Question 1

A recent article in one of the nation's leading newspapers noted that despite the government's warning about peanut butter likely being contaminated by salmonella and the government's subsequent recall of a limited amount of peanut butter, 90% of grocery store shoppers surveyed said that they did not plan to change their peanut butter purchasing habits. Nevertheless, roughly two months after the limited recall and one month after the leading newspaper published its article, the country's peanut butter manufacturers reported that same-store sales to grocery store shoppers fell 75% year-over-year.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the apparent paradox above?

- A) The initial survey of shoppers failed to consider the effect of subsequent cuts in the price of peanut butter.
- B) Fearing additional instances of contamination and subsequent lawsuits, many retailers that sold peanut butter removed the product voluntarily from their shelves.
- C) A report similar to the report that appeared in the leading newspaper appeared in one of the nation's tabloid magazines on the same day.
- D) Days before the newspaper conducted its survey, a widely-respected bacterial research specialist published an op-ed article in a major newspaper arguing that the threat from salmonella-infected peanut butter was smaller than the government would later contend.
- E) A study published after the government recall of some peanut butter stated that individuals intended to change the type of jelly and bread they purchased.

Question 2

Political Commentator: During the previous presidential administration, members of congress approved large tax cuts and yet the economy today stands in shambles. During the current economic crisis, those who espouse large tax cuts as an economic stimulus should consider the failure of tax cuts during the past eight years to prevent the current economic recession as conclusive evidence that tax cuts will not help the country escape from its current economic troubles.

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

- A) The large tax cuts of the past administration targeted the capital gains on the financial investments of the ultra-rich while proponents of tax cuts today suggest cutting payroll taxes for both employers and employees.
- B) Economists from across the spectrum now agree that tax cuts helped stem the country's most severe recession in history, which occurred about 70 years ago prior to industrialization in this country.
- C) Economists from across the spectrum predict that if Congress fails to pass the tax-cut legislation, which also includes government spending and much more, it could well be 15 years before the economy escapes the current recession.
- D) Economists from across the spectrum agree that these tax cuts will add less to the fiscal deficit than the tax cuts of the previous administration.
- E) During the most recent political campaign cycle, which featured many deceptive political attacks, the governor of a prosperous state attacked those who opposed tax cuts by citing his own state's ostensible prosperity.

Question 3

After studying a random sample of 1024 individuals who had smoked daily for at least three years and comparing the results of this study with the results of a study of 1024 individuals who had never smoked, a group of researchers concluded that habitual smoking causes increased difficulties in concentrating.

Which of the following, if true, most severely weakens the researchers' conclusion?

- A) The addiction to smoking and the cravings this addiction engenders is often on the mind of habitual smokers.
- B) Some non-smokers with attention deficit disorder (ADD), which causes an inability to concentrate, display even less ability to concentrate than some smokers.
- C) A separate research study found that smokers and non-smokers exhibited statistically significant differences in their incarceration rates.
- D) After developing a severe addiction to smoking for fifteen years, the ability of many individuals to concentrate is decreased.
- E) A separate research study found that individuals with preexisting attention and concentration disorders exhibited significantly higher rates of trying cigarettes and subsequently becoming addicted to smoking.

Question 4

A political party considered by many citizens extreme and incompetent is working hard at overcoming what it perceives as an unfair and prejudiced public image. The group believes it is stereotyped simply because it opposes any preemptive military action, which is unpopular, and calls for a 50% reduction in carbon emissions, a cut far more severe than most citizens want.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the party's belief about the source of its poor public image?

- A) The current ruling political party, whose popularity is at near record levels, launched a preemptive military strike against a neighboring country three weeks ago.
- B) A neighboring country recently suffered a surprise attack that devastated its country and polluted its environment.
- C) A popular rival party bans unilateral attacks to defend the homeland and unconditionally supports a 60% reduction in carbon emissions.
- D) A recent poll showed that a party whose most prominent candidate supports preemptive war and minimal carbon restrictions is quite popular.
- E) Twenty years ago, a pacifist party successfully and popularly ruled the country.

