

GRE

Verbal Reasoning Assessment

Critical Reasoning

Total Questions: 40
Duration: 60Min

1. Photography is no longer an art form. Nowadays everyone has access to digital cameras that only need to be pointed at the subject in order to generate a perfect image.

The writer of the argument apparently assumes that

- A. the selection of the subject is not an important artistic factor in photography
- B. digital cameras will continue to improve in quality
- C. digital cameras can never go wrong
- D. photography with all other types of camera is an art form
- E. art is not perfect

2. **The enormous distances between stars are not spaces entirely devoid of matter.** The

interstellar spaces are filled with 'dust': very low density matter. This minuscule amount of matter, spread over almost infinite distances, acts like a curtain obscuring the stars that lie behind. If it were not for this material we would see no dark patches in the sky at night: **the sky would be entirely covered with stars.**

The two parts in boldface play what roles in the argument above?

- A. The first is a suggestion that the author wishes to dispute. The second is a hypothesis that the author wishes to explain.
- B. The first is the main point the author wishes to make. The second is a hypothetical result of accepting that point.
- C. The first is a fact that the author thinks is important in explaining a certain phenomenon. The second is a result that the author would expect if that fact were not true.
- D. The first is a speculation that the author wishes to justify. The second is a consequence that would result if that speculation is not true.
- E. The first is an established fact that the author wishes to explain. The second is a consequence of accepting this fact.

3. The number of people diagnosed with dengue fever (which is contracted from the bite of an infected mosquito) in North India this year is twice the number diagnosed last year.

The authorities have concluded that measures to control the mosquito population have failed in this region.

All of the following, if true, would cast doubt on the authorities' conclusion except

- A. more cases are now reported because of increases in administrative efficiency
- B. a very high proportion of the cases were in people who had recently returned from neighboring countries
- C. an effective diagnostic test was introduced about nine months ago
- D. the disease is prevalent only in some industrialized areas which have shown a dramatic increase in population due to migration
- E. the incidence (number of cases per thousand) of malaria, also contracted from mosquito bites, has increased

Questions 4-5 refer to the following:

4. In a recent study of responses to visual images, researchers found that women most frequently gave the rating 'most attractive' to images of male faces that were more feminine in contour, and rated more masculine faces, on average, 'less attractive'. The researchers concluded that modern women prefer men who are less obviously masculine in their facial features.

The conclusion would be most severely weakened if which of the following were true?

- A. Facial features are not the criterion that most women use to decide whether a man is attractive.
 - B. The visual images were computer generated composites of photographs and not pictures of actual men.
 - C. The rating scale was a ten point scale with most attractive scoring 1-2 and least attractive scoring 8-10.
 - D. Most popular male actors have the features that the study allocated to the more masculine category.
 - E. The faces with the more masculine features were all significantly older than those with feminine features.
5. **Which of the following is an assumption that the researchers apparently made in this study?**
- A. The women who participated in the study were sufficiently representative of modern women in general.
 - B. Male faces are, in general, attractive to women.
 - C. Visual images are important to women.
 - D. It is impossible to predict what features an ideal face would have.
 - E. Women in previous ages would have preferred more masculine men.
6. Red is a color which has powerful effects on human beings as well as animals. A group of psychologists carried out an experiment which confirms the subconscious effects of this color on human behavior. They provided selected sports teams at school and college level with either red or blue shorts and recorded the outcome of the games. The teams wearing red won in a disproportionate number of matches. The psychologists suggested that either the teams wearing red subconsciously felt themselves more powerful, or that the non-red teams were subconsciously intimidated by the red color.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the psychologists' suggestion?

- A. Each team wore red in some matches and blue in others.
- B. The color blue has the subconscious effect of making human beings less competitive.
- C. The effect was only observed if all the team members wore white shirts.
- D. Red signifies danger in some cultures whereas it signifies happiness in others.
- E. In a subsequent study, teams with all-red outfits were more likely to report that they thought they would win no matter what color the opponents wore.

7. It is often thought that **our own modern age is unique in having a large number of people who live into old age**. It has frequently been assumed that plague, wars, and harsh working conditions killed off most people in previous ages before they could reach old age. However, recent research shows that **in 17th century Europe, for example, people over sixty comprised 10 percent of the population**. The studies also revealed that although infant mortality remained high until the 20th century in Europe, people who survived to adulthood could expect to live to be old.

The portions in boldface play which of the following roles in the argument above?

