

PREP2012 PACK 1

逻辑部分 带解释

共 75 题

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-001 VCR07575 Easy

According to the Tristate Transportation Authority, making certain improvements to the main commuter rail line would increase ridership dramatically. The authority plans to finance these improvements over the course of five years by raising automobile tolls on the two highway bridges along the route the rail line serves. Although the proposed improvements are indeed needed, the authority's plan for securing the necessary funds should be rejected because it would unfairly force drivers to absorb the entire cost of something from which they receive no benefit.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the effectiveness of the authority's plan to finance the proposed improvements by increasing bridge tolls?

- A. Before the authority increases tolls on any of the area bridges, it is required by law to hold public hearings at which objections to the proposed increase can be raised.
- B. Whenever bridge tolls are increased, the authority must pay a private contractor to adjust the automated toll-collecting machines.
- C. Between the time a proposed toll increase is announced and the time the increase is actually put into effect, many commuters buy more tokens than usual to postpone the effects of the increase.
- D. When tolls were last increased on the two bridges in question, almost 20 percent of the regular commuter switched to a slightly longer alternative route that has since been improved.
- E. The chairman of the authority is a member of the Tristate Automobile Club that has registered strong opposition to the proposed toll increase.

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation

A transportation authority plans to pay for improvements to a commuter rail line by raising automobile tolls on the two highway bridges along the route the rail line serves. One objection to this plan is that drivers will have to pay for something from which they will not benefit.

Reasoning

What casts doubt on how well the financing plan would work? Any financing plan is based on estimates of costs and revenues, and any factor that significantly increases costs or lowers revenues threatens the effectiveness of that plan. The authority's plan makes a revenue projection based on the current number of drivers who use the bridges and thus will pay the increased tolls. If there is a precedent that a significant percentage of regular commuters had previously used an alternate route in order to avoid the increased tolls on these specific bridges, then the revenue basis for the financing plan is considerably undermined. If that substitute route has since become an even more appealing alternative, the effectiveness of the plan is further threatened.

- A. Objections to the plan at public hearings do not affect how well the financing plan will work.
- B. The one-time costs of changing the automatic toll-collectors would not be significant given the five years of revenue from the increased tolls.
- C. Revenue lost to token hoarding is insignificant compared to the revenue gained from five years of increased tolls.
- D. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a factor that weakens the authority's financing plan.
- E. Opposition to the increased toll can be expected; it does not mean that the plan will be less effective.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-002 VCR07580 Easy

Roland: The alarming fact is that 90 percent of the people in this country now report that they know someone who is unemployed.

Sharon: But a normal, moderate level of unemployment is 5 percent, with 1 out of 20 workers unemployed. So at any given time if a person knows approximately 50 workers, 1 or more will very be unemployed.

Sharon's argument is structured to lead to which of the following as a conclusion?

- A. The fact that 90% of the people know someone who is unemployed is not an indication that unemployment is abnormally high.
- B. The current level of unemployment is not moderate.
- C. If at least 5% of workers are unemployed, the result of questioning a representative group of people cannot be the percentage Roland cites.
- D. It is unlikely that the people whose statements Roland cites are giving accurate reports.
- E. If an unemployment figure is given as a certain percent, the actual percentage of those without jobs is even higher.

Argument Construction

Situation

Roland is alarmed that 90% of the population knows someone who is out of work. Sharon replies that a normal level of unemployment is 5%, illustrating her point by saying that if a person knows 50 workers, at least one of them is likely to be unemployed.

Reasoning

Sharon's reply leads to what conclusion about unemployment? Sharon begins her reply with "but," indicating that she is about to counter either Roland's statistic or his alarm; she accepts the statistic and addresses the alarm. If the normal level of unemployment rate is 5% and if the average person knows 50 workers, then knowing one person out of work is within the normal and expected range, not a cause for alarm. Sharon shows that it is possible for 90% of the population to know someone unemployed and for unemployment to be a normal rate of 5% at the same time.

- A. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the conclusion to which the argument is leading.
- B. Sharon's argument is made in the abstract. No information is provided about the current level of unemployment.
- C. Sharon does not challenge Roland's statistics, and her argument is not designed to make a conclusion about their accuracy, only their interpretation.
- D. There is no information about the accuracy of Roland's reports, so no conclusion can be made about how likely or unlikely they are to be accurate.
- E. No information in Sharon's argument supports this conclusion.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-003 Vcr07609 Easy

Guitar strings often go “dead”—become less responsive and bright in tone—after a few weeks of intense use. A researcher whose son is a classical guitarist hypothesized that dirt and oil, rather than changes in the material properties of the string, were responsible.

Which of the following investigations is most likely to yield significant information that would help to evaluate the researcher’s hypothesis?

- A. Determining if a metal alloy is used to make the strings used by classical guitarists
- B. Determining whether classical guitarists make their strings go dead faster than do folk guitarists
- C. Determining whether identical lengths of string, of the same gauge, go dead at different rates when strung on various brands of guitars
- D. Determining whether a dead string and a new string produce different qualities of sound
- E. Determining whether smearing various substances on new guitar strings causes them to go dead

Evaluation of a Plan**Situation**

Dirt and oil are hypothesized to be the cause of lost tone and brightness in guitar strings, rather than changes in the material itself.

Reasoning

Which investigation helps evaluate the hypothesis? The researcher needs to test the hypothesis directly. Smearing substances (such as dirt and oil) onto new strings and seeing if they go dead is a direct test. If the strings do not lose their tone, the hypothesis is false. If they do go dead, the hypothesis is a likely explanation of the problem, although not necessarily the only explanation.

- A. Not enough information is given about the metal alloy to evaluate its effect on the composition of the strings and their loss of tone after intense play.
- B. The difference in the style of play is outside the scope of the hypothesis.
- C. The difference in the brands of guitars is outside the scope of the hypothesis.
- D. The difference between a new string and a dead string has already been established.
- E. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a procedure that is a direct test of the hypothesis.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-004 Vcr07638 Easy

Increases in the level of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) in the human bloodstream lower bloodstream cholesterol levels by increasing the body's capacity to rid itself of excess cholesterol. Levels of HDL in the bloodstream of some individuals are significantly increased by a program of regular exercise and weight reduction.

Which of the following can be correctly inferred from the statements above?

- A. Individuals who are underweight do not run any risk of developing high levels of cholesterol in the bloodstream.
- B. Individuals who do not exercise regularly have a high risk of developing high levels of cholesterol in the bloodstream late in life.
- C. Exercise and weight reduction are the most effective methods of lowering bloodstream cholesterol levels in humans.
- D. A program of regular exercise and weight reduction lowers cholesterol levels in the bloodstream of some individuals.
- E. Only regular exercise is necessary to decrease cholesterol levels in the bloodstream of individuals of average

Argument Construction

Situation

Higher HDL levels in the bloodstream reduce cholesterol. Regular exercise and weight reduction promote higher HDL levels in some people.

Reasoning

What inference is supported by this information? The first statement is a general one, applying to all people. The second one applies only to some people. The resulting inference can be made only about some people, not everyone. Since some people achieve higher HDL levels through a program of regular exercise and weight reduction, these individuals will have lower cholesterol levels.

- A. The passage draws no comparison between being underweight and having lower cholesterol levels.
- B. The passage does not discuss lack of regular exercise as a risk factor for the development of high bloodstream cholesterol late in life.
- C. Other possible methods of lowering cholesterol levels are not discussed, and so a program of exercise and weight reduction cannot be inferred to be the best method. Moreover, a general inference applying to all humans cannot be made of the basis of some individuals.
- D. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the inference that, since a program of exercise and weight reduction raises HDL for some people, that program should lower cholesterol for *some* people.
- E. The passage explicitly states that the two elements of regular exercise and weight reduction together contribute to *some* individuals' ability to increase their HDL levels. It cannot be inferred that all individuals of average weight can lower their cholesterol with regular exercise alone.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-005 VCR07639 Easy

In Asia, where palm trees are non-native, the trees' flowers have traditionally been pollinated by hand, which has kept palm fruit productivity unnaturally low. When weevils known to be efficient pollinators of palm flowers were introduced into Asia in 1980, palm fruit productivity increased— by up to 50 percent in some areas—but then decreased sharply in 1984.

Which of the following statements, if true, would best explain the 1984 decrease in productivity?

- A. Prices for palm fruit fell between 1980 and 1984 following the rise in production and a concurrent fall in demand.
- B. Imported trees are often more productive than native trees because the imported ones have left behind their pests and diseases in their native lands.
- C. Rapid increases in productivity tend to deplete trees of nutrients needed for the development of the fruit-producing female flowers.
- D. weevil population in Asia remained at approximately the same level between 1980 and 1984.
- E. Prior to 1980 another species of insect pollinated the Asian palm trees, but not as efficiently as the species of weevil that was introduced in 1980.

Argument Construction

Situation

In 1980, the introduction of weevils to pollinate palms trees in Asia resulted in increased palm fruit productivity. This productivity decreased sharply in 1984.

Reasoning

What explains the sudden decrease in 1984? The palm trees had experienced a sudden burst of productivity beginning in 1980. What if an after-effect of that spurt was the cause? If that burst of productivity had used up the trees' nutrients, then the trees would be unable to produce the flowers that are pollinated in order to produce fruit. This sudden exhaustion of the tree's resources is the best explanation for the sudden decrease in productivity.

- A. Falling prices and demand do not explain the falling productivity of the trees.
- B. The lack of pests and diseases among imported trees does not explain the sharply decreased productivity.
- C. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a reason for sharply decreased productivity.
- D. If the weevil population pollinating the trees remained the same, it is reasonable to think that productivity remained the same, so this does not explain the decrease.
- E. A change that occurred before 1980 does not explain a change that occurred in 1984.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-006 VCR07640 Easy

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

People buy prestige when they buy a premium product. They want to be associated with something special. Mass-marketing techniques and price reduction strategies should not be used because_____.

- A. Affluent purchasers currently represent a shrinking portion of the population of all purchasers
- B. continued sales depend directly on the maintenance of an aura of exclusivity
- C. purchasers of premium products are concerned with the quality as well as with the price of the products
- D. expansion of the market niche to include a broader spectrum of consumers will increase profits
- E. manufacturing a premium brand is not necessarily more costly than manufacturing a standard brand of the same product

Argument Construction

Situation

Consumers seek prestige when they buy premium products, that is to say, expensive, top-quality products. Mass-marketing techniques and price-reduction strategies are not appropriate tools to sell these products to consumers seeking to be associated with something special.