Question 5

Due to significant advances in biotechnology, experts predict that within years, doctors will be able to trace the genetic roots of common medical problems such as depression and bi-polar syndrome. As a result, some physicians predict that these conditions and others like them will be all but eliminated through early identification and genetic therapy.

The argument above is based most heavily upon which of the following assumptions?

- A) There is one and only one strategy for eliminating common medical problems such as depression.
- B) Common medical problems such as depression are based entirely on treatable genetic malformations.
- C) Within years, genetics will be the only important scientific field in detecting and treating common medical problems such as depression.
- D) Every member of the human race has at least one genetic defect.
- E) Each human defect or sickness can be traced in part to genetics.

Question 6

1. Which of the following best completes the passage below?

In a survey of job applicants, two-fifths admitted to being at least a little dishonest. However, the survey may underestimate the proportion of job applicants who are dishonest, because____.

A.   some dishonest people taking the survey might have claimed on the survey to be honest
B.   some generally honest people taking the survey might have claimed on the survey to be dishonest
C.   some people who claimed on the survey to be at least a little dishonest may be very dishonest
D.   some people who claimed on the survey to be dishonest may have been answering honestly
E.   some people who are not job applicants are probably at least a little dishonest

Question 7

2. The average life expectancy for the United States population as a whole is 73.9 years, but children born in Hawaii will live an average of 77 years, and those born in Louisiana, 71.7 years. If a newlywed couple from Louisiana were to begin their family in Hawaii, therefore, their children would be expected to live longer than would be the case if the family remained in Louisiana.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion drawn in the passage?

A.   Insurance company statisticians do not believe that moving to Hawaii will significantly lengthen the average Louisianan's life.
B.   The governor of Louisiana has falsely alleged that statistics for his state are inaccurate.
C.   The longevity ascribed to Hawaii's current population is attributable mostly to genetically determined factors.
D.   Thirty percent of all Louisianans can expect to live longer than 77 years.

Question 8

3. The average life expectancy for the United States population as a whole is 73.9 years, but children born in Hawaii will live an average of 77 years, and those born in Louisiana, 71.7 years. If a newlywed couple from Louisiana were to begin their family in Hawaii, therefore, their children would be expected to live longer than would be the case if the family remained in Louisiana.

Which of the following statements, if true, would most significantly strengthen the conclusion drawn in the passage?

A.   As population density increases in Hawaii, life expectancy figures for that state are likely to be revised downward.

B.   Environmental factors tending to favor longevity are abundant in Hawaii and less numerous in Louisiana.

C.   Twenty-five percent of all Louisianans who move to Hawaii live longer than 77 years.

D.   Over the last decade, average life expectancy has risen at a higher rate for Louisianans than for Hawaiians.

E.   Studies show that the average life expectancy for Hawaiians who move permanently to Louisiana is roughly equal to that of Hawaiians who remain in Hawaii.

Question 9

4. Insurance Company X is considering issuing a new policy to cover services required by elderly people who suffer from diseases that afflict the elderly. Premiums for the policy must be low enough to attract customers. Therefore, Company X is concerned that the income from the policies would not be sufficient to pay for the claims that would be made.

Which of the following strategies would be most likely to minimize Company X's losses on the policies?

A.   Attracting middle-aged customers unlikely to submit claims for benefits for many years.

B.   Insuring only those individuals who did not suffer any serious diseases as children

C.   Including a greater number of services in the policy than are included in other policies of lower cost

D.   Insuring only those individuals who were rejected by other companies for similar policies

E.   Insuring only those individuals who are wealthy enough to pay for the medical services

Question 10

5. A program instituted in a particular state allows parents to prepay their children's future college tuition at current rates. The program then pays the tuition annually for the child at any of the state's public colleges in which the child enrolls. Parents should participate in the program as a means of decreasing the cost for their children's college education.

Which of the following, if true, is the most appropriate reason for parents NOT to participate in the program?