- A. The first is a conclusion that the author supports. The second is data that contradicts that conclusion.
 - B. The first is a finding that the author contests. The second is a finding that the author accepts.
 - C. The first is an assumption that the author thinks is invalid. The second is data that validates that assumption.
 - D. The first is a position that the author opposes. The second is a finding that supports the author's position.
 - E. The first is a position that the author opposes. The second is an assumption which, if valid, negates the author's view.
8. A marriage counselor noted that couples who have occasional violent arguments are less likely to divorce within the next six months than those who have frequent but less violent arguments. He concluded that frequent arguments are a major factor in cases of severe marital disharmony.

The counselor's conclusion is most weakened by which of the following observations?

- A. Couples who have already come to the point of divorce argue continuously over small matters.
 - B. People who have recently divorced are more likely to argue violently when they meet.
 - C. Many people in happy marriages have occasional violent arguments.
 - D. Recently divorced people rarely cite frequent arguments as a cause of marital disharmony
 - E. A significant fraction of couples close to divorce do not talk to each other.
9. The Dean claimed that, as a result of continued cutbacks in the budget for pure science research, fewer students are choosing a career in physics, and therefore the number of postgraduate students studying physics is likely to decline.

Which of the following, if true, casts most doubt on the Dean's conclusion?

- A. The number of students majoring in physics at the undergraduate level has been increasing steadily over the years, a trend that is expected to continue.
- B. The number of students studying chemistry declined even before cutbacks in research funding was noted.
- C. Most postgraduate students of physics move to careers in computer science and engineering.
- D. The Dean's own university has recently increased the number of staff members teaching physics.
- E. The budget cutbacks are less severe for the pure sciences than for applied sciences.

10. A nature conservancy expert found little support for his campaign to protect toads. He suggested that, even though the campaign highlighted the vital role the toads play in the ecology of a region, people were unenthusiastic about saving toads as these animals are perceived as unpleasant creatures, and people seldom feel passionate about animals towards which they have no positive feelings.

The expert's opinion would be most strengthened by which of the following observations?

- A. Ecological conservation is an increasingly important concern in the region.
- B. A recent campaign to save bats achieved a measure of success only after a cartoon bat was adopted as the mascot of the local football team.
- C. Snakes and lizards also need protection in this region as a result of human activity.
- D. The campaign to protect toads has been in existence for over five years and yet the toad population continues to decline.
- E. The children in the local schools were found to have a greater aversion to toads than to snakes.

11. Many people report that exposure to certain foods such as cheese, red wine, and chocolate, are associated with the onset of migraine headaches. Other people report that exposure to certain smells (especially strong perfumes) seems to trigger a migraine headache, and some note that exposure to bright and flickering lights can be followed by a migraine. It would seem that a person with a tendency to get migraines should try to find which of these situations is associated with the onset of a headache and then avoid that stimulus.

All of the following, if true, would indicate potential problems with the recommendation above except

- A. the time delay between the trigger and the onset of the headache can make it exceptionally difficult to identify the trigger
- B. the presence of a known trigger doesn't always cause a migraine
- C. in many cases an internal hormonal change triggers a migraine
- D. in a high proportion of cases the patients report multiple triggers for their headaches
- E. most of the known triggers are common and almost unavoidable features of modern life

12. It is strange that in Santa-city there are so many corner shops selling food items. After all there are many supermarkets in the city which sell food at cheaper prices, and many of these supermarkets are open 24-hours.

Which of the following, if true, would be least helpful in explaining the paradoxical observation?

- A. The corner shops are selling specialist food items not available in the supermarkets.
- B. The supermarkets are mostly located on the outskirts of the city and require residents to use cars or public transport to reach them.
- C. The main business of the local shops is newspaper distribution and food items represent a small part of their turnover.
- D. The corner shops are mainly family-owned businesses and have been there for much longer than the supermarkets and are perceived as an important feature of the community.
- E. The corner shops are willing to make home deliveries.

13. Struthers College has built its reputation for academic excellence largely on significant contributions from wealthy alumni who are avid fans of the school's football team. Although the team has won more national championships over the years than any other team in its division, this year it did not even win the division title, and so Struthers College can expect to see a decline in alumni contributions next year.

The above argument relies on which of the following assumptions about Struthers College?