Reasoning

Why are these tools NOT appropriate for selling these products to this group of consumers? Consider that these consumers want to feel that the premium product they are buying is out of the ordinary. Any strategy that makes the premium product seem more common or easier to own reduces that product's appeal to this group. By definition, mass-marketing techniques appeal to a huge number of people, rather than a small, select group. Further, reducing prices reduces any associated prestige as well because the product becomes more broadly obtainable. These two techniques would not be appropriate because these consumers would lose the feeling that the product is special.

- A. Mass-marketing strategies are not an appropriate match for a small, and currently dwindling, group of buyers; price reductions are not an appropriate match for consumers attracted to products by their high prices.
- B. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the point that continued sales depend on making the product seem special and difficult to obtain; mass marketing techniques and price-reduction strategies would make the product seem quite ordinary and thus hurt sales.
- C. It has not been established that these strategies would lower the products' quality, and so this offers no reason for avoiding the strategies.
- D. This statement provides a reason why broader marketing should be employed, rather than supporting an argument that it should be avoided.
- E. Manufacturing costs are not discussed and so are irrelevant.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-007 VCR07642 Easy

Reviewer: The book *Art's Decline* argues that European painters today lack skills that were common among European painters of preceding centuries. In this the book must be right, since its analysis of 100 paintings, 50 old and 50 contemporary, demonstrates convincingly that none of the contemporary paintings are executed as skillfully as the older paintings.

Which of the following points to the most serious logical flaw in the reviewer's argument?

- A. The paintings chosen by the book's author for analysis could be those that most support the book's thesis.
- B. There could be criteria other than the technical skill of the artist by which to evaluate a painting.
- C. The title of the book could cause readers to accept the book's thesis even before they read the analysis of the paintings that supports it.
- D. The particular methods currently used by European painters could require less artistic skill than do methods used by painters in other parts of the world.
- E. A reader who was not familiar with the language of art criticism might not be convinced by the book's analysis of the 100 paintings.

Argument Evaluation**Situation**

Comparing 50 contemporary paintings with 50 earlier paintings, a book argues that contemporary European painters lack the skills of earlier European painters. The reviewer endorses the book's thesis by noting that the contemporary paintings are not as skillfully done as the older paintings.

Reasoning

What is the flaw in the reasoning? The argument is based on two samples of 50 paintings each, but there is no evidence that the samples are representative. It is quite possible that the book presents and discusses only those paintings that support its argument and ignores those paintings that do not support the argument. The reviewer accepts the selected samples of artwork without questioning how truly representative they are.

- A. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a logical flaw in the reviewer's argument.
- B. This statement critiques the narrow focus of the book, not the reasoning of its argument, which is endorsed by the reviewer.
- C. This statement shows that the reasoning of readers may be flawed if they accept the thesis on the basis of the book's title; it does not point to a flaw in the author's or the reviewer's reasoning.
- D. The book compares two groups of European painters. Comparisons to painters in other parts of the world are irrelevant.
- E. This statement focuses on the reader's possible confusion, not on an error of reasoning on the part of the reviewer or author.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-008 VCR07644 Easy

Many breakfast cereals are fortified with vitamin supplements. Some of these cereals provide 100 percent of the recommended daily requirement of vitamins. Nevertheless, a well-balanced breakfast, including a variety of foods, is a better source of those vitamins than are such fortified breakfast cereals alone.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the position above?

- A. In many foods, the natural combination of vitamins with other nutrients makes those vitamins more usable by the body than are vitamins added in vitamin supplements.
- B. People who regularly eat cereals fortified with vitamin supplements sometimes neglect to eat the foods in which the vitamins occur naturally.
- C. Foods often must be fortified with vitamin supplements because naturally occurring vitamins are removed during processing.
- D. Unprocessed cereals are naturally high in several of the vitamins that are usually added to fortified breakfast cereals.
- E. Cereals containing vitamin supplements are no harder to digest than similar cereals without added vitamins.

Argument Evaluation**Situation**

A well-balanced breakfast with a variety of foods is a better source of vitamins than a breakfast of cereal fortified with vitamin supplements.

Reasoning

What strengthens the argument in favor of a balanced breakfast as a better source of vitamins? The argument compares the vitamins naturally occurring in foods and those added to cereal. What would make the vitamins in foods superior in nutritional value to the vitamin supplements in fortified cereals? If the combination of vitamins with other nutrients in many foods allowed the body to better use those vitamins, a balanced breakfast would be the preferred source of the vitamins.

- A. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a factor that strengthens the argument.
- B. This statement explains who might benefit from a well-balanced breakfast, but it does not support the conclusion in favor eating a variety of foods.
- C. This statement shows why foods need to be fortified, but it does not support the conclusion that naturally occurring vitamins in foods are better.
- D. This statement provides some information about unprocessed cereals, but it does not explain why the vitamins found in a balanced breakfast are superior to the vitamins in fortified cereals.
- E. The ability of the body to digest fortified or unfortified cereals is outside the scope of the question.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-009 VCR014015 Easy

Plant scientists have used genetic engineering on seeds to produce crop plants that are highly resistant to insect damage. Unfortunately, the plants require more fertilizer and water to grow well than normal ones do, and **the seeds themselves are quite expensive**, and for most farmers the savings on pesticides would not compensate for the higher seed costs and the cost of additional fertilizer. However, since consumer demand for grains, fruits, and vegetables grown without the use of pesticides continues to rise, the use of genetically engineered seeds of this kind is likely to become widespread.

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

- A. The first presents a development that the argument seeks to show will have certain disadvantages; the second is introduced as a consideration likely to offset one of those disadvantages.
- B. The first presents a development that the argument predicts will have a certain impact; the second acknowledges a consideration that weighs against that prediction.
- C. The first supplies a context for the argument; the second is a part of the evidence presented as support for the argument's conclusion.
- D. The first is evidence provided to support an intermediate conclusion that is drawn in support of the argument's main conclusion; the second is that intermediate conclusion.
- E. The first and the second each provide evidence in support of the argument's main conclusion.

Reasoning

What roles do the two boldfaced portions play in the argument? The first boldfaced portion describes a new development, genetically engineered crops resistant to insects. The second boldfaced portion describes a disadvantage of these new plants. Savings on pesticides will not be sufficient to compensate farmers for this and another drawback. The final sentence of the passage argues that despite this insufficient compensation, seeds for the new plant will probably become widely used.

- A. The second boldfaced portion presents a disadvantage of the development described by the first boldfaced portion— not a consideration that would offset such a disadvantage.
- B. **Correct.** The first boldfaced portion presents a development, genetically engineered seeds, that the argument predicts will become widely used; the second boldfaced portion acknowledges the seeds' expense, a consideration that might lead one to expect that the seeds would not become widely used..
- C. The second boldfaced portion says that the seeds are expensive; this does not support the passage's conclusion that the seeds will be widely used.
- D. The first boldfaced portion describes the development of genetically engineered seeds but presents no evidence that the seeds are expensive as the second boldfaced portion states.
- E. The first boldfaced portion introduces the topic of the passage but does not support any specific conclusion in the passage; the second does not support the passage's conclusion that the seeds will be widely used.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-010 VCR004721 Easy

Paper&Print is a chain of British stores selling magazines, books, and stationery products. In Britain, magazines' retail prices are set by publishers, and the retailer's share of a magazine's retail price 25 percent. Since Paper&Print's margin on books and stationery products is much higher, the chain's management plans to devote more of its stores' shelf space to books and stationery products and reduce the number of magazine titles that its stores carry.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly argues that the plan, if put into effect, will increase Paper&Print's profits?

- A. Recently magazine publishers, seeking to increase share in competitive sectors of the market, have been competitively cutting the retail prices of some of the largest circulation magazines.
- B. In market research surveys, few consumers identify Paper&Print as a book or stationery store but many recognize and value the broad range of magazines it carries.
- C. The publisher's share of a magazine's price is 50 percent, and the publisher also retains all of the magazine's advertising revenue.
- D. Consumers who subscribe to a magazine generally pay less per issue than they would if they bought the magazine through a retail outlet such as Paper&Print.
- E. Some of Paper&Print's locations are in small towns and represent the only retail outlet for books within the community.

Reasoning

What would make it least likely that devoting more of the business to books and stationery, and less to magazines, would increase profits? The reasoning behind the plan is that Paper&Print has a greater profit margin on books and stationery than it can legally attain on magazines, and that carrying more items with higher profit margins and fewer with lower profit margins will increase overall profits. A weakness in this reasoning is that profits depend on actually selling items, not merely on carrying them. If magazines sell far more briskly than other merchandise, shelf space devoted to magazines may generate higher profits, despite the magazines' lower profit margins. If this were the situation, the plan might backfire and fail to increase profits.

- A. Lower retail prices on magazines could lower Paper&Print's profits per magazine sold and hence make the plan to devote more shelf space to merchandise other than magazines more likely to increase overall profits.
- B. **Correct.** If far more customers shop at Paper&Print for its broad range of magazines than for its books and stationery, then cutting the shelf space devoted to magazines may disappoint the customers, reducing overall sales and profits.
- C. Paper&Print's magazine profits come from the 25 percent of the magazines' retail price that goes to the retailer, no matter who gets the rest.
- D. This would tend to reduce Paper&Print's magazine sales and hence make the plan to devote more shelf space to merchandise other than magazines more likely to increase overall profits.
- E. This would tend to increase Paper&Print's book sales at some stores and hence make the plan to devote more shelf space to books rather than magazines more to increase overall profits.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-011 VCR005442 Easy

An influential stock analyst recommends the purchase of three infrequently traded stocks in each of his weekly magazine columns. Unusually large amounts of these stocks are often purchased one day before the magazine appears on the newsstands. This pattern has recurred over a period.

Suppose that the information presented above is accurate. Each of the following statements, if true, could help to explain why the unusually large purchases occurred EXCEPT:

- A. Workers at the company that prints the magazine have used their advance knowledge of the analyst's column to guide their own stock purchases.
- B. Workers at the company that prints the magazine often sell advance copies of the magazine to stockbrokers.
- C. One hundred copies of each issue of the magazine are circulated in the publishing company's office a day before the issue appears on newsstands.
- D. The analyst refuses to submit his column for editorial review before it is printed.
- E. Twenty people in the publishing company have access to the analyst's column before it is printed.

