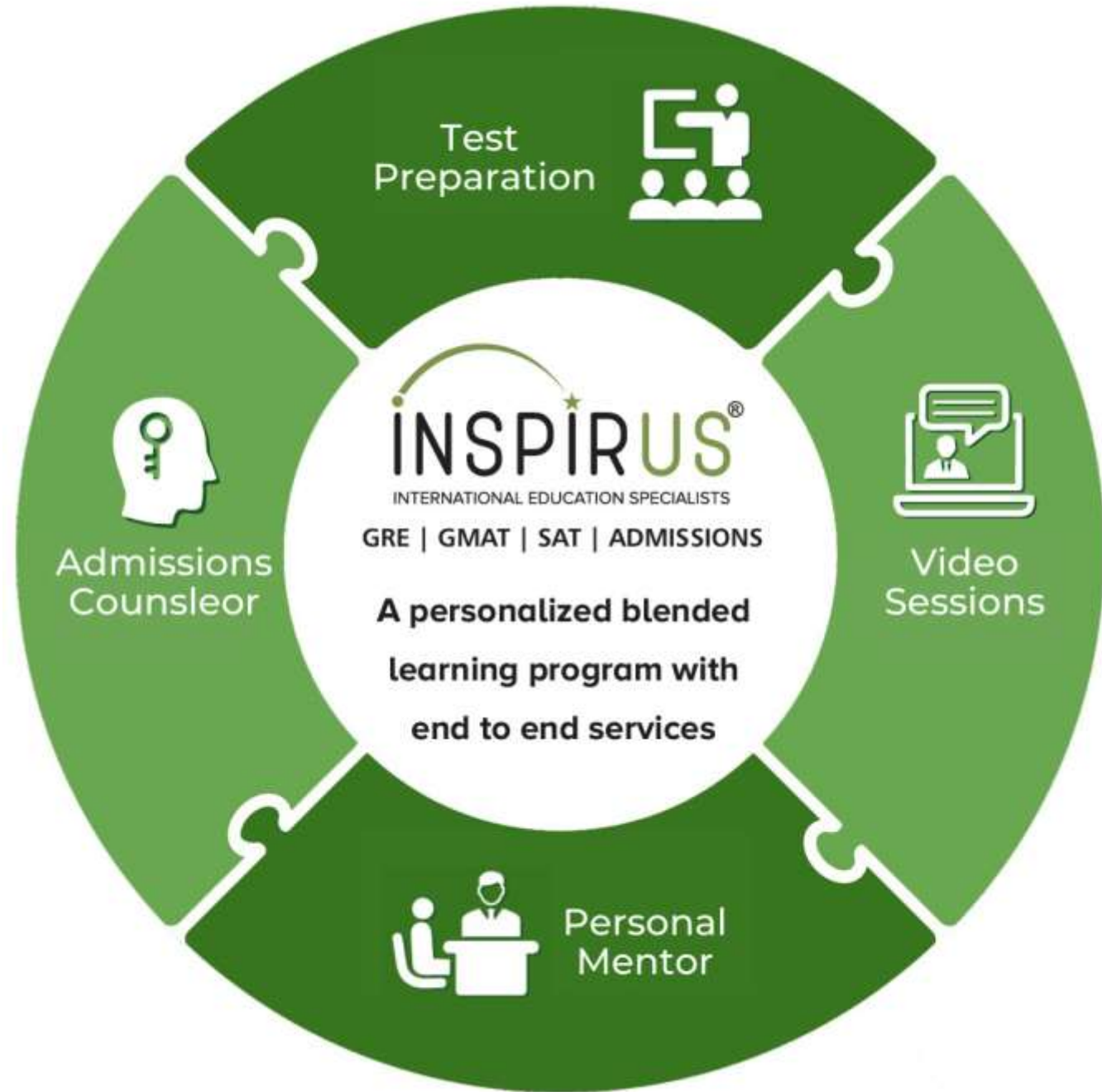


GMAT

Critical Reasoning

3



INSPIRUS “RIPE” STRATEGY for CR Questions:

Read the Question Stem and ascertain what will be the objective for the question.

Identify the *key components* of the passage, which are relevant for the question.

Predict an answer that can fit the requirement of the question in the context of the passage.

Eliminate the options that are irrelevant or do *not match* with the predicted answer.

EVALUATE THE ARGUMENT

We are asked to find what additional information would help us to try to determine whether the assumption is valid or invalid.

Most Evaluate question stems will contain one of the following:

- Some form of the word “evaluate” OR “determine”
- “What would be “useful to know (or establish)” or “important to know”

The correct answer should be structured in such a way that there are at least two possible “paths” — one path will strengthen the argument, and the other will weaken it.

The most common Trap Options involve:

- A strategy that, irrespective of the outcome, does not have any direct impact on the author’s conclusion.

Evaluate the Argument

Q1. Although dentures produced through a new computer-aided design process cost more than twice as much as ordinary dentures, they should still be cost effective. Not only are fitting time and X-ray expense reduced, but the new dentures should also fit better, diminishing the need for frequent refitting visits to the dentist's office.

Which of the following must be studied in order to evaluate the argument presented above?

- (A) The amount of time a patient spends in the fitting process versus the amount of money spent on X-rays.
- (B) The amount by which the cost of producing dentures has declined with the introduction of the new technique for producing them.
- (C) The degree to which the use of the new dentures is likely to reduce the need for refitting visits when compared to the use of ordinary dentures.
- (D) The degree to which the new dentures are more carefully manufactured than are ordinary dentures.
- (E) The amount by which the new dentures will drop in cost as the production procedures become standardized and applicable on a larger scale.

IDENTIFY: New Dentures reduce fitting & X-ray expense, but they should also fit better and reduce the need to frequent refitting visits to the dentist.

PREDICT: Does the new denture reduce the need to frequently revisit the dentist and/or fit better?

Yes: Supports the argument; No: Weakens the argument.

Q1. Although dentures produced through a new computer-aided design process cost more than twice as much as ordinary dentures, they should still be cost effective. Not only are fitting time and X-ray expense reduced, but the new dentures should also fit better, diminishing the need for frequent refitting visits to the dentist's office.

Which of the following must be studied in order to evaluate the argument presented above?

