four percent.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

A. Tobacco companies are unlikely to reduce their profit per pack of cigarettes to avoid an increase in the cost per pack to consumers in Coponia.
B. Previous increases in cigarette prices in Coponia have generally been due to increases in taxes on cigarettes.
C. Any decrease in per capita sales of cigarettes in Coponia will result mainly from an increase in the number of people who quit smoking entirely.
D. At present, the price of a pack of cigarettes in Coponia includes taxes that amount to less than ten percent of the total selling price.
E. The number of people in Coponia who smoke cigarettes has remained relatively constant for the past several years.

Question 6

Rabies caused by the the bite of a mad dog can prove fatal. Even a person who is recipient of organ transplant from another who is affected by 'rabies' is vulnerable. but such a possibility is non existent as various test are carried out before transplant of human organ is undertaken

Which of the following weakens the argument

A) Rabies can be caused by the bite of a mad bat.
B) though the number of persons who need organ transplant is increasing ,the number of those who are willing to donate their organ is inadequate.
C) some persons who received transplants were admitted late and died of rabies.
D) Rabies is a contagious disease transmitted through a saliva of infected animal.
E) the effects of cocaine though lower than that of other narcotics ,are similar to that of rabies.

Question 7

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium transmitted to humans by deer ticks. Generally, deer ticks pick up the bacterium while in the larval stage by feeding on infected white-footed mice. However, certain other species on which the larvae feed do not harbor the bacterium. If the population of these species increased, more of the larvae would be feeding on uninfected hosts, so the number of ticks acquiring the bacterium would likely decline.

Which of the following, if true, strengthens the argument?

(A) Ticks do not suffer any adverse consequences from carrying the bacterium that causes lyme disease in humans.

(B) There are no known cases of a human's contracting lyme disease through contact with white-footed mice

(C) A deer tick feeds only once while in the larval stage

(D) A single host animal can be the source of bacteria for many tick larvae.

(E) None of the other species on which deer tick larvae feed harbor other bacteria that ticks transmit to humans.

Question 8

In the past, most children who went sledding in the winter snow in Verland used wooden sleds with runners and steering bars. Ten years ago, smooth plastic sleds became popular; they go faster than wooden sleds but are harder to steer and slow. The concern that plastic sleds are more dangerous is clearly borne out by the fact that the number of children injured while sledding was much higher last winter than it was ten years ago.

Which of the following, if true in Verland, most seriously undermines the force of the evidence cited?

(A) A few children still use traditional wooden sleds.

(B) Very few children wear any kind of protective gear, such as helmets, while sledding.

(C) Plastic sleds can be used in a much wider variety of snow conditions than wooden sleds can.

(D) Most sledding injuries occur when a sled collides with a tree, a rock, or another sled.

(E) Because the traditional wooden sled can carry more than one rider, an accident involving a wooden sled can result in several children being injured.

Question 9

Psychologist: In a study, researchers gave 100 volunteers a psychological questionnaire designed to measure their self-esteem. The researchers then asked each volunteer to rate the strength of his or her own social skills. The volunteers with the highest levels of self-esteem consistently rated themselves as having much better social skills than did the volunteers with moderate levels. This suggests that attaining an exceptionally high level of self-esteem greatly improves one's social skills.

The psychologist's argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

(A) It fails to adequately address the possibility that many of the volunteers may not have understood what the psychological questionnaire was designed to measure.

(B) It takes for granted that the volunteers with the highest levels of self-esteem had better social skills than did the other volunteers, even before the former volunteers had attained their high levels of self-esteem.

(C) It overlooks the possibility that people with very high levels of self-esteem may tend to have a

less accurate perception of the strength of their own social skills than do people with moderate levels of self-esteem.

(D) It relies on evidence from a group of volunteers that is too small to provide any support for any inferences regarding people in general.

(E) It overlooks the possibility that factors other than level of self-esteem may be of much greater importance in determining the strength of one's social skills.

Question 10

Transportation expenses accounted for a large portion of the total dollar amount spent on trips for pleasure by residents of the United States in 1997, and about half of the total dollar amount spent on the transportation was airfare. However, the large majority of United States residents who took trips for pleasure in 1997 did not travel by airplane but used other means of transportation.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must also be true about United States residents who took trips for pleasure in 1997?

(A) Most of those who traveled by airplane did so because the airfare to their destination was lower than the cost of other available means of transportation.