Reasoning

There has been, over a period of five years, a pattern of unusually large stock purchases one day before the stock analyst's magazine column recommending them appears on the newsstands. Of the five answer options given, which one would NOT help explain this pattern? Anything suggesting how people who buy stocks could see the column or discover the information in it at least a day before it appears on the newsstands would help explain the pattern. Therefore look for the answer option that does not suggest how this could happen.

- A. The workers' purchases based on their advance knowledge could account for the pattern.
- B. The stockbrokers' purchases based on their advance knowledge could account for the pattern.
- C. Purchases by publishing company employees and others with whom they shared the information could account for the pattern.
- D. **Correct.** This answer option does not indicate how anyone other than the analyst could find out about the recommendations in advance. Therefore, it would not help explain the pattern.
- E. Purchases by these twenty people and others with whom they shared the information could account for the pattern.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-012 VCR005853 Easy

The faster a car is traveling, the less time the driver has to avoid a potential accident, and if a car does crash, higher speeds increase the risk of a fatality. Between 1995 and 2000, average highway speeds increased significantly in the United States, yet, over that time, there was a drop in the number of car-crash fatalities per highway mile driven by cars.

Which of the following, if true about the United States between 1995 and 2000, most helps to explain why the fatality rate decreased in spite of the increase in average highway speeds?

- A. The average number of passengers per car on highways increased.
- B. There were increases in both the proportion of people who wore seat belts and the proportion of cars that were equipped with airbags as safety devices.
- C. The increase in average highway speeds occurred as legal speed limits were raised on one highway after another.
- D. The average mileage driven on highways per car increased.
- E. In most locations on the highways, the density of vehicles on the highway did not decrease, although individual vehicles, on average, made their trips more quickly.

Reasoning

What could explain why the number of fatalities per highway mile driven declined even as average highway speeds increased? We are told that higher speeds mean a higher risk of fatalities, other things being equal. Consequently, the increasing highway speeds between 1995 and 2000 should have led to more fatalities per highway mile driven. Since the fatalities per mile driven actually decreased, some countervailing factor must have increased driving safety more than enough to compensate for the danger of the higher speeds. Thus, find an answer option suggesting how a factor that increased driving safety became more common or effective between 1995 and 2000.

- A. More passengers per car would likely mean even more fatalities per highway mile driven, since more people would die per car accident.
- B. **Correct.** More seatbelts and airbags would have probably reduced the average number of fatalities per car accident, resulting in fewer fatalities per mile driven even if the higher speeds resulted in more car accidents.
- C. This cannot help explain the decrease in fatalities. Driving at a higher speed probably increases the risk of a fatal car accident regardless of whether the speed is legal or illegal.
- D. Fewer accidents per highway mile driven could explain why the average highway mileage per car increased (since some cars would have gone more miles before crashing), but the converse is not correct: the increased average mileage could not explain why there were fewer accidents per mile driven.
- E. Instead of explaining why there was a decrease in the number of fatalities per highway mile driven, this merely rules out the possibility that the explanation was a lower density of cars on the highways.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-013 VCR006844 Easy

Traces of cultivated emmer wheat have been found among the earliest agricultural remains at many archaeological sites in Europe and Asia. The only place where the wild form of emmer wheat has been found growing is a relatively narrow strip of southwest Asia. Since the oldest remains of cultivated emmer wheat yet found are from village sites in the same narrow strip, it is clear that emmer wheat was first domesticated somewhere in that strip.

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

- A. The present-day distribution of another wild wheat, einkorn, which was also domesticated early in the development of agriculture, covers a much larger area of southwest Asia.
- B. Wild emmer wheat can easily be made to yield nearly as much as modern domestic strains.
- C. At the time when emmer wheat was first cultivated, it was the most nutritious of all the varieties of grain that were then cultivated.
- D. In the strip where wild emmer wheat has been found, climatic conditions have changed very little since before the development of agriculture.
- E. It is very difficult, without genetic testing, to differentiate the wild form of emmer wheat from a closely related wild wheat that also grows in southwest Asia.

Reasoning

What would provide the most additional evidence that wild emmer wheat was first domesticated in the strip of southwest Asia where it now grows? The argument is that since wild emmer wheat is only found in that strip, and the oldest remains of cultivated emmer wheat are at village sites in the same area, emmer wheat must have first been cultivated there. This assumes that wild emmer wheat has grown in just the same strip since it was first cultivated. If wild emmer wheat used to grow elsewhere, it might have first been cultivated elsewhere and reached the village sites through trade. Therefore, look for an answer option providing evidence that wild emmer wheat has grown only in that strip since it was first cultivated.

- A. This raises the possibility that wild emmer wheat, einkorn wheat, might once have grown in a larger area and hence might have first been domesticated outside that narrow strip--contrary to what is argued in the passage.
- B. If wild emmer wheat already produces high yields, it may not have been domesticated very thoroughly, but that does not indicate where the wheat was first domesticated.
- C. The nutritional content of emmer wheat is irrelevant to the question of where it was first domesticated.
- D. **Correct.** If climate conditions have not changed much in the strip, it's unlikely that the natural geographical growing range of wild emmer wheat has shifted. Therefore, it's more likely that wild emmer wheat has grown only in the same strip since it was first cultivated.
- E. Difficulty in differentiating the two forms of wheat might cast doubt on the reliability of the archaeological evidence cited and thereby weaken the argument.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-014 VCR007679 Easy

The Acme Corporation has found that improvements in its information technology infrastructure allow its employees to make more decisions that are both sound and well-informed than was previously feasible. Consequently, the corporation plans to improve employee productivity by introducing new managerial techniques that delegate much of the decision-making to lower levels of the organizational hierarchy. Managers will simply set clear standards and guidelines and then allow employee teams to undertake tasks without centralized control.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support a prediction that the Acme Corporation's plan will achieve its goal?

- A. The corporation will be able to cut its managerial staff only if the managers' sole function is to set clear standards and guidelines for employees.
- B. After Acme's information technology infrastructure was improved, very few of Acme's managers continued to believe that only managers should make most decisions.
- C. Most of the tasks currently performed by the corporation's employees require few if any significant decisions to be made.
- D. When employees can make decisions themselves, rather than submitting the same matters for decision to managers, there is more time available for directly productive activities.
- E. Some other companies that have better employee productivity than does the Acme Corporation also plan to use the new managerial techniques.

Reasoning

What would suggest that the plan to allow lower-level employees to make more decisions will improve their productivity? We are told that new information technology now allows the employees to make sound, well-informed decisions. Consequently, allowing lower-level employees to make more decisions may not hurt productivity. But we have no evidence that this change will actually improve productivity. Therefore, look for an answer option explaining how it might do so.

- A. This suggests a condition—limitation of managers' responsibilities—that would have to be fulfilled to make layoffs of managerial staff possible, but it does not provide evidence that the plan would improve employee productivity overall.
- B. If most of the managers agree that they should give up some decision-making authority, they may not resist the plan's implementation, but this does not provide evidence that the plan would improve productivity.
- C. If the employees do not need to make decisions to do their jobs well, then delegating decisions to them is less likely to improve their productivity.
- D. **Correct.** This explains how the plan, by reducing the time employees have to spend with managers, could improve employee productivity.
- E. Since the other companies are not using the new managerial techniques yet, the higher employee productivity at those companies does not suggest that the techniques improve productivity.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-015 VCR007798 Easy

The recent rise of low-cost airlines in Country Y has led to great increases in the number of air travelers and flights. However, a “hidden cost” of flying and certain other forms of travel is the significant amount of air pollution, which contributes to global warming. To make people pay these hidden costs—and in the process discourage the explosive growth in flying—the government of Country Y plans to impose fees on all air travel. There is a problem, however, in that many residents of Country Y would then use automobile transportation instead, without paying the hidden costs of the resulting air pollution.

Which of the following additions to the government's plan would be likely to help most in overcoming the problem referred to in the final sentence above?

- A. Restricting the number of daily flights permitted in Country Y
- B. Using the fees imposed on air travel to educate the public about the effects of air pollution on global warming
- C. Setting clear, specific recommendations for the long-term reduction in exhaust emissions by automobile transportation in the country
- D. Asking airplane manufacturers to study the possibility of creating airplanes that produce less air pollution
- E. Imposing substantial fees on all forms of motorized transportation, in proportion to the amount of pollution caused by each form

Reasoning

How could Country Y's plan be modified to make it more effective in either preventing pollution or making people pay the cost of pollution? If the plan addresses air travel exclusively, it will encourage people to drive instead of flying. Since drivers will not have to pay for the hidden costs of air pollution from their driving, the total amount of air pollution may not fall as the government hopes. The most obvious way to address this problem is to impose similar fees on drivers to encourage them to reduce their driving, as well as pay the cost of their air pollution, just as air travelers must do.

- A. Restricting the number of daily flights would encourage even more people to drive instead of flying, thus worsening the problem described in the final sentence of the passage.
- B. Although public education might be helpful, it would not force drivers to pay the hidden costs of their air pollution. Therefore, public education would not fully address the problem described in the final sentence of the passage.
- C. Such recommendations would not in themselves force drivers to pay the hidden costs of their air pollution, so they would not fully address the problem described in the final sentence of the passage.
- D. This might help reduce air pollution from air travel, but it would not affect air pollution caused by driving. Therefore, this option would not address the problem described in the final sentence of the passage.
- E. **Correct.** These fees would make drivers pay for the hidden costs of air pollution from driving. Therefore, imposing fees would probably reduce air pollution and help overcome the problem described in the final sentence of the passage.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-016 VCR007831 Easy

Fashion company executive: The number of competing brands of clothing is increasing much more quickly than is consumer demand for new clothing. As a result, it is becoming ever more for our clothing company to keep consumers focused on our products. To increase our sales, therefore, our company plans to introduce innovative, eye-catching lines of clothing much more frequently.

To evaluate whether the plan described by the executive would be likely to achieve its goal, it would be most useful to know which of the following?

- A. Whether other, competing clothing companies will more frequently introduce newlines of clothing
- B. To what extent consumers' attention tends to be focused on innovative, eye-catching products in other industries
- C. Why the number of competing brands of clothing is increasing more quickly than consumer demand for new clothing
- D. How much more likely most consumers are to buy innovative, eye-catching lines of clothing than they are to buy conventional, familiar clothing
- E. Whether the executive's company is currently selling any innovative and eye-catching lines of clothing

Reasoning

What information would provide the strongest evidence about whether introducing more innovative, eye-catching clothing would help the company increase sales? The company is struggling to keep consumers' attention because the number of competing clothing brands is increasing faster than demand for clothing. Although innovative, eye-catching clothing would probably attract attention, the plan's ultimate goal is to increase sales. Therefore, look for an answer option that addresses the issue of whether more innovative, eye-catching clothing would actually increase the company's sales.