(✗) The amount of time a patient spends in the fitting process versus the amount of money spent on X-rays. **Time of fitting vs Cost of X-ray: Irrelevant comparison**

(✗) The amount by which the cost of producing dentures has declined with the introduction of the new technique for producing them. **Production cost is irrelevant**

(✓) The degree to which the use of the new dentures is likely to reduce the need for refitting visits when compared to the use of ordinary dentures. **Similar to predicted answer. Hold.**

(✗) The degree to which the new dentures are more carefully manufactured than are ordinary dentures. **Irrelevant parameter**

(✗) The amount by which the new dentures will drop in cost as the production procedures become standardized and applicable on a larger scale. **Production cost is irrelevant**

Evaluate the Argument

Q2. People's television-viewing habits could be monitored by having television sets, when on, send out low-level electromagnetic waves that are reflected back to the sets. The reflected waves could then be analyzed to determine how many persons are within the viewing area of the sets. Critics fear adverse health effects of such a monitoring system, but a proponent responds, "The average dose of radiation is less than one chest x-ray. As they watch, viewers won't feel a thing."

Which of the following issues would it be most important to resolve in evaluating the dispute concerning the health effects of the proposed system?

- (A) Whether the proposed method of monitoring viewership can distinguish between people and pets
- (B) Whether radar speed monitors also operate on the principle of analyzing reflected waves of electromagnetic radiation
- (C) Whether the proposed system has been tried out in various areas of the country or in a single area only
- (D) What uses are foreseen for the viewership data
- (E) Whether the average dose that the proponent describes is a short-term dose or a lifetime cumulative dose

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IDENTIFY: Average dose of radiation due to electromagnetic waves reflected by the monitoring system is similar to one chest x-ray. Hence, they can be used.

PREDICT: Is the cumulative effect of the radiation due to long term monitoring system also low?

Yes: Supports the argument; No: Weakens the argument

Q2. People's television-viewing habits could be monitored by having television sets, when on, send out low-level electromagnetic waves that are reflected back to the sets. The reflected waves could then be analyzed to determine how many persons are within the viewing area of the sets. Critics fear adverse health effects of such a monitoring system, but a proponent responds, "The average dose of radiation is less than one chest x-ray. As they watch, viewers won't feel a thing."

Which of the following issues would it be most important to resolve in evaluating the dispute concerning the health effects of the proposed system?

**Irrelevant
comparis
on**

- ☒ Whether the proposed method of monitoring viewership can distinguish between people and pets
- ☒ Whether radar speed monitors also operate on the principle of analyzing reflected waves of electromagnetic radiation **Principle of operation is irrelevant**
- ☒ Whether the proposed system has been tried out in various areas of the country or in a single area only **Does not tell us anything about the impact**
- ☒ What uses are foreseen for the viewership data **Irrelevant**
- ☒ Whether the average dose that the proponent describes is a short-term dose or a lifetime cumulative dose **Similar to the answer we need**

Evaluate the Argument

Q3. After thousands of miles of use, the tread on many bike tires wears down. One common theory about why tires wear down contends that the perpetual friction & heat generated by the contact between the tire & pavement erode the material on the surface of the tire. However, a local scientist who is also an avid cyclist proposed a new theory for why bike tires wear down. This scientist contended that chemicals from the road's composition & chemicals from rain residue wore down the surface of the tire.

Which of the following would best evaluate the veracity of the scientist's proposed theory?

- (A) Ride a road bike aggressively through spring rain storms.
- (B) Place chemicals from rain water and pavement on a bike's idle tires.
- (C) Ascertain whether chemicals from the road's composition also reside within the bike's frame.
- (D) Ascertain whether the bike's frame is made of rust-resistant components.
- (E) Determine the number of miles that a bike tire can be used on a wet road before wearing down.






IDENTIFY: Common theory about bike tyres wearing down = friction and heat generated by contact. Scientist's theory: Road composition & chemicals from rain residue wear down tyre surface.

PREDICT: Can rain residue wear down tyre surface even in the absence of friction and heat?

Yes: Supports the argument; No: Weakens the argument

Q3. After thousands of miles of use, the tread on many bike tires wears down. One common theory about why tires wear down contends that the perpetual friction & heat generated by the contact between the tire & pavement erode the material on the surface of the tire. However, a local scientist who is also an avid cyclist proposed a new theory for why bike tires wear down. This scientist contended that chemicals from the road's composition & chemicals from rain residue wore down the surface of the tire.

Which of the following would best evaluate the veracity of the scientist's proposed theory?

-  Ride a road bike aggressively through spring rain storms. **Both actions involved. Won't give certain answer.**
-  Place chemicals from rain water and pavement on a bike's idle tires. **Rain water on idle tires. Similar to predicted answer. Hold.**
-  Ascertain whether chemicals from the road's composition also reside within the bike's frame. **Irrelevant**
-  Ascertain whether the bike's frame is made of rust-resistant components. **Rust is irrelevant**
-  Determine the number of miles that a bike tire can be used on a wet road before wearing down. **Number of miles is irrelevant**

Evaluate the Argument

Q4. Journalist: Well-known businessman Arnold Bergeron has long been popular in the state, and he has often talked about running for governor, but he has never run. However, we have just learned that Bergeron has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement for candidacy by submitting a detailed list of his current financial holdings to the election commission. So, it is very likely that Bergeron will be a candidate for governor this year.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most useful in evaluating the journalist's argument?

- (A) Has anybody else who has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement for the upcoming election reported greater financial holdings than Bergeron?
- (B) Is submitting a list of holdings the only way to fulfill the election commission's financial disclosure requirements?
- (C) Did the information recently obtained by the journalist come directly from the election commission?
- (D) Have Bergeron's financial holdings increased in value in recent years?
- (E) Had Bergeron also fulfilled the financial disclosure requirements for candidacy before any previous gubernatorial elections?

IDENTIFY: As Arnold has fulfilled financial disclosure requirement for candidacy, he **MUST** be running for the post of governor.

PREDICT: In the past, has he ever fulfilled the disclosure requirement but not run of governor?

Yes: Weakens the argument; No: Supports the argument

Q4. Journalist: Well-known businessman Arnold Bergeron has long been popular in the state, and he has often talked about running for governor, but he has never run. However, we have just learned that Bergeron has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement for candidacy by submitting a detailed list of his current financial holdings to the election commission. So, it is very likely that Bergeron will be a candidate for governor this year.

