

## Question 1

1. Megalimpet is a nationwide owner of office space. They have major office buildings in the downtowns of several cities in the 48 lower states, and rent this space to individual companies. Megalimpet office spaces vary from small office to large suites, and every space has custom-designed wall-to-wall carpeting. The carpet in several Megalimpet facilities needed replacing. The winning bid for the nationwide carpet replacement was submitted by Bathyderm Carpet Company (BCC). The bid contract involves all delivery costs, all installation, and any ongoing maintenance and upkeep while the carpet is under the three-year warranty. Both BCC executives and independent consultants they hired felt BCC would be able to perform all these services for far less than their bid price; these circumstances would allow BCC to reap a considerable profit.

Which of the following, if true, most calls in question the argument that BCC will make a large profit from this contract with Megalimpet?

- All the carpets will have to be transported by train from BCC factory in Louisville, KY, to Megalimpet's locations from coast to coast.
- BCC has already supplied carpets to a number of restaurant chains, and some of those spaces are as large as Megalimpet's largest office spaces.
- The carpet installation teams will have to cut different sizes of the carpets for the different size office suites in the Megalimpet buildings.
- The material in BCC carpets degrades rapidly when it comes into contact with standard toner, found in most laser printers and photocopiers; the degraded sections are unsightly and smell bad, so they often need to be replaced.
- The next competing bid after BCC's was 50% higher than BCC's bid.

## Question 2

2. A minor league baseball franchise experienced a drop in attendance this week after they suffered three losses by margins of ten runs or more last week. Many spectators of those games wrote letters to the editors of the local sporting news, complaining of the poor play of the team in those three losses. Nevertheless, the front office of this baseball franchise maintains that the team's poor play in those three losses has nothing to do with this week's decline in attendance.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the position held by the front office of the baseball franchise?

- The spectators who wrote letters to the local sporting news were long-standing fans of this minor league baseball team.
- Many minor league baseball franchises attribute a drop in attendance to the quality of play of the team only after a string of losses.
- Other minor league teams in that region of the state reported a similar drop in attendance this week.
- This was not the first time this team suffered multiple lopsided losses in a single week, prompting similar letters to the local sporting news.
- This minor league team is over four hours from the closest major league team, so many of the minor league team's fans do not often attend major league games.

### Question 3

3. In a few recent cases, some teenagers with advanced programming abilities used a new programming language, FANTOD, to hack into ETS and change their own SAT scores. All of the teenagers convicted of this crime were highly skilled in programming FANTOD. In light of these cases, some colleges have discounted the official SAT scores of applicants with a knowledge of FANTOD, and have required them to take special admission tests in supervised conditions on their own campuses.

Which of following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- Most people who learn to program in FANTOD do so to commit some kind of hacking.
- Colleges should rely on their own admissions tests instead of the SATs.
- Some students with knowledge of FANTOD are possibly placed at a disadvantage in the college admission process.
- Students who learn FANTOD tend to have much lower SAT scores than do their peers.
- Some colleges have not set any special requirements for applicants who have demonstrated knowledge of FANTOD.

### Question 4

4. In the twentieth century, the visual arts have embarked on major experimentation, from cubism to expressionism. While tastes always vary, there are certainly some people who find beautiful objects of each of the art movements of the first half of the twentieth century. In the latter half of the twentieth century, though, most works are so abstract or shocking that neither the critic nor the general public uses the word "beautiful" to describe them: indeed, sometimes late twentieth-century artists have, as one of their expressed goals, the creation of a work that no one could find beautiful. Whatever these artists are creating may be intellectually engaging at some level, but it is no longer art.

Which of the following is an assumption that supports drawing the conclusion above from the reasons given for that conclusion?

- Art critics generally have a different appraisal of a work of art than does the general public.
- The meaning of any work of art is defined entirely by the ideas of the artist who created it.
- Beauty is a defining quality of art.
- All art movements of the latter half of the twentieth century are responses to the movements of the first half of the century.
- It is not possible for any work to be simultaneously beautiful and intellectually engaging.

## Question 5

5. The National Farm Administration (NFA) has been concerned over the last decade with the struggles of barley growers.

Plan: In an effort to support these barley growers, two years ago, the NFA began a program of sending them, each autumn, a free special mix of fertilizer and enzymes designed to multiply barley yield, to be applied the following spring during first growth. This mix had been stunningly successful in multiplying the yield of barley in laboratory conditions.

Results: Most barley growers reported little change in their economic status over this two year period.

Further information: All barley growers received the shipments, and all used them. Weather conditions have been fair to optimal for barley growth over the past two years.