- A. The company's plan might or might not work regardless of whether competing companies also frequently introduce new lines of clothing; it might depend on whether those competing lines are also innovative and eye-catching.
- B. As explained above, the question is not whether innovative, eye-catching clothing will attract attention, but rather whether it will increase sales.
- C. This does not speak to whether the company's plan can meet the challenge of the rapidly-changing marketplace by introducing more innovative, eye-catching clothing.
- D. **Correct.** This addresses the issue of whether innovative, eye-catching clothing would actually increase the company's sales.
- E. Knowing whether the company currently sells any innovative, eye-catching clothing does not indicate whether introducing more such clothing would increase or decrease sales.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-017 VCR007918 Easy

A physically active lifestyle has been shown to help increase longevity. In the Wistar region of Bellaria, the average age at death is considerably higher than in any other part of the country. Wistar is the only mountainous part of Bellaria. A mountainous terrain makes even such basic activities as walking relatively strenuous; it essentially imposes a physically active lifestyle on people. Clearly, this circumstance explains the long lives of people in Wistar.

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

- A. In Bellaria all medical expenses are paid by the government, so that personal income does not affect the quality of health care a person receives.
- B. People living in Wistar do not have a significantly better diet than people living in other parts of Bellaria.
- C. Many people who live in the Wistar region have moved there in middle age or upon retirement.
- D. The many opportunities for hiking, skiing, and other outdoor activities that Wistar's mountains offer make it a favorite destination for vacationing Bellarians.
- E. Per capita spending on recreational activities is no higher in Wistar than it is in other regions of Bellaria.

Reasoning

What would suggest that the reason people in Wistar live longer is not the extra exercise they get from walking in mountainous terrain? The argument is that exercise increases longevity, and people in Wistar have to exercise just to get around in the mountainous terrain. Consequently, that extra exercise must explain their unusual longevity. The argument would be weakened if some other plausible factor could explain their greater longevity; if people in other parts of Bellaria actually get just as much exercise as people in Wistar; or if many people in Wistar have not [wed there long enough to accrue significant benefits from mountain exercise. Therefore, look for an answer option that undermines the argument in one of these ways.

- A. Since we do not know whether people have higher or lower personal incomes in Wistar than elsewhere in Bellaria, the relevance of this information is unclear.
- B. By out the possibility that diet could explain the greater longevity of people in Wistar, this supports the arguments conclusion that mountain exercise is the explanation.
- C. **Correct.** People who moved to Wistar in middle age or upon retirement have not pursued a typically Wistarian lifestyle for a major part of their lives, even if they live to be near 100. This indicates that factors other than the Wistarian lifestyle may well have the greatest impact on longevity among that substantial group. This group may have greater longevity than among the Wistarian population in general, rendering hazardous any generalizations about the causes of longevity in Wistar.
- D. This indicates that Wistar offers many opportunities for mountain exercise--which other Bellarians seem to get only during vacation. Therefore, this option supports the argument's conclusion that such exercise accounts for the greater longevity of people living in Wistar.
- E. The argument is that people living in Wistar live longer just because of the exercise they get walking in the mountainous terrain as part of their daily routines; they do not have to spend money on recreational activities to get this exercise.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-018 VCR014017 Easy

Airport official: Local residents have been complaining that night flights into Plainsville airport disturb their sleep and should be sharply reduced in number. This complaint is completely unreasonable—there have been night flights coming into the airport from the very beginning, twenty years ago, and these residents should have taken that fact into account when buying their homes.

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

- A. There are fewer night flights now than there were originally.
- B. The residents who are complaining have been in their current homes fewer than twenty years.
- C. The residents who are complaining are ignoring the benefits they gain from the presence of the airport.
- D. The economic success of the airport depends entirely on the existence of the night flights.
- E. People buying houses in Plainville all avoid buying houses near the airport if they can.

Reasoning

In order to adequately support the argument's conclusion, what piece of information must be an implicit part of the argument? The conclusion of the argument is residents' complaints about night flights that disturb their sleep are unreasonable. The officials point is that if the residents chose to move into an area with noisy night flights, they cannot reasonably complain about those flights. But this presupposes that the area already experienced noise from night flights when the residents moved there; that the residents knew or should have known about the noise when they bought their homes; and that they could have chosen to live elsewhere. Therefore, look for an answer option that expresses or follows from one or more of these assumptions.

- A. The point could make sense even if the frequency of night flights hasn't changed.
- B. **Correct.** As explained above, the argument presupposes that the night flights were already happening when the complaining residents first moved to the area; since the night flights started twenty years ago, the argument assumes the residents moved there less than twenty years ago.
- C. Even if the residents acknowledged the benefits they gain from the airport, their complaints about the night flights might still be unreasonable.
- D. Even if the airport could scrape by without night flights, the residents' complaints about the night flights might still be unreasonable.
- E. Without assuming this, the argument would still be successful—for example, even if it included the information that no homebuyers who can avoid buying houses near the airport do so.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-019 VCR008048 Easy

Paper and plastic grocery bags are a continuing problem for the city, both as litter and in landfills. To discourage their use, the city has proposed a tax on each bag, to be paid by the supermarkets that supply them. Several environmental groups, however, oppose the tax, despite having brought the issue to the council's attention in the first place.

Which of the following, if true, would best explain the environmental groups' opposition to the proposed tax?

- A. The city's current tax revenue is insufficient to pay the cost of recycling paper and plastic grocery bags.
- B. The cost to the city of collecting and disposing of a grocery bag is greater than the proposed tax per bag.
- C. Plastic bags account for 90 percent of the grocery bags that litter the city's streets and take up space in landfills.
- D. Only supermarkets distributing more than a certain number of grocery bags each month would be subject to the proposed tax.
- E. Supermarkets plan to pass the tax on to consumers, who are unlikely to change their behavior based on the small increase in their grocery bills.

Reasoning

Why would environmental groups oppose a tax intended to discourage the use of bags that cause environmental problems? The environmental groups brought the issue to the city council's attention, so they do want to prevent the problems the bags cause. If the environmental groups oppose the tax, they must think that the tax will not actually help solve the problem, or that it will cause other problems. Therefore, look for an answer option that explains why the environmental groups might think that.

- A. If the city cannot currently afford to recycle the bags, that's all the more reason for environmental groups to support the tax, which could discourage use of the bags and give the city enough funding to recycle them.
- B. The objective of the tax is to discourage the use of paper and plastic grocery bags, but the information in this answer option gives no reason to think that the environmental groups oppose the tax on the grounds that it would fail to achieve the objective.
- C. If plastic bags are a worse problem than paper bags, that would be a reason to tax the plastic bags more heavily, not to oppose taxing bags at all.
- D. If most bags are distributed by smaller supermarkets that would not be subject to the tax, that might be a reason to extend the tax to cover those supermarkets as well, but it would not be a reason to oppose the tax.
- E. **Correct.** This suggests that the tax will not help reduce the litter and landfill problems the environmental groups want to solve. Therefore, it could be a reason for them to oppose the tax (perhaps in order to institute an alternative measure that would be more likely to achieve the desired result).

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-020 VCR008063 Easy

Public health official: Some researchers suspect that magnetic fields from high-voltage power lines can cause health problems for people who live especially near the lines. However, this is extremely unlikely: Beyond a distance of a few feet, the strength of the magnetic fields from high-voltage power lines is less than the average strength of magnetic fields in homes that are not located near such lines.

Which of the following would it be most useful to establish in order to evaluate the public health argument?

- A. Whether magnetic fields in homes that are not located near high-voltage power lines can cause health problems for the residents of those homes
- B. What proportion of people who live near high-voltage power lines believe that those lines may cause health problems
- C. Whether high-voltage power lines are routed near residential in urban areas
- D. What specific diseases or conditions are suspected by some researchers to result from exposure to magnetic fields from high-voltage power lines
- E. What is the average strength of magnetic fields in workplaces that are not located near high-voltage power lines

Reasoning

What additional evidence would most help determine whether magnetic fields from high-voltage power lines cause health problems for people who live near the lines? The public health official argues that power lines' magnetic fields probably do not cause health problems beyond a few feet from the lines, because those magnetic fields are weaker than magnetic fields usually are in homes far from such lines. This argument assumes that magnetic fields in homes far from the lines do not cause health problems and that people who live near the lines do not spend much time within a few feet of them. Therefore, look for an answer option that indicates whether one or both of these assumptions is correct.

- A. **Correct.** This information would straightforwardly indicate whether the first assumption discussed above is true.
- B. People's beliefs about whether the power lines cause health problems may be ill-founded and mistaken; they are not relevant to whether magnetic fields can cause health problems.
- C. This would indicate whether many people live near the power lines, but not whether those who live near the lines suffer health problems as a result.
- D. Without further information (e.g., whether the incidence of such diseases or conditions is greater among people who live especially near higher-voltage power lines), knowing which specific health problems the researchers think the lines cause would suffice to evaluate the public health argument.
- E. The argument concerns magnetic fields in homes, not magnetic fields in workplaces; but knowing how strong the magnetic fields are even in homes would not suffice to know whether such magnetic fields cause health problems or not.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-021 VCR014018 Easy

Manager: Although our corporation lists rules in an orientation booklet, few employees read the booklet carefully enough to familiarize themselves with all the rules. Lecturing employees for inadvertent rule violations often makes them resentful and less cooperative. Thus, to improve employee adherence to rules, we plan to issue gentle reminders about various rules in each issue of our weekly newsletter.

Which of the following would it be most helpful to discover about the employees in the corporation in order to evaluate the likelihood that the plan will succeed?

- A. Whether most of them who are lectured for inadvertent rule violations are deterred from violating the same rule again
- B. Whether most of them who inadvertently violate rules already feel resentful and uncooperative
- C. Whether most of them violate at least some rules with which they are familiar
- D. Whether most of them who regularly read the weekly newsletter are familiar with at least some rules
- E. Whether most of them would usually read with sufficient care the portions of the weekly newsletter that are reminders of rules

Reasoning

What information about the corporation's employees would most help determine whether gentle reminders in the weekly newsletter would get them to follow the rules better? The corporation's current techniques for promoting the office rules do not work well—most employees do not read the orientation booklet carefully, and verbal lectures about the rules make the employees resentful and less cooperative. For the reminders in the newsletter to work, they must avoid both of these pitfalls. Therefore, look for an answer option that suggests whether employees will learn about rules from the newsletter and will then follow the rules cooperatively.