The answer to which of the following questions would be most useful in evaluating the journalist's argument?

(✗) Has anybody else who has fulfilled the financial disclosure requirement for the upcoming election reported greater financial holdings than Bergeron? **What others have done is irrelevant**

(✗) Is submitting a list of holdings the only way to fulfill the election commission's financial disclosure requirements? **Tempting but Extreme. Also 'only' & 'not only' won't give necessary outcomes.**

(✗) Did the information recently obtained by the journalist come directly from the election commission? **Source of information is irrelevant** **Increased or Not doesn't matter**

(✗) Have Bergeron's financial holdings increased in value in recent years?

(✓) Had Bergeron also fulfilled the financial disclosure requirements for candidacy before any previous gubernatorial elections? **Similar to predicted answer**

METHOD OF REASONING

Most of these questions offer two competing points of view and ask us how one person responds to the argument made by the other. A minority of these will instead offer just one point of view and ask us how the author of that argument develops his or her point of view.

Common question formulations include: A responds to B's argument by / A challenges B's argument by / The author develops the argument by doing which of the following? Label each information in the 1st speaker's argument. Next, examine the response and figure out which piece of the argument the response attacks. The reply is designed to find fault with the conclusion, but don't assume that the 2nd person is attacking the conclusion directly.

The most common Trap Options involve:

- Most of the answer is fine, but one or two words will throw the answer "off."

Method of Reasoning

Q.5 **Sania:** The newest workers in the workforce are the most effective digital marketing employees because they are more likely to use social networking websites and tools themselves.

Carlos: But effective digital marketing also requires very technical expertise, such as search engine optimization, that is best learned on the job via prolonged exposure and instruction.

Carlos responds to Sania by:

- (A) demonstrating that Sania's conclusion is based upon evidence that is not relevant to the given situation
- (B) questioning the accuracy of the evidence presented by Sania in support of her conclusion
- (C) reinforcing Sania's argument by contributing an additional piece of evidence in support of her conclusion
- (D) pointing out differences in the qualifications desired by different employers seeking digital marketing employees
- (E) providing an additional piece of evidence that undermines a portion of Sania's claim

READ: Determine the method of reasoning used in Carlos' response to Sania.

IDENTIFY: *Sania considers the use of social networking websites as the dominant factor to check suitability. Carlos mentions an additional criterion to excel at the job.*

PREDICT: Carlos doesn't say that Sania is completely wrong. However, he mentions an additional quality, which if true, weakens Sania's claim that the newest workers are the most effective.


Q.5 **Sania:** The newest workers in the workforce are the most effective digital marketing employees because they are more likely to use social networking websites and tools themselves.

Carlos: But effective digital marketing also requires very technical expertise, such as search engine optimization, that is best learned on the job via prolonged exposure and instruction.


Carlos responds to Sania by:

 demonstrating that Sania's conclusion is based upon evidence that is not relevant to the given situation
He doesn't consider Sania's evidence irrelevant, but not necessarily the dominant factor.

 questioning the accuracy of the evidence presented by Sania in support of her conclusion
He just gives additional evidence, doesn't question

 reinforcing Sania's argument by contributing an additional piece of evidence in support of her conclusion
Doesn't support her. Not possible.

 pointing out differences in the qualifications desired by different employers seeking digital marketing employees
Difference in qualification? Yes. Do employers seek such qualifications? Not given. Hold.

 providing an additional piece of evidence that undermines a portion of Sania's claim
Additional Evidence? Yes. Undermines a part of her claim? Yes, the "most effective" part. Best option.

Method of Reasoning

Q6. Most scholars agree that King Alfred (A.D 849 - 899) personally translated a number of Latin texts into Old English. One historian contends that Alfred also personally penned his own law code, arguing that the numerous differences between the language of the law code and Alfred's translation of Latin texts are outweighed by the even more numerous similarities. Linguistic similarities, however, are what one expects in texts from the same language, the same time, and the same region. Apart from Alfred's surviving translation and law code, there are only two other extant works from the same dialect and milieu, so it is risky to assume here that linguistic similarities point to common authorship.

The passage above proceeds by






- (A) providing examples that underscore another argument's conclusion.
- (B) questioning the plausibility of an assumption on which another argument depends.
- (C) showing that a principle if generally applied would have anomalous consequences.
- (D) showing that the premises of another argument are mutually inconsistent.
- (E) using argument by analogy to undermine a principle implicit in another argument.

IDENTIFY: As there are many linguistic similarities between Alfred's translation and the law codes, the law codes must be written by Alfred. However, Linguistic similarities are common for the same language, time & region. Also, there are just two more existing works from that era. According to the author, it is risky to assume that linguistic similarities mean the same author.

PREDICT: The author challenges the Assumption on which the scholar's argument is based.

Q6. Most scholars agree that King Alfred (A.D 849 - 899) personally translated a number of Latin texts into Old English. One historian contends that Alfred also personally penned his own law code, arguing that the numerous differences between the language of the law code and Alfred's translation of Latin texts are outweighed by the even more numerous similarities. Linguistic similarities, however, are what one expects in texts from the same language, the same time, and the same region. Apart from Alfred's surviving translation and law code, there are only two other extant works from the same dialect and milieu, so it is risky to assume here that linguistic similarities point to common authorship.

The passage above proceeds by

-  providing examples that underscore another argument's conclusion. **Examples not given**
-  (F) questioning the plausibility of an assumption on which another argument depends. **Similar to predicted answer. Hold.**
-  showing that a principle if generally applied would have anomalous consequences. **Irrelevant**
-  showing that the premises of another argument are mutually inconsistent. **Assumption, not Premise**
-  using argument by analogy to undermine a principle implicit in another argument.

Analogy not given

NUMBERS & PERCENTAGES

COMMON “NUMBERS & PERCENTAGES” MISCONCEPTIONS

Higher Percentages automatically lead to Higher Numbers, and vice-versa

Lower Percentages automatically lead to Lower Numbers, and vice versa

Large numbers automatically mean large percentages, and small numbers automatically mean small percentages, and vice versa

COMMON TERMS TO INDICATE “NUMBERS”

Amount, Quantity, Sum, Total, Count, Tally, Fewer

COMMON TERMS TO INDICATE “PERCENTAGES”

Percent, Proportion, Fraction, Ratio, Incidence, Likelihood, Probability, Segment, Share

HIGHER AVERAGE does not mean every participant is getting a HIGHER VALUE.