- A. The college's reputation for academic excellence depends on the performance of its football team.
- B. Contributions from alumni are needed for the college to produce a winning football team.
- C. Struthers alumni contributions depend to an extent on a winning record by the college's football team.
- D. The college's football team will continue its losing streak next year.
- E. As a group, the college's alumni will have at least as much discretionary money to give away next year as this year.

14. Recent dental research shows that bacteria around the gum line produces a substance that in sufficient amounts can induce preterm labor in pregnant women and can cause heart disease by clogging arteries. Both medical outcomes add to payouts by health insurers to medical-service providers. The bacteria are best removed by a dentist or trained hygienist during a routine cleaning. One health insurer has calculated that it can reduce its payouts by reimbursing subscribers who are either pregnant or at high risk of developing heart disease for the cost of one professional dental cleaning per year.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the assertion that the insurer's payouts to medical-service providers will decrease if it implements the reimbursement plan described above?

- A. Dental-hygiene regimens such as brushing or flossing can slow the accumulation of the bacteria-produced substance.
- B. Individuals are generally less likely to postpone or forego inexpensive or free dental procedures than expensive ones.
- C. Pregnant women typically crave sugary foods, which are proven to contribute to tooth decay.
- D. The risk of developing heart disease is greater for individuals with a family history of heart disease than for those with no such history.
- E. The dental health of pregnant women and heart-disease patients, as a group, is similar to that of the general population.

15. Diane: As we both know, the population of this country is aging. Elderly people generally prefer not to live in harsh climates characterized by extreme temperatures. Accordingly, in this country's coastal regions, where the climate is generally most temperate, the population is likely to grow, while other regions are likely to suffer a decline in population.

Paul: I disagree. With few exceptions, regions where the climate is harsh are characterized by comparatively low living costs, a compelling factor for retired people with little savings and on fixed incomes.

Which of the following is the most likely point of disagreement between Diane and Paul?

- A. the reason for the population shift toward coastal areas and away from other regions
- B. whether the country's current decline in overall population will continue into the foreseeable future
- C. why older people find certain regions where the climate is harsh attractive places to live
- D. whether regions characterized by harsh climates are likely to experience population declines in the foreseeable future
- E. the extent to which coastal regions are affordable places to live for retired people

16. An avid television viewer is statistically more likely to take sleeping pills at bedtime than a person who enjoys listening to classical music but does not watch television as a habit. Clearly, listening to classical music just before bedtime contributes to a more restful night's sleep, whereas watching television before bedtime has the opposite effect.

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

- A. Reading a book before bedtime contributes to restful sleep more than listening to music does.
- B. People who enjoy classical music typically like to read just before bedtime.
- C. Sleeplessness is more common among people who watch late-night television than among people who do not.
- D. Engaging in a bedtime activity that is mentally stimulating often interferes with a person's ability to fall asleep.
- E. A silent environment is less conducive to restful sleep than an environment with calming ambient sounds.

17. Last year, seniors at Jasper County's public high schools performed worse on standardized college-entrance exams than their peers at Nesbit County's public high schools. In recent years, more and more Jasper County residents have been enrolling their children in private high schools, where the teacher-to-student ratio is traditionally lower than in public schools, and enrollment in Jasper County's public high schools has dwindled as a result.

Based only on the information above, parents residing in Jasper County and concerned about their child's academic future should pursue which of the following courses of action?

- A. Enroll their child in one of Jasper County's public schools.
- B. Stay in Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school.
- C. Provide home schooling for their child rather than enrolling the child in either a public or private school.
- D. Move away from Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school.
- E. Move to Nesbit County and enroll their child in that county's public schools.

18. Stock analyst: "We believe Company A's stock will appreciate at 35% a year for the next 5 to 7 years. Company A just became the leader in its industry and we expect its sales to grow at 8% a year."

Commentator: "But how can the stock's price be expected to grow more quickly than the company's underlying sales?"

Which of the following, if true, would best support the stock analyst's prediction?

- A. The company's expenses will be declining over the next 5 to 10 years.
- B. The company just won a patent on a new product.
- C. Company A's stock is currently overvalued by a significant amount.
- D. The 5 to 7 year time frame is too long for anyone to accurately forecast.
- E. Company A's industry peer group is expected to experience stock appreciation rates of 30% over the same time horizon.

19. Acme brand aspirin claims to be the best headache relief available on the market today. To prove this claim, Acme called 10 people and asked them their thoughts on headache relief products. All 10 of them stated that they unequivocally use Acme brand aspirin on a regular basis and that they believe it to be the best headache relief available on the market today.