- A. Knowing how effective the lectures are does not indicate how effective reminders in the newsletter may be.
- B. The plan involves using the newsletter to remind employees about rules and thus to reduce the frequency of inadvertent rule violations. Even if we know that most employees who inadvertently violate office rules already feel resentful and uncooperative, we cannot conclude that they will not follow the office rules better once they become more aware of what the rules are. Neither can we conclude that they will follow the rules better.
- C. Even if we know that most employees knowingly break one or two rules that they especially dislike, we cannot draw any conclusions about their level of rule-compliance if they become more aware of other rules.
- D. The existing level of rule-awareness among regular readers will not tell us whether the plan will increase that level of awareness, nor whether such an increased level of awareness would promote greater compliance or not.
- E. **Correct.** This addresses the issue of whether employees will read the newsletters' reminders carefully, as discussed above. If the answer is no, then the plan is to fail.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-022 VCR008516 Easy

Letter to the editor: Our city plans to allow major commercial development along the south waterfront and, in so doing, to increase its tax revenue.

But, to succeed commercially, the development would inevitably create far more road traffic than the existing roads to the waterfront can handle, causing serious congestion. Providing enough roads or public transportation to the area would cost far more than the city could gain from the increased tax revenue.

Which of the following, if added to the city's plan, would be most likely to help solve the problem the letter describes?

- A. Funding construction of new roads to the waterfront with a system of tolls on the new roads to the waterfront
- B. Allowing residential development along the waterfront so that there will be waterfront residents who can walk to the commercial development
- C. Giving tax breaks to developers of businesses along the waterfront to offset any tax levied on them for construction of roads or public transportation
- D. Evaluating the net benefits that the commercial development would bring to the city in terms of improved quality of life for the city's residents rather than in financial terms
- E. Allowing commercial development in other city neighborhoods whose roads are not seriously congested with traffic

Reasoning

What could be done to help solve the traffic problem the development would cause? The city wants the development to succeed commercially and thereby increase city tax revenue. But to deal with the major congestion that would result, the city would have to spend so much for new roads or public transportation that the development would no longer be financially worthwhile for the city. To solve this problem, the city needs some way to reduce traffic congestion without spending so much on new roads or public transportation--either by making the new roads and public transportation pay for themselves somehow, or else by finding another, cheaper way to get shoppers to the development while avoiding traffic congestion.

- A. **Correct.** Tolls on the new roads could both alleviate congestion and pay for the roads, thus solving both of the problems mentioned in the passage.
- B. This does not tell us whether there the suggested residential development would be large enough to make the new commercial development viable. Moreover, there's no reason to think the new waterfront residents would reduce traffic congestion coming from other areas, or provide substantial help with funding new roads or public transportation.
- C. If the city gives tax breaks to the developers, the development will generate even less tax revenue, so this will not make the development any more financially viable for the city.
- D. Evaluating the benefits will not increase the benefits, and in any case, improved quality of life will not solve the financial problems or the congestion problems resulting from the development.
- E. Commercial development in other neighborhoods could probably cause new congestion in those neighborhoods just as it would along the south waterfront.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-023 VCR00710 Medium

Products sold under a brand name used to command premium prices because, in general, they were superior to nonbrand rival products. Technical expertise in product development has become so widespread, however, that special quality advantages are very hard to obtain these days and even harder to maintain. As a consequence, brand-name products generally neither offer higher quality nor sell at higher prices. Paradoxically, brand names are a bigger marketing advantage than ever.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the paradox above?

- A. Brand names are taken by consumers as a guarantee of getting a product as good as the best rival products.
- B. Consumers recognize that the quality of products sold under invariant brand names can drift over time.
- C. In many acquisitions of one corporation by another, the acquiring corporation is interested more in acquiring the right to use certain brand names than in acquiring existing production facilities.
- D. In the days when special quality advantages were easier to obtain than they are now, it was also easier to get new brand names established.
- E. The advertising of a company's brand-name products is at times transferred to a new advertising agency, especially when sales are declining.

Argument Evaluation

Situation

In both quality and price, brand-name and nonbrand products have now become similar. Yet brand names offer a bigger marketing advantage than ever.

Reasoning

How can this paradox be explained? It is given that a brand-name product's only distinction from its rival products is a recognizable name. What must be true to give brand-name products a bigger marketing advantage? Could consumers be relying on their outdated knowledge and believing that brand names continue to guarantee that a product's quality is at least as good as, and possibly higher than, that of the rival products at the same price? If so, they would choose to purchase the brand-name product trusting they would, at a minimum, get comparable quality for the same price.

- A. **Correct.** This statement correctly identifies the consumer behavior that explains the marketing advantage of brand names.
- B. Consumers would be less to buy brand-name products if they were unsure of their quality, so this statement does not resolve the paradox.
- C. Corporations value brand names, but this statement does not say why, nor does it explain the marketing advantage of brand names.
- D. The relative ease or difficulty of establishing brand names does not explain why they are a marketing advantage.
- E. The shift from one advertising agency to another to counteract falling sales does not account for the general marketing advantage brand names enjoy.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-024 VCR00762 Medium

A museum has been offered an undocumented statue, supposedly Greek and from the sixth century B.C. Possibly the statue is genuine but undocumented because it was recently unearthed or because it has been privately owned. However, an ancient surface usually has uneven weathering, whereas the surface of this statue has the uniform quality characteristically produced by a chemical bath used by forgers to imitate a weathered surface. Therefore, the statue is probably a forgery.

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

- A. Museums can accept a recently unearthed statue only with valid export documentation from its country of origin.
- B. The subject's pose and other aspects of the subject's treatment exhibit all the most common features of Greek statues of the sixth century B.C.
- C. The chemical bath that forgers use was at one time used by dealers and collectors to remove the splotchy surface appearance of genuinely ancient sculptures.
- D. Museum officials believe that forgers have no technique that can convincingly simulate the patchy weathering characteristic of the surfaces of ancient sculptures.
- E. An allegedly Roman sculpture with a uniform surface similar to that of the statue being offered to the museum was recently shown to be a forgery.

Argument Evaluation

Situation

The authenticity of an undocumented statue, supposed to be Greek from the sixth century B.C., is questioned. Its surface shows a uniform quality typically achieved from a chemical bath, a technique used by forgers. Thus the statue is probably a forgery.

Reasoning

What point weakens the argument that the statue is a forgery? The argument that the statue is a forgery rests on one point: the statue's uniform surface suggests it may have been treated in a chemical bath used by forgers to simulate weathering. If the statue acquired its surface in some legitimate way, then the conclusion that it is not a true antiquity is weakened. If art dealers or collectors once used for esthetic reasons the same chemical baths now used by forgers for a different purpose, that fact would throw into doubt the conclusion about the statue's lack of authenticity.

- A. Since the argument is about what might make the statue a forgery, not about museums' acquisition protocols, this statement fails to weaken the argument.
- B. Since successful forgers of antiquities might well be expected to produce a counterfeit work that typifies its supposed historical period, this statement does not affect the argument.
- C. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a possible historical source of the statue's uniform surface and thus undermines the one-point argument that the statue is a forgery.
- D. This statement is not relevant to this case since the statue in question does not have patchy weathering, but rather a uniform surface.
- E. A similar example suggests that this statue, too, could be proven a forgery, so the conclusion is not weakened.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-025 VCR06878 Medium

Manufacturers of mechanical pencils make most of their profit on pencil leads rather than on the pencils themselves. The Write Company, which cannot sell its leads as cheaply as other manufacturers can, plans to alter the design of its mechanical pencil so that it will accept only a newly designed Write Company lead, which will be sold at the same price as the Write Company's current lead.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the Write Company's projection that its plan will lead to an increase in its sales of pencil leads?

- A. First-time buyers of mechanical pencils tend to buy the least expensive mechanical pencils available.
- B. Annual sales of mechanical are expected to triple over the next five years.
- C. Write Company executive is studying ways to reduce the cost of manufacturing pencil leads.
- D. A rival manufacturer recently announced similar plans to introduce a mechanical pencil that would accept only the leads produced by that manufacturer.
- E. In extensive test marketing, mechanical-pencil users found the new Write Company pencil markedly superior to other mechanical pencils they had used.

Evaluation of a Plan**Situation**

A manufacturer of mechanical pencils plans to produce a new pencil that accepts only the redesigned pencil leads that the company also intends to make and sell. Despite the fact that its leads are sold for a higher price than competitors' leads, the company anticipates that this approach will generate increased lead sales.

Reasoning

What point supports the plan success? It is clear that increased lead sales are directly tied to the sales and ongoing use of the new pencil that can use only that type of lead. If the new pencils sell well and then get used frequently, the buyers will need to purchase leads regularly. If thorough test marketing has shown that potential buyers find the new pencil greatly superior to use, then the pencil buyers will have to purchase the only available leads that fit their pencils, no matter whether the leads are more expensive, and the projection that sales of these pencil leads will increase is strengthened.

- A. It is not known whether the Write Company's pencil is the least expensive, nor are the lead-buying habits of first-time buyers known. This information thus does not strengthen the projection.
- B. This expectation applies for all manufacturers and does not show that the Write Company's plan will cause increased sales of its pencil leads.
- C. Reducing the cost of manufacturing the leads could lead to greater profits but not to greater sales, since the passage states that the price will remain the same.
- D. A rival manufacture's announcement to follow the same plan does not affect whether the plan will be successful for the Write Company.
- E. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a point that supports the plan's success.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-026 VCR000660 Medium

Drug manufacturer: Television audiences are sure to realize that the "physician" recommending our brand of cough syrup in our advertisement is actually an actor playing a role. Hence they will not place undue trust in the advice given by this actor. Therefore, networks should relax their guidelines to permit our company to broadcast this advertisement.

Television executive: If the audience can tell that the actor is not a physician, then your advertisement need not have a physician figure recommending your product.

Which of the following is an argumentative strategy used by the television executive in response to the drug manufacturer?