Numbers & Percentages

Q7. Blood banks will shortly start to screen all donors for NANB hepatitis. Although the new screening tests are estimated to disqualify up to 5 percent of all prospective blood donors, they will still miss two-thirds of donors carrying NANB hepatitis. Therefore, about 10 percent of actual donors will still supply NANB-contaminated blood.

The argument above depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Donors carrying NANB hepatitis do not, in a large percentage of cases, carry other infections for which reliable screening tests are routinely performed.
- (B) Donors carrying NANB hepatitis do not, in a large percentage of cases, develop the disease themselves at any point.
- (C) The estimate of the number of donors who would be disqualified by tests for NANB hepatitis is an underestimate.
- (D) The incidence of NANB hepatitis is lower among the potential blood donors than it is in the population at large.
- (E) The donors who will still supply NANB-contaminated blood will donate blood at the average frequency for all donors.

Explanation for Question 7

Let there be 100 people(all prospective blood donors) -> so 5 people will be caught in the new test.

$\frac{2}{3} * (\text{people carrying nanb}) = \text{missed}$; therefore $\frac{1}{3} * (\text{people carrying nanb}) \text{ caught} = 5$

therefore, total people carrying nanb = $5 * 3 = 15$

missed people = 10 (15-5) → this is 10% of the prospective donor and the conclusion that they will still supply contaminated blood

Conclusion : 10% of actual donors will still supply NANB-contaminated blood






Now if donors carrying nanb carry other infections for which tests are routinely performed → then the number of people carrying nanb (with other infection) will be caught and will be less in number.

However, if they are not caught, it implies that they are not caught in tests for other diseases.

Numbers & Percentages

Q7. Blood banks will shortly start to screen all donors for NANB hepatitis. Although the new screening tests are estimated to disqualify up to 5 percent of all prospective blood donors, they will still miss two-thirds of donors carrying NANB hepatitis. Therefore, about 10 percent of actual donors will still supply NANB-contaminated blood.

The argument above depends on which of the following assumptions?

-  (A) Donors carrying NANB hepatitis do not, in a large percentage of cases, carry other infections for which reliable screening tests are routinely performed. **Similar to predicted answer. Hold.**
-  (B) Donors carrying NANB hepatitis do not, in a large percentage of cases, develop the disease themselves at any point. **Whether they develop the disease or not is Irrelevant**
-  (C) The estimate of the number of donors who would be disqualified by tests for NANB hepatitis is an underestimate. **No, the author assumes the estimate to be correct.**
-  (D) The incidence of NANB hepatitis is lower among the potential blood donors than it is in the population at large. **Overall population is not a criterion here.**
-  (E) The donors who will still supply NANB-contaminated blood will donate blood at the average frequency for all donors. **Frequency of donation is irrelevant**

Numbers & Percentages

Q8. Surveys show that every year only 10 percent of cigarette smokers switch brands. Yet the manufacturers have been spending an amount equal to 10 percent of their gross receipts on cigarette promotion in magazines. It follows from these figures that inducing cigarette smokers to switch brands did not pay, and that cigarette companies would have been no worse off economically if they had dropped their advertising.

Of the following, the best criticism of the conclusion that inducing cigarette smokers to switch brands did not pay is that the conclusion is based on

- (A) computing advertising costs as a percentage of gross receipts, not of overall costs
- (B) past patterns of smoking and may not carry over to the future
- (C) the assumption that each smoker is loyal to a single brand of cigarettes at any one time
- (D) the assumption that each manufacturer produces only one brand of cigarette
- (E) figures for the cigarette industry as a whole and may not hold for a particular company






READ: How to weaken the conclusion of the argument?

IDENTIFY: 10% of all cigarette smokers anyway switch brands. Hence, there is no need to spend 10% of my revenues on promotion.

PREDICT: Without promotion, people may have left My brand and switched to some other Brand. OR I may not have received a share of the 10% who switch brands.

Q8. Surveys show that every year only 10 percent of cigarette smokers switch brands. Yet the manufacturers have been spending an amount equal to 10 percent of their gross receipts on cigarette promotion in magazines. It follows from these figures that inducing cigarette smokers to switch brands did not pay, and that cigarette companies would have been no worse off economically if they had dropped their advertising.

Of the following, the best criticism of the conclusion that inducing cigarette smokers to switch brands did not pay is that the conclusion is based on

-  computing advertising costs as a percentage of gross receipts, not of overall costs Unlikely. Hold.
-  past patterns of smoking and may not carry over to the future Not the author's concern
-  the assumption that each smoker is loyal to a single brand of cigarettes at any one time Doesn't say so.
Wait.
-  the assumption that each manufacturer produces only one brand of cigarettes Irrelevant
-  figures for the cigarette industry as a whole and may not hold for a particular company

Closer to our answer.

Numbers & Percentages

Q9. Last August the XT chain of gasoline stations had a temporary sales promotion in effect. In the promotion, any customer who made a purchase of ten or more gallons of gasoline was entitled to a free car wash. For the month of August, XT experienced a ten percent increase in gasoline sales as compared to sales in August the previous year, so evidently the promotion was successful as a means of boosting sales.






In evaluating the argument, it would be most helpful to answer which of the following?

- (A) In the areas in which XT's gasoline stations operate, how did total combined gasoline sales for all gasoline stations last August compare with sales for the previous August?
- (B) Was the money that XT earned from the increase in gasoline sales enough to offset the cost of providing free car washes during the promotion?
- (C) Were there any customers who bought ten or more gallons at an XT gasoline station during the promotion who would have bought gasoline at the same station in lower quantities, but more frequently, if the promotion had not been in effect?
- (D) Did XT or any of its gasoline stations have to pay other businesses to provide the car washes that customers were offered in the promotion?
- (E) Are XT's gasoline sales in August usually significantly higher than one twelfth of XT's annual gasoline sales?