(B) Most of those who traveled by airplane did so because other means of transportation to their destinations were unavailable.

(C) Per mile traveled, those who traveled by airplane tended to spend more on transportation to their destination than did those who used other means of transportation.

(D) Overall, people who did not travel by airplane had lower average transportation expenses than people who did.

(E) Those who traveled by airplane spent about as much, on average, on other means of transportation as they did on airfare.

Question 11

To process waste more efficiently, the city of Hayfield plans to revise disposal methods for residual waste, which is waste from households that contains recyclable materials that have not yet been processed separately. Residual waste typically contains a mixture of biodegradable materials as well as hazardous toxins. Hayfield plans to use the latest waste-to-energy technology to convert the biodegradable materials from residual waste into energy, thereby making the most efficient use of such waste products.

Which of the following most strengthens the given plan?

A) The quantity of residual waste generated by the city is greater than that of any other kind of

waste.

B) Biodegradable materials consist of over three-fifths of the total annual amount of residual waste in Hayfield.

C) Toxins found in waste products are not indistinguishable from non-toxic materials.

D) The latest waste-to-energy technology can also be used to recycle discarded materials other than residual waste.

E) The amount of waste generated by Hayfield's industrial regions is among the highest anywhere in the country.

Question 12

Manager: A new machine that can bring down our operational costs by 20% has recently been launched in the market. Even though it costs much more to train a person to use this machine than the existing machines, and replacing the machines would lead to some loss in production since employees would be involved in training, the company should switch to the new machines because the savings over a year would more than compensate for the additional training costs for existing employees and the costs because of loss of production.
Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the manager's position?

A) The employee turnover rate in the company is almost negligible.

B) Few existing employees would have some apprehensions in switching to the new machines.

C) The company can suffer production loss for over a month without reneging on its customer commitments.

D) There is no other machine in the market that can cut operational costs for the company by more than 20%.

E) The quality of the products produced by the new machine will not be higher than the quality of the products produced by the existing machines.

Question 13

Meteorologists say that if only they could design an accurate mathematical model of the atmosphere with all its complexities, they could forecast the weather with real precision. But this is an idle boast, immune to any evaluation, for any inadequate weather forecast would obviously be blamed on imperfections in the model.

Which of the following, if true, could best be used as a basis for arguing against the author's position that the meteorologists' claim cannot be evaluated?

(A) Certain unusual configurations of data can serve as the basis for precise weather forecasts even though the exact causal mechanisms are not understood.

(B) Most significant gains in the accuracy of the relevant mathematical models are accompanied by clear gains in the precision of weather forecasts.

(C) Mathematical models of the meteorological aftermath of such catastrophic events as volcanic eruptions are beginning to be constructed.

(D) Modern weather forecasts for as much as a full day ahead are broadly correct about 80 percent of the time.

(E) Meteorologists readily concede that the accurate mathematical model they are talking about is not now in their power to construct.

Question 14

Property taxes are typically set at a flat rate per $1,000 of officially assessed value. Reassessments should be frequent in order to remove distortions that arise when property values change at differential rates. In practice, however, reassessments typically occur when they benefit the government—that is, when their effect is to increase total tax revenue.

If the statements above are true, which of the following describes a situation in which a reassessment should occur but is unlikely to do so?

(A) Property values have risen sharply and uniformly.

(B) Property values have all risen—some very sharply, some less so.

(C) Property values have for the most part risen sharply yet some have dropped slightly.

(D) Property values have for the most part dropped significantly; yet some have risen slightly.

(E) Property values have dropped significantly and uniformly.

Question 15

Gambling experts contend that with a sufficiently advanced computer technology, a skilled technician will soon be able to win almost every time he or she bets on horse racing. Yet such a claim could never be evaluated, for losses would simply be blamed on immature technology or the technician's lack of proficiency.

Which of the following, if true, would be most useful as a basis for arguing against the author's claim that the gambling experts' contention cannot be evaluated?

A. Some technicians using advanced computers have been able to gamble successfully more than half the time.

B. Gambling experts readily admit that it is not yet possible to produce the necessary computer equipment.

C. There is a direct correlation between the sophistication of computer technology available to a programmer and the gambling success he or she achieves with it.

D. Certain rare configurations of computer data can serve as a basis for precise gambling predictions.

E. Even without computer assistance, skilled gamblers can make a steady living from gambling.