- A. Indicating that the reason the drug manufacturer offers for relaxing the guidelines conflicts with the manufacturer's presumed motive for presenting the image of a physician in the advertisement
- B. Asserting that the drug manufacturer's expressed desire to broadcast the advertisement is motivated by self-interest rather than by genuine interest in the good of the audience
- C. Invoking subjective opinions concerning audience reaction to television advertisements as if those opinions constituted objective evidence
- D. Pointing out that the goals of the drug manufacturer's company differ from those of television networks
- E. Questioning the ability of the drug manufacturer to make any sweeping generalization about what the many different members of the audience may think

Reasoning

How does the television executive call the drug manufacturer's argument into question? The drug manufacturer argues that presenting the image of a physician is harmless because it will not unduly influence television audiences. The television executive says that in that case, the advertisement does not need to present that image. The executive's point is that given that the purpose of any advertisement is to influence an audience, the reason the drug manufacturer gives for allowing an advertisement presenting an image of a physician to be broadcast actually conflicts with the motive for presenting such an image. Consider the answer options and find one that explains the executive's argumentative strategy in making this point.

- A. **Correct.** The manufacturer's presumed motive for presenting the image of a physician is to make the advertisement more persuasive, but the reason the manufacturer offers for relaxing the guidelines is that the image will not be very persuasive. The executive points out this conflict.
- B. The executive may implicitly question the manufacturer's intentions but does not actually say the manufacturer is motivated by self-interest
- C. The executive merely points out an implication of the manufacturer's opinion about audience reactions without evaluating that opinion's objectivity.
- D. The executive does not say or imply anything about the goals of television networks.
- E. The executive merely points out an implication of the manufacturer's sweeping generalization without evaluating that generalization's plausibility or the manufacturer's ability to make other generalizations.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-027 VCR000737 Medium

In Gandania, where the government has a monopoly on tobacco sales, the incidence of smoking-related health problems has risen steadily for the last twenty years. The health secretary recently proposed a series of laws aimed at curtailing tobacco use in Gandania. Profits from tobacco sales, however, account for ten percent of Gandania's annual revenues. Therefore, Gandania cannot afford to institute the proposed laws.

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

- A. All health care in Gandania is government-funded.
- B. Implementing the proposed laws is not to cause a significant increase in the amount of tobacco Gandania exports.
- C. The percentage of revenue Gandania receives from tobacco sales has remained steady in recent years.
- D. Profits from tobacco sales far surpass any other single source of revenue for the Gandanian government.
- E. No government official in Gandania has ever previously proposed laws aimed at curtailing tobacco use.

Reasoning

Given the facts stated, what would make the proposed laws more likely to be affordable for Gandania? Because the argument is intended to establish that Gandania cannot afford to institute laws to curtail tobacco use, and you are asked to find the answer choice that would weaken the argument, you should try to determine which answer choice most strongly suggests that it would be affordable for Gandania to institute the laws. The argument implies that the laws might reduce Gandania's profits from tobacco sales while also reducing the incidence of smoking-related health problems. The proposed laws would be more affordable if reducing smoking-related health problems would financially benefit Gandania, compensating for the reduced profits from tobacco sales.

- A. **Correct.** If the government funds all health care in Gandania, then reducing smoking-related health problems might reduce the government's health care expenses and make the laws to curtail tobacco use more affordable.
- B. If implementing the laws does not increase tobacco exports, then profits from tobacco exports probably would not increase to compensate for the declining profits from reduced domestic tobacco sales.
- C. Although the percentage of revenue from tobacco sales has held steady in recent years, when the laws are implemented, the percentage will decline.
- D. The argument says that profits from tobacco sales account for 10 percent of total annual revenues. Therefore, the other 90 percent must come from all other sources combined, no matter how comes from any individual source.
- E. If no government officials had previously proposed laws to curtail tobacco use, that might be because such laws are clearly unaffordable.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-028 VCR000739 Medium

Mall owner: Our mall's occupancy rate is so low that we are barely making a profit. We cannot raise rents because of an unacceptably high risk of losing established tenants. On the other hand, a mall that is fully occupied costs about as much to run as one in which a rental space here and a rental space there stands empty. Clearly, therefore, to increase profits we must sign up new tenants.

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

- A. The mall's operating costs could be cut by consolidating currently rented spaces in such a way that an entire wing of the mall could be closed up.
- B. The mall is located in a geographic area in which costs incurred for air-conditioning in the hot summers exceed those incurred for heating in the mid winters by a wide margin.
- C. The mall's occupancy rate, though relatively low, has been relatively stable for several years.
- D. The mall lost tenants as a result of each of the two major rent increases that have occurred there.
- E. None of the mall's established tenants is likely to need additional floor space there in the foreseeable future.

Reasoning

Given the facts the mall owner has stated, what would make it more likely that the mall could increase profits without new tenants? The mall owner says the mall's occupancy rate is low, so there must be many vacancies. The owner rules out the possibility of raising rents and expresses concern about losing established tenants. The owner also points out that running a mall with scattered vacancies costs as much as running a fully occupied mall. Look for an answer choice suggesting how the owner could reduce expenses or make more money while neither changing the number of tenants nor raising rents.

- A. **Correct.** If expenses can be reduced by consolidating existing tenants and closing a wing of the mall, then neither the number of tenants nor the rents need to change in order to increase profits.
- B. The relative cost of air-conditioning to heating is largely irrelevant to the argument.
- C. Although this suggests that the mall could stay in business without new tenants, it does not suggest a way for the mall to actually increase profits.
- D. This supports the mall owner's concern that raising rents would drive away tenants, but we are looking for evidence to weaken the mall owner's argument, not to support it.
- E. If the established tenants will not need to rent more space, it will not be feasible for the mall to charge them more without raising rents.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-029 VCR000806 Medium

In one state, all cities and most towns have antismoking ordinances. A petition entitled "Petition for Statewide Smoking Restriction" is being circulated to voters by campaign workers who ask only, "Do you want to sign a petition for statewide smoking restriction?" The petition advocates a state law banning smoking in most retail establishments and in government that are open to the public.

Which of the following circumstances would make the petition as circulated misleading to voters who understand the proposal as extending the local ordinances statewide?

- A. Health costs associated with smoking cause health insurance premiums to rise for everyone and so affect nonsmokers.
- B. In rural areas of the state, there are relatively few retail establishments and government offices that are open to the public.
- C. The state law would supersede the local antismoking ordinances, which contain stronger bans than the state law does.
- D. There is considerable sentiment among voters in most areas of the state for restriction of smoking.
- E. The state law would not affect existing local ordinances banning smoking in places where the fire authorities have determined that smoking would constitute a fire hazard.

Reasoning

What could make the petition misleading to voters who assumed its purpose was to extend local antismoking ordinances statewide? The petition would mislead such voters if it were not intended to help extend local antismoking ordinances statewide as the voters assumed. The information provided suggests that the petition does genuinely support statewide smoking restriction and that the campaign workers are describing it accurately. But the petition could still mislead the voters if the proposed statewide smoking restriction would actually weaken local smoking ordinances.

- A. This is a reason to support a smoking ban, not a reason why a petition to implement such a ban would be misleading.
- B. Voters who assume that the ban would extend local ordinances might not assume that the ban would have a huge impact in rural areas.
- C. **Correct.** If the proposed law would supersede and weaken local ordinances, then it would not extend them statewide as the voters assume. Therefore, the petition would be misleading.
- D. This suggests that most voters would support a statewide smoking ban, not that a petition to implement such a ban would be misleading.
- E. E This suggests that the state law would be compatible with local ordinances, just as voters who think that the law would extend those ordinances would assume.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-030 VCR000834 Medium

In preparation for a large-scale tree-planting project, Thomasville has recorded the location, species, and condition of every tree in its downtown area. The results will be compared with results of the last such tree census, taken 20 years ago. Planting trees primarily from the species that turns out to have the best record of survival will assure downtown Thomasville of an abundant tree population 20 years from now.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the claim that the tree-planting proposal will assure an abundant tree population?

- A. Because of strict laws governing industrial development, environmental conditions in Thomasville are unlikely to become harsher for trees than they have been during the last 20 years.
- B. Thomasville has reliable records to show which trees in existence 20 years ago were cut down to permit new construction downtown.
- C. A number of trees from one of the species widespread in Thomasville 20 years ago reached the end of their natural life span in the intervening period.
- D. Very few species of trees grow as well in urban conditions as in natural conditions.
- E. A city with a high proportion of any one species of trees can have its tree population devastated by one outbreak of a disease.

Reasoning

What evidence suggests that trees might not be abundant in 20 years if the plan is implemented? The reasoning behind the plan is that if data show which tree species has the best survival record, and if many trees of that species are then planted, then the overall tree population will survive better than it would otherwise. This reasoning assumes that at least one tree species with a good survival record will be found and that abundantly planted trees of that species will survive at least as well over the next 20 years as local trees of the same species did during the past 20 years. Evidence casting doubt on either of these assumptions could suggest that the plan will not ensure an abundant tree population.

- A. If environmental conditions for trees don't become harsher, then abundant trees are more likely to survive.
- B. Although trees that were cut down 20 years ago cannot contribute to the tree population 20 years from now, the plan calls for planting many new trees.
- C. The plan calls for planting many trees from the species with the best survival rate over the past 20 years. Therefore, it does not matter if there is one species that had a poor survival rate.
- D. The plan requires only that the tree census find at least one tree species with a reasonably high 20-year survival rate; it does not require that any species grows as well in urban conditions as in natural conditions.
- E. **Correct.** The plan calls for planting many trees of a single species. Therefore, if a disease could then devastate the trees, the plan will not ensure an abundant tree population in 20 years.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-031 VCR000875 Medium

Which of the following most logically completes the passage below?

One name-brand cereal manufacturer is about to reduce wholesale prices for its cereals by 20 percent because consumers have been switching from its cereals to cheaper store brands. The success of this strategy relies on the assumption that supermarkets will pass on all of the savings by lowering the prices they charge consumers for the manufacturer's cereals. Although supermarkets usually pass on such savings, in this case it is likely that supermarkets not do so because_____.

- A. several other name-brand cereal manufacturers are about to reduce the wholesale prices of their cereals
- B. the average price per box of name-brand cereals has increased significantly in the last 10 years
- C. total annual sales of cereal—including both name-brand and store-brand cereals—have increased over the past 10 years
- D. supermarkets make far more profit on sales of store-brand cereals than on sales of name-brand cereals
- E. the current prices of the manufacturer's cereals are comparable to the prices of name-brand cereals produced by other cereal manufacturers

Reasoning

Why would supermarkets be unlikely to pass on the savings by lowering the price of the manufacturer's cereals?

Consumers have been switching from the manufacturer's cereals to cheaper store brands. The manufacturer wants to reverse this trend by reducing its cereals' prices for shoppers. We are told that usually supermarkets do pass on savings from lowered wholesale prices. Therefore, this must usually be in their interest. Since supermarkets are businesses, profit motives are likely to explain their decisions. What profit motive might deter the supermarkets from lowering prices in this specific situation?