IDENTIFY: The promotional strategy was beneficial as XT brand enjoyed 10% growth in sales compared to the same time frame last year.
PREDICT: Did other brands also enjoy 10% growth without running such a promotion? Yes – Weakens the argument; No – strengthens the argument

Q9. Last August the XT chain of gasoline stations had a temporary sales promotion in effect. In the promotion, any customer who made a purchase of ten or more gallons of gasoline was entitled to a free car wash. For the month of August, XT experienced a ten percent increase in gasoline sales as compared to sales in August the previous year, so evidently the promotion was successful as a means of boosting sales.

In evaluating the argument, it would be most helpful to answer which of the following?

-  (A) In the areas in which XT's gasoline stations operate, how did total combined gasoline sales for all gasoline stations last August compare with sales for the previous August? **Similar to predicted answer. Hold.**
-  (B) Was the money that XT earned from the increase in gasoline sales enough to offset the cost of providing free car washes during the promotion? **Not the concern here**
-  (C) Were there any customers who bought ten or more gallons at an XT gasoline station during the promotion who would have bought gasoline at the same station in lower quantities, but more frequently, if the promotion had not been in effect? **Was okay till it brought in 'more frequently'.**
-  (D) Did XT or any of its gasoline stations have to pay other businesses to provide the car washes that customers were offered in the promotion? **'other businesses' – irrelevant**
-  (E) Are XT's gasoline sales in August usually significantly higher than one twelfth of XT's annual gasoline sales? **Tempting but does not help as it did grow by 10%**

PARALLEL REASONING

Such questions ask you to look for the answer choice that has the closest logical structure as the argument in the question, but with NEW TERMS. Each answer choice is its own argument, as opposed to an assumption, inference, or flaw.

The question-stem will contain phrases like “parallel reasoning,” “most similar reasoning,” “exemplifies,” etc. One of the lengthier types of questions.

Break down the Argument into its Component Parts. What’s the premise? What’s the evidence? Where’s the author’s conclusion? Label the Logic. Describe the Logic in your own words. Evaluate each option separately and see if it matches the logic.

The most common Trap Options involve:

- Options that merely mimic the topic of the argument. The correct answer’s argument usually focuses on an entirely different topic.
- Just because an answer choice contains similar keywords, or has a similar number of sentences, doesn’t mean its logic matches!

Parallel Reasoning

Q10. It is true that it is against international law to provide aid to certain countries that are building nuclear programs. But, if Russian companies do not provide aid, companies in other countries will.

Which of the following is most like the argument above in its logical structure?

(A) It is true that it is against U.S policy to negotiate with kidnappers. But if the United States wants to prevent loss of life it must negotiate in some cases.

(B) It is true that it is illegal to sell diamonds that originate in certain countries. But there is a long tradition in Russia of stockpiling diamonds.

(C) It is true that it is illegal for an attorney to participate in a transaction in which an apparent conflict of interest exists. But, if the facts are examined carefully, it can clearly be seen that no actual conflict of interest exists in the defendant's case.

(D) It is true that it is against the law to steal cars. But someone else certainly would have stolen that car if the defendant had not done so first.

(E) It is true that company policy forbids managers from making personal loans to employees without advance clearance from at least one vice president. But many managers have disobeyed this policy.

Parallel Reasoning

IDENTIFY: “X” may be illegal. But if party 1 does not do it, party 2 will do it.

Q10. It is true that it is against international law to provide aid to certain countries that are building nuclear programs. But, if Russian companies do not provide aid, companies in other countries will.

Which of the following is most like the argument above in its logical structure?

(A) It is true that it is against U.S policy to negotiate with kidnappers. But if the United States wants to prevent loss of life it must negotiate in some cases.

(B) It is true that it is illegal to sell diamonds that originate in certain countries. But there is a long tradition in Russia of stockpiling diamonds.

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(E) It is true that company policy forbids managers from making personal loans to employees without advance clearance from at least one vice president. But many managers have disobeyed this policy.

Parallel Reasoning

Q11. A bullet train travels in excess of 150 miles per hour. Therefore, if a train travels slower than 150 miles per hour, it is not a bullet train.

Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the argument above?

- (A) An orange ripens only on the vine. If it ripens on the vine, then it is not an orange.
- (B) Newspapers are often read by more than one person. Therefore, magazines are also likely to be read by more than one person.
- (C) An earthquake of 5.0 or above on the Richter scale causes massive damage. If there is not massive damage, then the earthquake did not attain a 5.0 or above.
- (D) A supersonic plane travels at speeds in excess of Mach 1. If it is not supersonic, then it will travel at speeds below Mach 1.
- (E) Fluoride generally prevents cavities. If there are no cavities, then there was no fluoride used.

Common pattern of Conditional Arguments: If “X” leads to “Y”, then “Not Y” leads to “Not X”

If X happens (bullet train), then Y will also happen (speed of more than 150 mile per hour.)


Hence, if Y does not happen (speed less than 150 mph), then X has also not happened (not a bullet train).

Q11. A bullet train travels in excess of 150 miles per hour. Therefore, if a train travels slower than 150 miles per hour, it is not a bullet train.

Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the argument above?

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(E) Fluoride generally prevents cavities. If there are no cavities, then there was no fluoride used.

COMPLETE THE ARGUMENT

The LAST line of the argument is incomplete, and we have to find the best option to complete it. Most of these questions contain a conclusion or claim followed by the word “since” or “because” and a blank. In these cases, the arguments are asking us to find some kind of a premise that will support the claim given in the same sentence.

The rare variants may ask you to find an inference or ask you to “illustrate” or “provide an example of” something that was discussed in the argument.

The most common Trap Options involve:

- Reverse Logic: The option does the opposite of what is expected from it.
- No Tie to Conclusion: The option is not connected to the conclusion / claim made in the argument.

Complete the Argument

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Q12. At a recent conference on environmental threats to the North Sea, most participating countries favored uniform controls on the quality of effluents, whether or not specific environmental damage could be attributed to a particular source of effluent. What must, of course, be shown, in order to avoid excessively restrictive controls, is that _____.


- (A) any uniform controls that are adopted are likely to be implemented without delay
- (B) any substance to be made subject to controls can actually cause environmental damage
- (C) the countries favoring uniform controls are those generating the largest quantities of effluents
- (D) all of any given pollutant that is to be controlled actually reaches the North Sea at present
- (E) environmental damage already inflicted on the North Sea is reversible

Premise / Evidence needed that justify or make sense of the restrictions imposed.