In light of the further information, which of the following, if true, does most to explain the result that followed the implementation of the plan?

- During these two years, most of the barley growers reported using no other fertilizer besides the special mix sent by the government.
- The trucks that drove the special mix from the depot in Wisconsin to the individual farms sometime took as much as 4 or 5 days.
- Some of the enzymes in the special mix multiply the growth of a bacteria that feeds on the young barley plants.
- This program was implemented at a time when more than half of barley growers nationwide were reported barely breaking even in their yearly expenses.
- This was the second such NFA program to aid barley growers; the first one, 14 years ago, was started with high hopes, but did little to change their situation.

## Question 6

6. When, on a particular shopping trip, a consumer purchases an item which he previously had no intention of purchasing, this sale is called an "impulse purchase." The objects of impulse purchases are occasionally essential items (i.e. items that satisfy basic subsistence needs), but much more frequently are luxury or non-essential items. Researchers have determined that, at the end of a shopping trip, a consumer is much more excited if she has bought a luxury item on an impulse purchase, than if she had made no impulse purchases.

If the information above is true, and if the researchers' investigation was properly conducted, then which of the following must also be true?

- The impulse purchase of a luxury or non-essential item is more exciting than the impulse purchase of an essential need.
- A consumer who, for whatever reason, is not able to purchase an item she had planned to buy is necessarily disappointed.
- Consumers seeking a high level of excitement often make impulse purchases.
- The researcher had a reliable way to determine whether the consumer had planned to buy the luxury or non-essential item he purchased on that trip.
- The probability that a consumer makes an impulse purchase of an item decreases the price of the item increases.

## Question 7

7. Over the past ten years, the population of Dismaston has grown five times as large as it was. During this time, the average income in the city has risen substantially, and a tremendous amount of capital has flowed into city. An independent audit found that, somewhat surprisingly, the number of violent felonies reported per year is now lower than it was ten years ago.

Each of the following statements below, if true, would explain the somewhat surprising finding EXCEPT:

- White collar crimes, which are almost always non-violent, tend to replace street-crimes during times of prosperity.
- The police now have a computerized filing system, so that it is almost impossible for a violent crime to be unrecorded.
- During this time, the state considerably lengthened felony convicts' waiting period for parole.
- The police force has expanded in number and is equipped with the latest crime detection technology.
- The city is now much better lit at night, and security cameras protect a large number of public venues.

## Question 8

8. Archeologists have discovered three sites showing conclusive evidence for the mastery of fire in Tanzania, from a period slightly after the time that *Homo habilis* was present in Africa. These sites clearly were founded by *Homo erectus*, the descendent species of *Homo habilis* that migrated north, out of Africa and into Asia. *Homo erectus* was known to have mastered fire, from ample evidence at sites in Asia. There is no reason to attribute mastery of fire to *Homo ergaster*, the descendent species of *Homo habilis* that remained in Africa.

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

- Before their migration, *Homo erectus* occupied African territory as far south as Tanzania.
- The strain of migration provided the selective pressure motivating *Homo erectus'* mastery of fire.
- Homo ergaster* would not have derived as much benefit from the mastery of fire as did *Homo erectus*.
- Homo ergaster* inherited all cultural knowledge from *Homo habilis*, a species that did not have mastery of fire.
- Homo ergaster* did not occupy regions as far south as Tanzania until well after the time of these three sites.

## Question 9

9. Five years ago, the town of Bayside, in the Katonic River Valley, had catastrophic flooding one spring, and consequently, most insurers now refuse to write flood insurance for houses in Bayside. The town of Dryadia, in the Phemptic River Valley, is much like Bayside in its proximity to a similar river at an almost identical point in the river valley. We can conclude that the only reason the same insurers do not write flood insurance for houses in Dryadia either is its similarity to Bayside in terms of where it is situated in the river valley.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the argument?

- A small number of independent insurers will write flood insurance for at least some houses in each of the two towns.
- It is hard for a homeowner to buy flood insurance if a large proportion of other houses in the same town have been flooded in recent years.
- In many other towns in the Katonic River Valley, it is hard for home-owners to buy flood insurance.
- The town of Dryadia has some flooding most springs.
- Flooding from spring surges in rivers is only one of the ways in which a home can become flooded.


## Question 10

Samuel is obviously a bad fisherman. During the past season, in which he and the five members of his team spent four months on a boat together off Dutch Harbor, AK, he caught fewer fish than any of his teammates.