- A. If other name-brand cereal manufacturers also reduce their wholesale prices, the supermarkets could simply pass on the savings by lowering the prices on those cereals as well. Because of increased affordability to consumers, total cereal sales may increase without reducing the supermarkets' profits on each box of cereal sold.
- B. If prices of name-brand cereals have increased, supermarkets might have even more reason to pass on the savings from reduced wholesale prices in order to increase sales.
- C. Even if cereal sales have been increasing, supermarkets might be happy for the opportunity to increase sales even more by lowering the prices on the manufacturer's cereals without reducing their profits on each box sold.
- D. **Correct.** If supermarkets make more profits from store-brand cereals than from name-brand cereals, they have a profit motive not to encourage shoppers to switch to a name-brand cereal by lowering its price.
- E. If supermarkets lower prices of the manufacturer's cereals below those of other name-brand cereals, then shoppers may switch brands, but this would not reduce the supermarkets' total profits.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-032 VCR000886 Medium

In Teruvia, the quantity of rice produced per year is currently just large enough to satisfy domestic demand. Teruvia's total rice acreage will not be expanded in the foreseeable future, nor will rice yields per acre increase appreciably. Teruvia's population, however, will be increasing significantly for years to come. Clearly, therefore, Teruvia will soon have to begin importing rice.

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

- A. No pronounced trend of decreasing per capita demand for rice is imminent in Teruvia.
- B. Not all of the acreage in Teruvia currently planted with rice is well suited to the cultivation of rice.
- C. None of the strains of rice grown in Teruvia are exceptionally high-yielding.
- D. There are no populated regions in Teruvia in which the population will not increase.
- E. There are no major crops other than rice for which domestic production and domestic demand are currently in balance in Teruvia.

Reasoning

What must be true in order for the given premises to justify the conclusion that Teruvia will have to begin importing rice? The argument implies that domestic rice production will not increase and that there are no rice exports, imports, surpluses, or stockpiles. It also implies that since Teruvia's population will increase, its total demand for rice will increase. But this assumes that Teruvians will not start eating less rice per person.

- A. **Correct.** This expresses the final assumption discussed above, that Teruvians will not start eating much less rice per person.
- B. This may suggest that finding better acreage could increase rice yields, but the argument assumes that rice yields per acre will not increase appreciably.
- C. This may suggest that new strains of rice could increase rice yields, but the argument assumes that rice production will not increase.
- D. The argument assumes only that Teruvia's total demand for rice will increase, not that the demand in every region will increase.
- E. The argument does not need to assume that rice is the only crop for which domestic production and demand are balanced. It is compatible with saying, for instance, that what holds for rice also holds for other crops.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-033 VCR001179 Medium

Theatergoer: In January of last year, the Megaplex chain of movie theaters started popping its popcorn in canola oil, instead of the less healthful coconut oil that it had been using until then. Now Megaplex is planning to switch back, saying that the change has hurt popcorn sales. That claim is false, however, since according to Megaplex's own sales figures, Megaplex sold five percent more popcorn last year than in the previous year.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the theatergoer's argument?

- A. When it switched from using coconut oil to using canola oil, Megaplex made sure that the chain received a great deal of publicity stressing the health benefits of the change.
- B. Megaplex makes more money on food and beverages sold at its theaters than it does on sales of movie tickets.
- C. In a survey to determine public response to the change to canola oil, very few of Megaplex's customers said that the change had affected their popcorn-buying habits.
- D. Total sales of all food and beverage items at Megaplex's movie theaters increased by less than five percent last year.
- E. Total attendance at Megaplex's movie theaters was more than 20 percent higher last year than the year before.

Reasoning

Given the facts the theatergoer has stated, what would make it more likely that switching from coconut oil to canola oil has hurt the theaters' popcorn sales? The theaters switched to canola oil at the beginning of last year, and their sales figures indicate that they sold 5 percent more popcorn in the year after the change than in the year before the change. Therefore,, an answer option stating evidence that popcorn sales would have increased even more than 5 percent if the theaters had not switched to canola oil would support the theaters' claim that the switch to canola oil has hurt popcorn sales.

- A. Publicity stressing the health benefits of canola oil would make the switch to canola oil less likely to hurt popcorn sales, not more likely.
- B. Making more money from food and beverage sales than from ticket sales does not suggest that popcorn sales have been hurt.
- C. A survey in which most customers said the switch did not affect the amount of popcorn they buy is evidence that the switch did not hurt popcorn sales, not that it did hurt sales.
- D. If total food and beverage sales increased less than 5 percent, then popcorn sales have increased more than sales of similar items, suggesting that the switch to canola oil may have improved popcorn sales.
- E. **Correct.** If total attendance at the theaters increased 20 percent while popcorn consumption only increased 5 percent, then average popcorn sales per customer have declined. Therefore, the use of canola oil may be discouraging customers from buying popcorn.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-034 VCR001296 Medium

In polluted environments, dolphins gradually accumulate toxins in their body fat, and the larger the dolphin the more accumulated toxins it can tolerate. Nearly 80 percent of the toxins a female dolphin has accumulated pass into the fat-rich milk her nursing calf ingests. Therefore, the unusually high mortality rate among dolphin calves in the industrially contaminated waters along Florida's Gulf Coast is probably the result of their being poisoned by their mother's milk.

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

- A. The survival rate of firstborn dolphin calves in the area along Florida's Gulf Coast is highest for those whose mothers were killed before they were weaned.
- B. The rate at which adult dolphins living in the waters along Florida's Gulf Coast accumulate toxins is no higher than that of adult dolphins in comparably polluted waters elsewhere.
- C. Among dolphin calves born in the area along Florida's Gulf Coast, the mortality rate is highest among those with living siblings.
- D. As dolphins age, they accumulate toxins from the environment more slowly than when they were young.
- E. Dolphins, other marine mammals, have a higher proportion of body fat than do most land mammals.

Reasoning

Given the facts stated, what would make the dolphin calf deaths more likely to have resulted from toxins in their mother's milk? The dolphins live in a polluted environment. Therefore, the mother dolphins are accumulating toxins in their body fat. Most of the toxins in a mother dolphin pass through her milk into her nursing calf. Since dolphin calves are much smaller than their mothers, the calves are especially vulnerable to the toxins. The high mortality rate among the calves is more likely to have resulted from the toxins in the milk if calves who drink more milk have been more likely to die.

- A. **Correct.** Calves whose mothers died before weaning would have drunk less toxic milk than other calves did, on average.
- B. If dolphins along the Florida's Gulf Coast accumulated toxins at no higher a rate than elsewhere, then their milk would contain no more toxins than elsewhere and thus would not be especially likely to cause an unusually high mortality rate.
- C. Since dolphin calves presumably consume milk from the same mother as their do, this would suggest that some factor other than the milk caused the high mortality rate.
- D. If the calves accumulate toxins more quickly from the environment than their mothers do, the high mortality might have resulted mainly from toxins in the environment, not from those in the milk.
- E. The argument says nothing about other mammal species, therefore this information is irrelevant.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-035 VCR001345 Medium

Perkins: According to an article I read, the woolly mammoth's extinction in North America coincided with a migration of humans onto the continent 12,000 years ago, and stone spearheads from this period indicate that these people were hunters. But the author's contention that being hunted by humans contributed to the woolly mammoth's extinction is surely wrong since, as paleontologists know, no spearheads have ever been found among the many mammoth bones that have been unearthed.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest reason for discounting the evidence Perkins cites in arguing against the contention that being hunted by humans contributed to the North American extinction of woolly mammoths?

- A. At sites where mammoth bones dating from 12,000 years ago have been unearthed, bones of other mammals have rarely been found.
- B. The stone from which stone spearheads were made is unlikely to have disintegrated over the course of 12,000 years.
- C. Conditions in North America 12,000 years ago were such that humans could not have survived there on a diet that did not include substantial amounts of meat.
- D. Cave paintings in North America that date from 12,000 years ago depict woolly mammoths as well as a variety of other animals, including deer and buffalo.
- E. Because of the great effort that would have been required to produce each stone spearhead, hunters would have been to leave them behind.

Reasoning

What would suggest that hunting by humans may have contributed to the mammoths' extinction, even though no spearheads have been found among mammoth bones? Perkins argues that since no spearheads have been found among mammoth remains, human hunting must not have contributed to the mammoths' extinction. Perkins's argument assumes that humans did not hunt mammoths mainly with weapons other than spears; that spearheads would be left among remains of any mammoths killed with spears; that paleontologists have found a fair number of mammoth remains; and that any spearheads left among the remains would likely stay with them and be discovered. Any statement that calls any of these assumptions into question would provide a reason to discount the evidence Perkins offers.

- A. If humans did not hunt mammoths, then mammoth bones probably would not be found with other mammal bones around prehistoric settlements where humans ate other mammals. Therefore, this would be compatible with Perkins' argument.
- B. This strengthens Perkins' argument by out a possible alternative explanation of why paleontologists have found no spearheads in mammoth remains.
- C. The prehistoric humans could have eaten meat other than mammoths, and this does not explain how they could have hunted mammoths without paleontologists finding spearheads in mammoth remains.
- D. Perkins already acknowledges that humans coexisted with mammoths in North America, and this does not explain how humans could have hunted mammoths without paleontologists finding spearheads in mammoth remains.
- E. **Correct.** This explains how, despite the evidence Perkins offers, humans may well have hunted mammoths without leaving any spearheads for paleontologists to discover in mammoth remains.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-036 VCR002665 Medium

A proposed change to federal income tax laws would eliminate deductions from taxable income for donations a taxpayer has made to charitable and educational institutions. If this change were adopted, wealthy individuals would no longer be permitted such deductions. Therefore, many charitable and educational institutions would have to reduce services, and some would have to close their doors.

The argument above assumes which of the following?

- A. Without the incentives offered by federal income tax laws, at least some wealthy individuals would not donate as much money to charitable and educational institutions as they otherwise would have.
- B. Money contributed by individuals who make their donations because of provisions in the federal tax laws provides the only source of funding for many charitable and educational institutions.
- C. The primary reason for not adopting the proposed change in the federal income tax laws cited above is to protect wealthy individuals from having to pay higher taxes.
- D. Wealthy individuals who donate money to charitable and educational institutions are the only individuals who donate money to such institutions.
- E. Income tax laws should be changed to make donations to charitable and educational institutions the only permissible deductions from taxable income.