The mandatory information needed before such a restriction can be imposed is whether it actually impacts the environment adversely.

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Q12. At a recent conference on environmental threats to the North Sea, most participating countries favored uniform controls on the quality of effluents, whether or not specific environmental damage could be attributed to a particular source of effluent. What must, of course, be shown, in order to avoid excessively restrictive controls, is that _____.

- (A) any uniform controls that are adopted are likely to be implemented without delay
-  (B) any substance to be made subject to controls can actually cause environmental damage
- (C) the countries favoring uniform controls are those generating the largest quantities of effluents
- (D) all of any given pollutant that is to be controlled actually reaches the North Sea at present
- (E) environmental damage already inflicted on the North Sea is reversible

Complete the Argument

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

- Q13. Established companies concentrate on defending what they already have. Consequently, they tend not to be innovative themselves and tend to underestimate the effects of the innovations of others. The clearest example of this defensive strategy is the fact that _____.
- (A) ballpoint pens and soft-tip markers have eliminated the traditional market for fountain pens, clearing the way for the marketing of fountain pens as luxury or prestige items
 - (B) a highly successful automobile was introduced by the same company that had earlier introduced a model that had been a dismal failure
 - (C) a once-successful manufacturer of slide rules reacted to the introduction of electronic calculators by trying to make better slide rules
 - (D) one of the first models of modern accounting machines, designed for use in the banking industry, was purchased by a public library as well as by banks
 - (E) the inventor of a commonly used anesthetic did not intend the product to be used by dentists, who currently account for almost the entire market for that drug

READ: Parallel Reasoning question

X refuses to make innovative products. Instead, it tries to defend what it already possesses.

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

- Q13. Established companies concentrate on defending what they already have. Consequently, they tend not to be innovative themselves and tend to underestimate the effects of the innovations of others. The clearest example of this defensive strategy is the fact that _____.
- ✗) ballpoint pens and soft-tip markers have eliminated the traditional market for fountain pens, clearing the way for the marketing of fountain pens as luxury or prestige items
Tempting, but could be the same manufacturer.
 - ✗) a highly successful automobile was introduced by the same company that had earlier introduced a model that had been a dismal failure
So, they are innovating.
 - ✓) a once-successful manufacturer of slide rules reacted to the introduction of electronic calculators by trying to make better slide rules
Innovative product VS existing product: HOLD
 - ✗) one of the first models of modern accounting machines, designed for use in the banking industry, was purchased by a public library as well as by banks
Buyer is irrelevant
 - ✗) the inventor of a commonly used anesthetic did not intend the product to be used by dentists, who currently account for almost the entire market for that drug
Irrelevant

Complete the Argument

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

- Q14. Manufacturers are now required to make all cigarette lighters child-resistant by equipping them with safety levers. But this change is unlikely to result in a significant reduction in the number of fires caused by children playing with lighters, because children given the opportunity can figure out how to work the safety levers and _____.
- (A) the addition of the safety levers has made lighters more expensive than they were before the requirement was instituted
 - (B) approximately 5,000 fires per year have been attributed to children playing with lighters before the safety levers were required
 - (C) many of the fires started by young children are quickly detected and extinguished by their parents
 - (D) unlike child-resistant lighters, lighters that are not child-resistant can be operated by children as young as two years old
 - (E) adults are more likely to leave child-resistant lighters than non-child-resistant lighters in places that are accessible to children

Additional Premise needed to prove that child-resistant lighters are ineffective to reduce fires caused by children playing with lighters.


Premise 01: Children can figure out how to work the safety levers.

Predict Premise 02: Children easily get access to such lighters.


Which of the following best completes the passage below?


Q14. Manufacturers are now required to make all cigarette lighters child-resistant by equipping them with safety levers. But this change is unlikely to result in a significant reduction in the number of fires caused by children playing with lighters, because children given the opportunity can figure out how to work the safety levers and _____.

 the addition of the safety levers has made lighters more expensive than they were before the requirement was instituted **Cost is irrelevant**

 approximately 5,000 fires per year have been attributed to children playing with lighters before the safety levers were required **Does not tell us whether the number has reduced or increased.**

Irrelevant  many of the fires started by young children are quickly detected and extinguished by their parents

 unlike child-resistant lighters, lighters that are not child-resistant can be operated by children as young as two years old **Irrelevant**

 adults are more likely to leave child-resistant lighters than non-child-resistant lighters in places that are accessible to children **Similar to predicted answer**

Complete the Argument

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Q15. The more worried investors are about losing their money, the more they will demand a high potential return on their investment; great risks must be offset by the chance of great rewards. This principle is the fundamental one in determining interest rates, and it is illustrated by the fact that _____.

- (A) successful investors are distinguished by an ability to make very risky investments without worrying about their money
- (B) at any one time, a commercial bank will have a single rate of interest that it will expect all of its individual borrowers to pay
- (C) in times of high inflation, the interest paid to depositors by banks can actually be below the rate of inflation
- (D) lenders receive higher interest rates on unsecured loans than on loans backed by collateral
- (E) the potential return on investment in a new company is typically lower than the potential return on investment in a well-established company

Complete the Argument

Parallel Reasoning question: Higher Risks are accompanied by Higher Rewards

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Q15. The more worried investors are about losing their money, the more they will demand a high potential return on their investment; great risks must be offset by the chance of great rewards. This principle is the fundamental one in determining interest rates, and it is illustrated by the fact that _____.

(✗) successful investors are distinguished by an ability to make very risky investments without worrying about their money **Tempting but cannot say 'high rewards' based on 'successful investor'**

(✗) at any one time, a commercial bank will have a single rate of interest that it will expect all of its individual borrowers to pay **No risk & reward correlation**

(✗) in times of high inflation, the interest paid to depositors by banks can actually be below the rate of inflation **No risk & reward correlation**

(✓) lenders receive higher interest rates on unsecured loans than on loans backed by collateral

(✗) the potential return on investment in a new company is typically lower than the potential return on investment in a well-established company **Contradicts**

BOLDFACED QUESTION

One or two statements (usually two) will be presented in bold font, and the question stem will include the word “boldface.” Our task here is to determine the role that each boldface statement plays in the argument.