Which of the following would most weaken this argument?

- A. Acme brand aspirin is highly addictive.
- B. The 10 people called were spouses of Acme employees.
- C. Most people choose to suffer silently through their headaches and take no medicines whatsoever.
- D. The 10 people called own stock in a competing company.
- E. The 10 people were selected at random.

20. My neighbor's dogs bark and howl every time their owner lets them outside. My CPA told me that dogs tend to bark and howl when they see birds resting in the top branches of their favorite trees. I personally believe they bark and howl because they enjoy disrupting my meditations.

Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn from the preceding passage?

- A. The dogs must be abused by their owners.
- B. The dogs' owners do not make efforts to stop the dogs from barking and howling.
- C. There are many pedestrians who walk by this neighbor's house, and the dogs are starving for attention.
- D. The dogs frequently see birds in the tops of their favorite trees.
- E. The dogs will bark and howl at 3 a.m. if they are outside at that time.

21. Most citizens are very conscientious about observing a law when they can see the reason behind it. For instance, there has been very little need to actively enforce the recently-implemented law that increased the penalty for motorists caught leaving a gas station without paying for gas they had pumped into their vehicles. This is because citizens are very concerned about the high cost of gasoline and they know that stealing gas will only further increase the price of gasoline for everyone.

With which of the following statements would the author of this passage be most likely to agree?

- A. The increased penalty alone is a significant motivation for most citizens to obey the law.
- B. There are still too many inconsiderate citizens in the local community.
- C. High gasoline prices can be brought down if everyone does his or her part and pays for the gasoline they use at the pumps.
- D. Society should make an effort to teach citizens the reasons for its laws.
- E. People would be more likely to speed on a stretch of deserted highway than to not pay for gasoline.

22. When the state of Tennessee passed a law prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution in its public schools, leaders of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) persuaded John T. Scopes, a teacher in Dayton, Tennessee, to teach evolution in his classroom in order to test the law in court. However, because Scopes did not break the law on his own initiative, he should never have been brought to trial

Which of the following is an assumption underlying the conclusion of the passage above?

- A. Those who commit crimes at the suggestion of others should not be held responsible for their actions.
- B. Both Scopes and the ACLU leaders should have been tried for breaking the law.
- C. The ACLU leaders, rather than Scopes, should have been brought to trial.
- D. Groups like the ACLU should not encourage criminal activities as a means of testing laws
- E. Tennessee did not have the right to make the teaching of evolution a crime.

23. Select the best of the answer choices given.

The interview is an essential part of a successful hiring program because, with it job applicants who have personalities that are unsuited to the requirements of the job will be eliminated from consideration.

This argument logically depends on which of the following assumptions?

- A. A hiring program will be successful if it includes interviews.
- B. The interview is a more important part of a successful hiring program than is the development of a job description.
- C. Interviewers can accurately identify applicants whose personalities are unsuited to the requirements of the job.
- D. The only purpose of an interview is to evaluate whether job applicants' personalities are suited to the requirements of the job.
- E. The fit of job applicants' personalities to the requirements of the job was once the most important factor in making hiring decisions.

24. Recently, scientists determined that great white sharks can live over 70 years, much longer than had been previously thought. They made the discovery by examining the layers of different colors that accumulated on the shark's teeth over the years. In the 1950s, atomic bomb testing produced unusually large amounts of carbon-14, which fell from the atmosphere into the ocean and accumulated as a distinctive layer on the shark's teeth corresponding to a known period in time. Perplexingly, even though great white sharks live longer than had been expected, some parties maintain that based on the new findings, the great white sharks must be protected from overfishing.

Which of the following, if true, best resolves the discrepancy identified above?

- A. Great white sharks need to be protected from overfishing because they are dying rapidly due to poisoning by carbon-14.
- B. Great white sharks were determined to live longer than had been previously thought based on the discovery of a carbon-14-rich layer within older sharks' teeth.
- C. Great white sharks are evidently endangered and therefore need to be protected from overfishing.
- D. Some great white sharks may have rich layers of carbon-14 from other sources, depending on their migration patterns.

- E. Great white sharks' longer lifespan implies that they mature more slowly and reproduce more slowly than had previously been assumed.