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

- A) Two seasons ago, Samuel fished on another boat off Dutch Harbor and caught more fish than any other member of that boat.
- B) Before becoming a fisherman, Samuel piloted a fishing boat whose members regularly caught record numbers of fish.
- C) While fishing this past season, Samuel fell sick for a week and did not catch any fish during this time.
- D) Unlike the other fishermen on his boat, at the order of the captain, Samuel fished this past season with experimental bait.
- E) Amongst the fishing community in Dutch Harbor, Samuel has a reputation for being an especially bad fisherman.

## Question 11

Virtually all health experts agree that second-hand smoke poses a serious health risk. After the publication of yet another research paper  explicating the link between exposure to second-hand smoke and a shorter life span, some members of the State House of Representatives proposed a ban on smoking in most public places in an attempt to promote quality of life and length of lifespan.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the actions of the State Representatives?

- A) The amount of damaging chemicals and fumes released into the air by cigarette smoke is far less than the amount released from automobiles, especially from older models.
- B) Banning smoking in most public places will not considerably reduce the percent of the population in the state in question that smokes.
- C) The state whose legislators are proposing the tough smoking legislation has a relatively high percent of its population that smoke.
- D) Another state that enacted a similar law a decade ago saw a statistically significant drop in lung-cancer rates among non-smokers.
- E) A nearby state up-wind has the highest number of smokers in the country.

## Question 12

Net Neutrality stipulates that Internet service providers (ISP) cannot partition their bandwidth such that different types of Internet communications have different maximum bandwidth capacities. For example, an ISP cannot relegate high bandwidth voice-over-IP (VoIP) traffic to a separate tunnel in an attempt to ensure that users of low-bandwidth functions such as plain-text email are not slowed down by the high-bandwidth users. Some individuals support implementing Net Neutrality on the principle that one group (i.e., users of high-bandwidth services) should not be effectively penalized for the actions of another group (i.e., users of slow-bandwidth services, who have a special traffic lane carved out for them, thereby slowing high-bandwidth users).

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument of the supporters of Net Neutrality mentioned above?

- A) The jobs of many high-bandwidth users require these individuals to use high-bandwidth services.
- B) Placing no restrictions on the bandwidth of individuals who use high-bandwidth services would force ISPs to purchase massive amounts of expensive additional bandwidth, disproportionately increasing the price of access for low-bandwidth users.
- C) A strong and well respected lobbying firm recently revealed it has been hired by large telecommunications firms to oppose Net Neutrality on the grounds that it infringes upon a private company's ability to do business.
- D) One country that mandated Net Neutrality saw a decrease in satisfaction of Internet users.
- E) A recent court ruling upheld the principle that technology companies cannot discriminate in whom they serve or how they serve users.

## Question 13

Eating beets significantly lowers the risk of cancer, according to an article in a nutritional magazine. The article refers to a study that found that people who consumed one or more beets per day were half as likely to be diagnosed with the disease as people who did not.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument in the magazine article?

- A) Another study found that people who consumed one tablespoon of flax seed oil per day were more than four times less likely to be diagnosed with cancer as those who did not.
- B) Participants in the study reported consuming no vegetables other than beets.
- C) The study was only conducted in one city.
- D) In another experiment, cancer patients who ate one or more beets per day were no more likely to recover than those who ate no beets.
- E) The participants in the study who ate beets were more likely to exercise regularly than those who did not eat beets.

## Question 14

Wine Company Representative: The corks of red wine bottles pose a threat to the environment because they are treated with chemicals that are especially toxic in landfills. However, the new cork that our company developed, which will be adopted by the entire red wine industry, represents a solution. Since the new cork is natural and not treated with chemicals, when the industry completes its transition to the new cork, there will no longer be any threat to landfills from red wine corks.

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

- A) The industry's transition to the new red wine corks will take years, allowing thousands of old corks to pollute landfills.
- B) Even after the industry's transition to new corks, a large number of wine bottles with old corks will continue to be consumed.
- C) The new corks take considerably longer to produce.
- D) Production of the new cork emits more toxic fumes than were emitted in the production of the old cork.
- E) The new corks are more expensive than the old corks.

## Question 15

Political Commentator: In order for a democracy to flourish, it is essential that political and journalistic freedom of expression exist. Even if commentators voice ideas that do not support the current government, a society is strengthened by the variety of views expressed. Yet, our government continues to exercise a stranglehold on certain forms of speech. It is essential that the government loosen its control on the media. Despite the potential short-term instability this may cause the country, it will strengthen the long-term health of the country.

Which of the following expresses the conclusion of the argument?

- A) The government is exercising too much control over the media
- B) The government needs to open the media and release its hold on certain forms of speech
- C) Democracy requires a strong and free press
- D) Even ideas not supportive of democracy can strengthen a government
- E) The future of the media lies in the hands of the government