There are three possible roles:

- Present the author’s CONCLUSION (C)
- Present the author’s Premise / Supporting Statement (F)
- SOMETHING ELSE such as counter-premise, background information, acknowledgement of a weakness in the argument counter-conclusion (X).

Spend enough time in deconstructing the argument.

The answer choices are the most difficult part of Structure questions in general because they are written in an abstract form. They require very careful reading.

“Position taken by the argument” = Author’s conclusion

The most common Trap Options involve:

- Very closely worded options that are “off” by just one word, and that word is usually at the end of each expression.

Important points to be remembered for Boldface questions

1. An argument as a whole refers to the CR question.
2. We need to find a link between boldface sentences and remaining part of an argument i.e. if they are supporting the argument or contradicting it.
3. If the boldface sentence is based on facts, following words can be used:
Finding, evidence, information, example (model, pattern), illustration, etc.
4. If the boldface sentence is not based on facts, following words can be used:
Theory, Claim, statement, judgement, prediction, opinion, assertion, assumption etc.
5. If a boldface sentence wraps up the explanation in the argument, following words can be used:
Position, conclusion, observation, generalization etc.
Facts+ claim= position/ conclusion
6. If a boldface sentence is used as a reason for an argument, following words can be used:
Basis, ground, Consideration, explanation, premise, etc.
7. There are usually two boldface sentences; one boldface sentence is rarely given.

Boldface Questions

Q16. **The fight against the drug trade in Country X should focus for the time being on tightening the country's borders and targeting its major smugglers.** Wiping out poppy fields in rural areas means even greater hardship for an economically depressed farming population. **Rather, the United Nations and the government of Country X must carefully rebuild agricultural infrastructure in areas where the economy depends on these poppy fields.**

What purpose do the two **boldface** sentences serve in the passage?

- (A) The first is the conclusion drawn by the speaker; the second is the alternative to that conclusion.
- (B) The first is a short-term solution to a problem; the second is a long-term solution to the same problem.
- (C) The first presents a problem; the second poses an ideal solution to the problem.
- (D) The first presents a popular solution to a problem; the second presents a solution preferred by the author.
- (E) The first presents an argument; the second presents evidence to support the argument.

Boldface Questions

Author's conclusion = C

Q16. The fight against the drug trade in Country X should focus **for the time being on tightening the country's borders and targeting its major smugglers.** Wiping out poppy fields in rural areas means even greater hardship for an economically depressed farming population. **Rather, the United Nations and the government of Country X must carefully rebuild agricultural infrastructure in areas where the economy depends on these poppy fields.** **Author's conclusion = C**

What purpose do the two **boldface** sentences serve in the passage?

☒ (A) The first is the conclusion drawn by the speaker; the second is the **alternative to that conclusion.**
☒ (B) The first is a short-term solution to a problem; the second is a long-term solution to the same problem. **Possible answer. Hold.**

☒ (C) The first presents a problem; the second poses an ideal solution to the problem. **First is also a solution**

☒ (D) The first presents a popular solution to a problem; the second presents a solution preferred by the author. **Both are presented by the author.**

☒ (E) The first presents an argument; the second presents evidence to support the argument.

Both are arguments; neither is evidence.

Boldface Questions

Q17. Last year a record number of new manufacturing jobs were created. Will this year bring another record? Well, any new manufacturing job is created either within an existing company or by the start-up of a new company. Within existing firms, new jobs have been created this year at well below last year's record pace. At the same time, there is considerable evidence that the number of new companies starting up will be no higher this year than it was last year, and surely **the new companies starting up this year will create no more jobs per company than did last year's start-ups**. Clearly, it can be concluded that **the number of new jobs created this year will fall short of last year's record**.






In the argument given, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a prediction that, if accurate, would provide support for the main conclusion of the argument; the second is that main conclusion.
- (B) The first is a prediction that, if accurate, would provide support for the main conclusion of the argument; the second is a conclusion drawn in order to support that main conclusion.
- (C) The first is an objection that the argument rejects; the second is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (D) The first is an objection that the argument rejects; the second presents a conclusion that could be drawn if that objection were allowed to stand.
- (E) The first is a claim that has been advanced in support of a position that the argument opposes; the second is a claim advanced in support of the main conclusion of the argument.

Boldface Questions

Q17. Last year a record number of new manufacturing jobs were created. Will this year bring another record? Well, any new manufacturing job is created either within an existing company or by the start-up of a new company. Within existing firms, new jobs have been created this year at well below last year's record pace. At the same time, there is considerable evidence that the number of new companies starting up will be no higher this year than it was last year, and surely **the new companies starting up this year will create no more jobs per company than did last year's start-ups**. Clearly, it can be concluded that **the number of new jobs created this year will fall short of last year's record**.

In the argument given, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A)  The first is a prediction that, if accurate, would provide support for the main conclusion of the argument; the second is that main conclusion. **BF 01 is Premise. BF 02 is Conclusion. Hold.**
- (X)  The first is a prediction that, if accurate, would provide support for the main conclusion of the argument; the second is a conclusion drawn in order to support that main conclusion. **BF 02 is the main Conclusion.**
- (X)  The first is an objection that the argument rejects; the second is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (X)  The first is an objection that the argument rejects; the second presents a conclusion that could be drawn if that objection were allowed to stand.
- (X)  The first is a claim that has been advanced in support of a position that the argument opposes; the second is a claim advanced in support of the main conclusion of the argument.

BF 01 is evidence, not claim.

Boldface Questions

Q18. A prominent investor who holds a large stake in the Burton Tool company has recently claimed that **the company is mismanaged**, citing as evidence the company's failure to slow production in response to a recent rise in its inventory of finished products. It is doubtful whether an investor's sniping at management can ever be anything other than counterproductive, but **in this case it is clearly not justified**. It is true that an increased inventory of finished products often indicates that production is outstripping demand, but in Burton's case it indicates no such thing. Rather, the increase in inventory is entirely attributable to products that have already been assigned to orders received from customers.

In the argument given, the two **boldfaced** portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second provides evidence to undermine the support for the position being opposed.
- (B) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second is evidence that has been used to support the position being opposed.
- (C) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument as a whole.
- (D) The first is evidence that has been used to support a position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second provides information to undermine the force of that evidence
- (E) The first is evidence that has been used to support a position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument as a whole.