25. Pundit: Many people blame the construction of retail locations by major corporations for the decline in locally owned bookstores over the past ten years. Yet clearly, online sales of books have also played an important role in this decline. In the past ten years, sales by online retailers of books have risen sharply, and surveys of consumer behavior have indicated that many purchasers of books online, if convenient online options had not been available to them, would otherwise have purchased books at a local bookstore.

In the pundit's argument, the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles?

- A. It is the main conclusion of the argument.
- B. It is a finding that the argument seeks to explain.
- C. It is an explanation that the argument concludes is correct.
- D. It provides evidence in support of the main conclusion of the argument.
- E. It introduces a judgment that the argument opposes.

26. In recent years, some painters of graffiti have been winning recognition as artists. But since graffiti is vandalism, painting graffiti is inherently an act of rebellion and law-breaking. For this reason, painting graffiti is not art.

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

- A. Some graffiti is painted in remote places, where it will not be used by any law enforcer or anyone else.
- B. Some painters of graffiti are more concerned than others with the illegal nature of the paintings they produce.
- C. Painters of graffiti should be more concerned with the illegality of their paintings than they currently are.
- D. An object is not an art object if its maker might be motivated primarily by questions of whether or not creating that object is permissible.
- E. Artists are not concerned with the monetary value of their products.

27. An online media company plans to increase its share of market by deeply discounting its subscription prices for the next two months. The discounts will cut into profits, but because they will be heavily advertised, the company expects that they will attract buyers away from rival providers of similar media. The company foresees that, in the longer term, customers initially attracted by the discounts will remain loyal subscribers.

In assessing the plan's chances of achieving its aim, it would be most useful to know which of the following?

- A. Whether the company's competitors are likely to respond by offering deep discounts on their own subscriptions
- B. Whether the advertisements will be created by the company's current advertising agency
- C. Whether some of the company's subscription options will be more deeply discounted than others
- D. Whether the company will be able to cut costs sufficiently to maintain profit margins even when the discounts are in effect
- E. Whether an alternative strategy will enable the company to enhance its profitability while holding a constant or diminishing share of the market

28. Through Topeka airport, consumer travel by plane is just voluminous enough for the commercial airlines to make modest profits. The size of the city's population is stable and is not expected to increase much. Yet there are investors ready to double the number of flights to and from the airport within ten years, and they are predicting solid profits both for themselves and for the established airlines.

Which of the following about the city of Topeka, if true, most helps to provide a justification for the investors' prediction?

- A. Over the next ten years, people in their middle-aged years, the prime traveling age, will be a rapidly growing proportion of the city's population.
- B. As distinct from the existing flights, most of the flights being planned would be run at "very early" morning times, in hopes of stimulating interest in those schedules.
- C. Spending on train and bus travel to and from Topeka has been increasing modestly each year for the past ten years.
- D. The average number of seats per flight is lower among existing routes than it is among routes still in the planning stages.
- E. The sale of snacks and drinks in-flight accounts for a steadily growing share of most airlines' profits.

29. Plan: Wishing to reduce the number of citizens without health insurance, the government of Patria decided last year to run an extensive advertising campaign that targeted young people and which described the importance of choosing and enrolling in a health insurance plan.

Result: The percentage of young people enrolled in a health insurance plan has not increased.

Further information: Most young people in Patria saw and remembered the advertising. Moreover, surveys revealed that more young people after the campaign believed that it was important to choose and enroll in a health insurance plan.

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

- A. Most young people in Patria already were enrolled in a health insurance plan before the advertising campaign began
- B. All young people found it inconvenient to have to choose a plan before enrolling in health insurance.
- C. Young people did not learn through the advertising campaign how to choose a plan, and they did not know where else to find that information.
- D. Young people increased in number proportionally to other groups in Patria over the last year
- E. Most young people found the health insurance plans available to be unaffordable.

30. At a large, popular restaurant, a reduction of 25 percent in the number of patrons each night would allow the management to get rid of the common long lines of people waiting to eat dinner. A second, partner restaurant, a 25 minute drive away, would, if refurbished, be an attractive alternative for half of the patrons who visit the first restaurant. Nevertheless, a waiter at the restaurant is confident that refurbishing the partner restaurant would not end the long lines at the original location.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to justify the waiter's position?