A.   the parents are unsure about which public college in the state the child will attend.
B.   The amount of money accumulated by putting the prepayment funds in an interest-bearing account today will be greater than the total cost of tuition for any of the public colleges when the child enrolls.
C.   The annual cost of tuition at the state's public colleges is expected to increase at a faster rate than the annual increase in the cost of living.
D.   Some of the state's public colleges are contemplating large increases in tuition next year.
E.   The prepayment plan would not cover the cost of room and board at any of the state's public colleges.

Question 11

6. Company Alpha buys free-travel coupons from people who are awarded the coupons by Bravo Airlines for flying frequently on Bravo airplanes. The coupons are sold to people who pay les for the coupons than they would pay by purchasing tickets from Bravo. This making of coupons results in lost revenue for Bravo.

To discourage the buying and selling of free-travel coupons, it would be best for Bravo Airlines to restrict the

A.   number of coupons that a person can be awarded in a particular year
B.   use of the coupons to those who were awarded the coupons and members of their immediate families
C.   days that the coupons can be used to Monday through Friday
D.   amount of time that the coupons can be used after they are issued
E.   number of routes on which travelers can use the coupons

Question 12

7. The ice on the front windshield of the car had formed when moisture condensed during the night. The ice melted quickly after the car was warmed up the next morning because the defrosting vent, which blows on the front windshield, was turned on full force.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously jeopardizes the validity of the explanation for the speed with which the ice melted?

A.   The side windows had no ice condensation on them

B.   Even though no attempt was made to defrost the back window, the ice there melted at the same rate as did the ice on the front windshield.

C.   The speed at which ice on a window melts increases as the temperature of the air blown on the window increases

D.   The warm air from the defrosting vent for the front windshield cools rapidly as it dissipates throughout the rest of the car.

E.   The defrosting vent operates efficiently even when the heater, which blows warm air toward the feet or faces of the driver and passengers, is on.

Question 13

8. To prevent some conflicts of interest, Congress could prohibit high-level government officials from accepting positions as lobbyists for three years after such officials leave government service. One such official concluded, however, that such a prohibition would be unfortunate because it would prevent high-level government officials from earning a livelihood for three years.

The official's conclusion logically depends on which of the following assumptions?

A.   Laws should not restrict the behavior of former government officials.

B.   Lobbyists are typically people who have previously been high-level government officials.

C.   Low-level government officials do not often become lobbyists when they leave government service.

D.   High-level government officials who leave government service are capable of earning a livelihood only as lobbyists.

E.   High-level government officials who leave government service are currently permitted to act as lobbyists for only three years.

Question 14

9. A conservation group in the United States is trying to change the long-standing image of bats as frightening creatures. The group contends that bats are feared and persecuted solely because they are shy animals that are active only at night.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most serious doubt on the accuracy of the group's contention?

A.   Bats are steadily losing natural roosting places such as caves and hollow trees and are thus turning to more developed areas for roosting.

B.   Bats are the chief consumers of nocturnal insects and thus can help make their hunting territory more pleasant for humans.

C.   Bats are regarded as frightening creatures not only in the United States but also in Europe, Africa, and South America.

D.   Raccoons and owls are shy and active only at night; yet they are not generally feared and persecuted.

E.   People know more about the behavior of other greatly feared animal species, such as lions, alligators, and greatly feared animal species, such as lions, alligators, and snakes, than they do about the behavior of bats.

Question 15

10. Meteorite explosions in the Earth's atmosphere as large as the one that destroyed forests in Siberia, with approximately the force of a twelve-megaton nuclear blast, occur about once a century.

The response of highly automated systems controlled by complex computer programs to unexpected circumstances is unpredictable.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn, if the statements above are true, about a highly automated nuclear-missile defense system controlled by a complex computer program?

A.   Within a century after its construction, the system would react inappropriately and might accidentally start a nuclear war.

B.   The system would be destroyed if an explosion of a large meteorite occurred in the Earth's atmosphere.

C.   It would be impossible for the system to distinguish the explosion of a large meteorite from the explosion of a nuclear weapon.

D.   Whether the system would respond inappropriately to the explosion of a large meteorite would depend on the location of the blast.

E.   It is not certain what the system's response to the explosion of a large meteorite would be, if its designers did not plan for such a contingency.