Boldface Questions

Q18. A prominent investor who holds a large stake in the Burton Tool company has recently claimed that **(the company is mismanaged,** citing as evidence the company's failure to slow production in response to a recent rise in its inventory of finished products. It is doubtful whether an investor's sniping at management can ever be anything other than counterproductive, **(but in this case it is clearly not justified.)** It is true that an increased inventory of finished products often indicates that production is outstripping demand, but **(in Burton's case it indicates no such thing. Rather, the increase in inventory is entirely attributable to products that have already been assigned to orders received from customers.)**

Author's
conclusion
= C

Author's
Premise

In the argument given, the two **boldfaced** portions play which of the following roles?

(✗) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second provides evidence to undermine the support for the position being opposed. **BF 02 is Claim, not Evidence.**

(✗) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second is evidence that has been used to support the position being opposed. **BF 02 is Claim, not Evidence.**

(✓) The first states the position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument as a whole. **Possible answer. Hold. BF 01 is Claim, not Evidence.**

(✗) The first is evidence that has been used to support a position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second provides information to undermine the force of that evidence

(✗) The first is evidence that has been used to support a position that the argument as a whole opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument as a whole. **BF 01 is Claim, not Evidence.**

Boldface Questions

- Q19. Although the earliest surviving Greek inscriptions written in an alphabet date from the eighth century B.C., **the fact that the text of these Greek inscriptions sometimes runs from right to left and sometimes from left to right** indicates that the Greeks adopted alphabetic writing at least two centuries before these inscriptions were produced. After all, the Greeks learned alphabetic writing from the Phoenicians, and presumably, along with the alphabet, they also adopted the then-current Phoenician practice with respect to the direction of text. **And although Phoenician writing was originally inconsistent in direction, by the eighth century B.C. Phoenician was consistently written from right to left and had been for about two centuries.**

In the argument given, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first and the second each describe evidence that has been used to challenge the position that the argument seeks to establish.
- (B) The first is evidence that forms the basis for an objection to the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is that position.
- (C) The first is evidence that forms the basis for an objection to the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is a consideration that is introduced to counter the force of that evidence.
- (D) The first and the second each provide evidence in support of the position that the argument seeks to establish.
- (E) The first provides evidence in support of the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is that position.

Boldface Questions

Premise 01 = F

- Q19. Although the earliest surviving Greek inscriptions written in an alphabet date from the eighth century B.C., **(the fact that the text of these Greek inscriptions sometimes runs from right to left and sometimes from left to right)** indicates that the Greeks adopted alphabetic writing at least two centuries before these inscriptions were produced. (After all, the Greeks learned alphabetic writing from the Phoenicians, and presumably, along with the alphabet, they also adopted the then-current Phoenician practice with respect to the direction of text.) **And although Phoenician writing was originally inconsistent in direction, by the eighth century B.C. Phoenician was consistently written from right to left and had been for about two centuries.**)

Author's
conclusion

Premise 02 = F

In the argument given, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

(✗) The first and the second each describe evidence that has been used to challenge the position that the argument seeks to establish.

They don't challenge the conclusion. They support the conclusion.

(✗) The first is evidence that forms the basis for an objection to the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is that position.

There is no objection.

There is no objection.

(✗) The first is evidence that forms the basis for an objection to the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is a consideration that is introduced to counter the force of that evidence.

(✓) The first and the second each provide evidence in support of the position that the argument seeks to establish.

(✗) The first provides evidence in support of the position that the argument seeks to establish; the second is that position.

BF 02 is also Fact, not Conclusion

Boldface Questions

Q20. Editorial: An arrest made by a Midville police officer is provisional until the officer has taken the suspect to the police station and the watch commander has officially approved the arrest. Such approval is denied if the commander judges that the evidence on which the provisional arrest is based is insufficient. A government efficiency expert has observed that **almost all provisional arrests meet the standards for adequacy of evidence that the watch commanders enforce**. The expert has therefore recommended that, because **the officers' time spent obtaining approval is largely wasted**, the watch commander's approval no longer be required. This recommendation should be rejected as dangerous, however, since there is no assurance that the watch commanders' standards will continue to be observed once approval is no longer required.

In the editorial, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim, the accuracy of which is disputed by the editorial; the second is a conclusion drawn in order to support the main conclusion of the editorial.
- (B) The first is an observation that the editorial disputes; the second is a conclusion that was drawn from that observation.
- (C) The first is a conclusion, the evidence for which the editorial evaluates; the second is part of the evidence cited in favor of that conclusion
- (D) The first is a finding introduced to support the main conclusion of the editorial; the second is that main conclusion.
- (E) The first is a finding that was used in support of a proposal that the editorial opposes; the second is a judgment that was based on that finding and in turn was used to support the proposal.

Boldface Questions

Q20. Editorial: An arrest made by a Midville police officer is provisional until the officer has taken the suspect to the police station and the watch commander has officially approved the arrest. Such approval is denied if the commander judges that the evidence on which the provisional arrest is based is insufficient. A government efficiency expert has observed that **(almost all provisional arrests meet the standards for adequacy of evidence that the watch commanders enforce.)** The expert has therefore recommended that, because **(the officers' time spent obtaining approval is largely wasted,)** the watch commander's approval no longer be required. This recommendation should be rejected as dangerous, however, since there is no assurance that the watch commanders' standards will continue to be observed once approval is no longer required. **Editor's Argument**


Expert's
Premise


Expert's
Premise


Contradicts the expert's


In the editorial, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

 The first is a claim, the accuracy of which is disputed by the editorial; the second is a conclusion drawn in order to support the main conclusion of the editorial. **BF 01 is Evidence, not a Claim**

 The first is an observation that the editorial disputes; the second is a conclusion that was drawn from that observation. **Editor disputes the conclusion, not the observation**

 The first is a conclusion, the evidence for which the editorial evaluates; the second is part of the evidence cited in favor of that conclusion. **BF 01 is Evidence, not a Conclusion**

 The first is a finding introduced to support the main conclusion of the editorial; the second is that main conclusion. **BF 02 is NOT the conclusion of the Editorial**

 The first is a finding that was used in support of a proposal that the editorial opposes; the second is a judgment that was based on that finding and in turn was used to support the proposal.



Thank you