- A. Refurbishing the second restaurant would require not only redecorating and new furniture, but also the creation of a menu suitable to that location's chef, which would be a substantially different menu from that of the original location.
- B. A third location, next door to the first one, would be a perfectly attractive alternative to patrons of the first location, if minor adjustments to the storefront were made.
- C. The second restaurant is located on a relatively undeveloped property which might be home to other attractive businesses--especially if traffic to the restaurant there were to grow.
- D. If a patron has to wait to be seated at a given restaurant, there is an increased chance that that same person will not return again to the restaurant.
- E. The first restaurant is inside the same shopping mall as a popular movie theater.

31. Female cowbirds sing a variety of types of songs, demonstrating a wide range of vocal capabilities. Basing their judgment on the fact that different local populations of cowbirds of the same species sing in styles particular to their populations, ornithologists have concluded that the cowbirds' singing styles are culturally acquired, rather than genetically transmitted.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion drawn by the ornithologists?

- A. There are more similarities than differences among the songs.
- B. Younger female cowbirds are not proficient at singing and have been observed watching their mothers sing for years before themselves starting to sing.
- C. The songs of one species of cowbird lack the vocal range and ornamentation characteristic of the songs of all other species of cowbird.
- D. Local populations of cowbirds seldom come into contact with each another.
- E. It is well known that the mating dances of some birds are learned rather than transmitted genetically.

32. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A particular computer virus frequently infects personal computers through an email message. Even though virus-scanning software installed on a computer is designed to identify and alarm the user of a virus infection on that computer shortly after it occurs, this particular virus is rarely observed by virus-scanning software. This fact, however, does not mean that the computer's security systems have blocked installation of the virus, because

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- A. shortly after it appeared on the Internet, hackers modified the virus in a way that made it more effective
 - B. the virus was able to replicate itself and then send itself to people in the victim's address book
 - C. even after the virus had stopped spreading, the backdoors created during the initial infections remained active
 - D. the virus was able to disable virus-scanning software and pose as a virus-removal tool
 - E. the virus also altered the victim's operating system in a way that made it difficult to shut down the computer without cutting off power to the system

33. For similar homes and comparable residents, home insurance for theft has always cost more in Springfield than in Shelbyville. Police studies, however, show that homes owned by Springfield residents are, on average, slightly less likely to be robbed than homes in Shelbyville. Clearly, therefore, insurance companies are making a greater profit on home theft insurance in Springfield than in Shelbyville.

In evaluating the argument, it would be most useful to compare

- A. the population density of Springfield with the population density of Shelbyville
- B. the cost of compensating theft losses in Springfield with the cost of compensating theft losses in Shelbyville
- C. the rates Springfield residents pay for auto insurance with the rates paid for auto insurance by residents of Shelbyville
- D. the condition of Springfield's roads and streets with the condition of Shelbyville's roads and streets

34. Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

Crops can be purged of insects by introducing insects sterilized artificially by radiation; the sterilized male insects of a particular species are released to mingle with a natural population and mate with females who fail to have offspring, thereby inhibiting the ability of the local population of that species to reproduce. A new technique of sterilizing the medfly makes the sterilized male medflies exceptionally attractive to the females, so that a local population can be wiped out completely. But complete extermination might bring new risks. A farmer who considers his plot exceptionally attractive to medflies might think that his plot is the perfect case in which to use the new, more powerful, sterilized insect technique, but he should consider that _____.

- A. he might produce an overly abundant crop, driving down his own prices and profit
- B. perhaps the risk that the new insect sterilization does not work at all, since it has been less proven through practice, is not worth the additional benefit, at this point
- C. releasing radiated insects into the wild could have effects on the environment, and possibly the farmer's crop, that would be impossible to trace
- D. his plot, already exceptionally abundant, might already produce more crops than he can sell at ideal prices, and the additional cost of the new technique would be wasted
- E. his plot might be exceptionally attractive also to another species of insect for which no sterilized insect method exists and which might thrive on the plot once the competing medflies have been eliminated

35. Citizen: at our city's airport, we have invested time and money in security checkpoints that are a waste of time. We train and staff security staff for the purpose of searching incoming automobiles, but we search fewer than five percent of those automobiles. We might as well disband the security checkpoints. The cost is wasted, and there is a ninety-five percent chance that an illegal substance would get through the checkpoint anyway.

Council member: Even if we granted that those odds didn't justify the costs--which I disagree with--you seem not to recognize that the presence of the checkpoint itself deters some people who would bring in illegal substances from doing so.

The council member responds to the citizen's argument by

- A. rejecting the citizen's argument while proposing that the percentage of incoming automobiles that are checked should be raised
- B. casting doubt on whether the citizen has correctly understands the chances that an illegal substance could pass through the checkpoint
- C. objecting to the approach the citizen has used to argue against the checkpoints
- D. defending the current system and further pointing out a benefit of the system that the citizen has failed to mention
- E. shifting the discussion from the argument at hand to an attack on the personal qualities of the citizen

36. The increase in the number of newspaper articles exposed as fabrications serves to bolster the contention that publishers are more interested in boosting circulation than in printing the truth. Even minor publications have staff to check such obvious fraud.

The argument above assumes that

- A. newspaper stories exposed as fabrications are a recent phenomenon.
- B. everything a newspaper prints must be factually verifiable.
- C. fact checking is more important for minor publications than for major ones.
- D. only recently have newspapers admitted to publishing intentionally fraudulent stories.
- E. the publishers of newspapers are the people who decide what to print in their newspapers

37. Boreal owls range over a much larger area than do other owls of similar size. The reason for this behavior is probably that the small mammals on which owls feed are especially scarce in the forests where boreal owls live, and the relative scarcity of prey requires the owls to range more extensively to find sufficient food.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to confirm the explanation above?

- A. Some boreal owls range over an area eight times larger than the area over which any other owl of similar size ranges.
- B. Boreal owls range over larger areas in regions where food of the sort eaten by small mammals is sparse than they do in regions where such food is abundant.
- C. After their young hatch, boreal owls must hunt more often than before to feed both themselves and their newly hatched young.
- D. Sometimes individual boreal owls hunt near a single location for many weeks at a time and do not range farther than a few hundred yards.
- E. The boreal owl requires less food, relative to its weight, than is required by members of other owl species.

38. French cuisine is famous for its frequent and liberal use of cream and cheese, both high in saturated fat. For years, medical studies have shown the strong correlation between diets high in saturated fat and coronary heart disease, and yet, France has a much lower incidence of such disease than found in comparable countries like the United States.

Which of the following, if true, helps to explain the French Paradox?

- A. Certain kinds of cheese can have as much as five times the amount of saturated fat that cream has.
- B. People in the United States, per capita, eat almost the same amount of saturated fat on average as do people in France.
- C. The United States imports more cheese from France than from any other country.
- D. Red wine, typically served with French food, helps to clean the buildup of fats in the arteries, reducing the risk of heart disease.
- E. It is typical of a French person to have either cream or cheese at each of the three meals in a day.

39. Aphasia, an impairment of the capacity to use language, often occurs when a stroke damages the left half of the brain. Many people with stroke-related aphasia recover at least some of the capacity to use language within a year. One proposed explanation for such recoveries is that the right side of the brain, which is not usually the major language center, develops its latent language capabilities to compensate for the damage to the left side.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the explanation?

- A. In a study of local brain activity in people performing a language task, people with stroke-related aphasia showed higher activity levels in the right half of the brain than people who did not have aphasia.
- B. A blow to the head injuring the left half of the brain can result in impairment of the capacity to use language indistinguishable from that produced by a stroke.
- C. Among people with stroke-related aphasia, recovering lost capacity to use language does not lead to any impairment of the capacities normally controlled by the right half of the brain.
- D. A stroke that damages the left half of the brain often causes physical impairments of the right side of the body that lessen over time.
- E. Studies of numerous people with aphasia have indicated that the functions that govern language production and those that govern language comprehension are located in separate areas of the brain.

40. Near Chicago, a newly built hydroponic spinach “factory,” a completely controlled environment for growing spinach, produces on a 1 acre of floor space what it takes 100 acres of fields to produce. Expenses, especially for electricity, are high, however, and the spinach produced costs about four times as much as washed Californian field spinach, the spinach commonly sold throughout the United States.

Which of the following, if true, best supports a projection that the spinach-growing facility near Chicago will be profitable?

- A. Once the operators of the facility are experienced, they will be able to cut operating expenses by about 25 percent.
- B. There is virtually no scope for any further reduction in the cost per pound for California field spinach.
- C. Unlike washed field spinach, the hydroponically grown spinach is untainted by any pesticides or herbicides and thus will sell at exceptionally high prices to such customers as health food restaurants.
- D. Since spinach is a crop that ships relatively well, the market for the hydroponically grown spinach is no more limited to the Chicago area than the market for California field spinach is to California.
- E. A second hydroponic facility is being built in Canada, taking advantage of inexpensive electricity and high vegetable prices.