Reasoning

What must be true in order for the given information to justify the conclusion that the proposed change in tax laws would force charities and schools to reduce services or close down? The passage states only one premise: that the change would deny wealthy individuals tax deductions for contributing to charities and schools. To reach the conclusion from this premise, the argument implicitly assumes that denying the wealthy individuals the tax deductions would reduce their contributions to many charities and schools; that reduced contributions from wealthy individuals would reduce overall revenues for many charities and schools; and that reduced revenues would force many charities and schools to reduce services or close down. Consider the answer options and find one that states or follows from one of these assumptions.

- A. **Correct.** This follows from the first implicit assumption mentioned above, that denying wealthy individuals the tax deductions would reduce their contributions to many charities and schools.
- B. This need not be true. Even if all charities and schools get some money from sources other than these contributions, many charities and schools might still depend mainly on the contributions.
- C. The argument does not address the motives behind the proposed change, only its likely effects.
- D. Even if poorer individuals also donate money to these institutions, the bulk of the donations may come from wealthy individuals.
- E. The argument does not discuss how the tax laws should be changed, only the likely effects of the proposed change.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-037 VCR002883 Medium

Certain politicians in the country of Birangi argue that a 50 percent tax on new automobiles would halt the rapid increase of automobiles on Birangi's roads and thereby slow the deterioration of Birangi's air quality. Although most experts agree that such a tax would result in fewer Birangians buying new vehicles and gradually reduce the number of automobiles on Birangi's roads, they contend that it would have little impact on Birangi's air-quality problem.

Which of the following, if true in Birangi, would most strongly support the experts' contention about the effect of the proposed automobile tax on Birangi's air-quality problem?

- A. Automobile emissions are the largest single source of air pollution.
- B. Some of the proceeds from the new tax would go toward expanding the nonpolluting commuter rail system.
- C. Currently, the sales tax on new automobiles is considerably lower than 50 percent.
- D. Automobiles become less fuel efficient and therefore contribute more to air pollution as they age.
- E. The scrapping of automobiles causes insignificant amounts of air pollution.

Reasoning

What additional evidence would make it least likely that the proposed tax would significantly slow the deterioration of Birangi's air quality? The politicians and the experts agree that the tax would halt the increase in the number of automobiles on Birangi's roads. They disagree on whether it would also help prevent air quality from worsening. Consider the answer options and find one supporting the experts' contention that the tax would not help prevent air quality from worsening, even though it would prevent the number of automobiles from increasing.

- A. This suggests that reducing the number of automobiles would help prevent air quality from worsening, contrary to the experts' contention.
- B. An expanded nonpolluting commuter rail system would further reduce the number of automobiles on the roads and hence the amount of air pollution, contrary to the experts' contention.
- C. The lower the current tax is, the more impact the 50% tax would probably have both on the number of automobiles and on air pollution, contrary to the experts' contention.
- D. **Correct.** Since the tax would discourage purchases of new automobiles, it would gradually increase the average age of Birangi automobiles and hence the average amount of pollution they produce, counteracting the reduction in pollution from having fewer vehicles on the roads.
- E. The tax would probably result in fewer vehicles being scrapped, but even if the reduction in scrapping of vehicles would not have a major impact on air pollution, preventing the number of vehicles on the road from increasing still could. Therefore, this does not support the experts' contention.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-038 VCR002878 Medium

Surveys in Domorica indicate that only 10 percent of Domoricans in their twenties read a newspaper regularly, while more than half of all Domoricans over thirty read a newspaper regularly. Although Domoricans in their twenties constitute a large proportion of the population, newspaper publishers nonetheless predict that ten years from now, the percentage of Domoricans who regularly read a newspaper will probably be no lower than it is today.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest grounds for the newspaper publishers' prediction?

- A. The number of Domoricans in their twenties is less than the number of Domoricans over thirty.
- B. The number of newspapers in Domorica has been gradually increasing over the past several decades.
- C. The proportion of Domoricans in their twenties who regularly read a newspaper has always been low.
- D. The surveys defined a regular reader of a newspaper as someone who reads a newspaper more than twice a week.
- E. The proportion of Domoricans who regularly read a newspaper was higher 20 years ago than it is today.

Reasoning

What would provide the strongest justification for the newspaper publishers' prediction? Only 10 percent of Domoricans in their twenties read a newspaper regularly, while more than half of all Domoricans over thirty do 50. Yet publishers predict that in ten years' time, the percentage of Domoricans who regularly read newspapers will be no lower.

- A. The argument is focused on percentages of Domorican age segments, not on the absolute numbers in each age segment. It is not surprising that more Domoricans are over thirty than are in their twenties, even though those in their twenties constitute a large proportion of the population.
- B. This indicates that the range of newspaper choices has expanded in recent decades. But it gives no reason to support a prediction about future Domorican newspaper reading practices over the next ten years.
- C. **Correct.** This indicates that the 10 percent figure for those in their twenties, in contrast to those over thirty, is merely the continuation of an existing pattern and therefore provides no reason to think that the proportion of Domoricans regularly reading newspapers will diminish over the next ten years.
- D. Presumably the same definition would apply in the context of the prediction; therefore, this answer option does nothing to justify the prediction.
- E. If anything, this information undermines the prediction, if it is assumed that a trend over the last twenty years continues for the next ten years.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-039 VCR003744 Medium

Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

Each species of moth has an optimal body temperature for effective flight, and when air temperatures fall much below that temperature, the moths typically have to remain inactive on vegetation for extended periods, leaving them highly vulnerable to predators. In general, larger moths can fly faster than smaller ones and hence have a better chance of evading flying predators, but they also have higher optimal body temperatures, which explains why-

- A. large moths are generally able to maneuver better in flight than smaller moths
- B. large moths are proportionally much more common in warm climates than in cool climates
- C. small moths are more likely than large moths to be effectively camouflaged while on vegetation
- D. large moths typically have wings that are larger in proportion to their body size than smaller moths do
- E. most predators of moths prey not only on several different species of moth but also on various species of other insects

Reasoning

What would the information about moths most help explain? We are told that larger moths can fly faster than small ones, can evade predators better, and have higher optimal body temperatures. We are also told that moths cannot fly or evade predators when air temperatures are much below their optimal body temperatures. Thus, in cooler temperatures, larger moths lose their advantages over smaller ones. And at temperatures too cool for large moths but not too cool for small moths, small moths can still evade predators while large moths cannot. Consider the answer choices and find one presenting an observation that these facts could explain.

- A. This could help explain why large moths can evade predators better, but we are looking for an answer choice that the presented information can explain, not one that can explain the presented information.
- B. **Correct.** For the reasons discussed above, the information suggests that large moths have a greater survival advantage in warmer climates and might be at a disadvantage in cooler ones.
- C. Since the information suggests that larger moths must spend more time inactive on vegetation, if anything it implies that larger moths should have evolved more effective camouflage than smaller moths, not vice versa.
- D. This could explain why large moths can fly faster, but we are for an answer choice that the presented information can explain, not one that can explain the presented information.
- E. The differences between larger and smaller moths might make it harder for predators to prey on several different species of moths and are irrelevant to whether those predators also prey on other insects.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-040 VCR003839 Medium

In the late 1980s, the population of sea otters in the North Pacific Ocean began to decline. Of the two plausible explanations for the decline— increased predation by killer whales or disease—disease is the more likely. After all, a concurrent sharp decline in the populations of seals and sea lions was almost certainly caused by a pollution-related disease, which could have spread to sea otters, whereas the population of killer whales did not change noticeably.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the reasoning?

- A. Killer whales in the North Pacific usually prey on seals and sea lions but will, when this food source is scarce, seek out other prey.
- B. There is no indication that substantial numbers of sea otters migrated to other locations from the North Pacific in the 1980s.
- C. Along the Pacific coast of North America in the 1980s, sea otters were absent from many locations where they had been relatively common in former times.
- D. Following the decline in the population of the sea otters, there was an increase in the population of sea urchins, which are sea otters' main food source.
- E. The North Pacific populations of seals and sea lions cover a wider geographic area than does the population of sea otters.

Reasoning

What would make predation by killer whales more likely than disease to have reduced the sea otter population? The argument is that disease is a likely explanation for the declining sea otter population because disease also reduced seal and sea lion populations at the same time, whereas predation by killer whales is an explanation because the killer whale population did not change. The argument assumes that since the killer whale population did not increase, predation of sea otters by killer whales did not increase either. This reasoning would be weakened if the declining seal and sea lion populations led killer whales to eat more sea otters.

- A. **Correct.** If the scarcity of seals and sea lions led killer whales to seek out other prey, the killer whales might have started eating more sea otters, thereby reducing the sea otter population.
- B. This rules out a third possible explanation of the declining sea otter population, but disease could still be a more likely explanation than predation by killer whales.
- C. The declining sea otter population could account for this observation regardless of what made the population decline.
- D. The declining sea otter population could account for the increasing sea urchin population regardless of what made the sea otter population decline.
- E. Even if seals and sea lions inhabit a wider area than sea otters do, a pollution-related disease affecting seals and sea lions could also affect sea otters.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-041 VCR003936 Medium

Sonya: The government of Copeland is raising the cigarette tax. Copeland's cigarette prices will still be reasonably low, so cigarette consumption will probably not be affected much. Consequently, government revenue from the tax will increase.

Raoul: True, smoking is unlikely to decrease, because Copeland's cigarette prices will still not be high. They will, however, no longer be the lowest in the region, so we might begin to see substantial illegal sales of smuggled cigarettes in Copeland.

Raoul responds to Sonya's argument by doing which of the following?

- A. Questioning the support for Sonya's conclusion by distinguishing carefully between no change and no decrease
- B. Calling Sonya's conclusion into question by pointing to a possible effect of a certain change
- C. Arguing that Sonya's conclusion would be better supported if Sonya could cite a precedent for what she predicts will happen
- D. Showing that a cause that Sonya claims will be producing a certain effect is not the only cause that could produce that effect
- E. Pointing out that a certain initiative is not bold enough to have the effect that Sonya predicts it will have

Reasoning

How are Raoul's statements related to Sonya's argument? First, Raoul accepts and restates the first part of Sonya's argument, that the increased tax probably will not reduce smoking. But then Raoul gives a reason to doubt Sonya's final conclusion that government revenue from the tax will increase. Raoul's point is that the increased tax might increase sales of illegally smuggled cigarettes, which the government could not tax. Raoul implies that if the increased sales of illegal cigarettes reduce sales of legal, taxed cigarettes, then government revenue from the tax might not increase after all.

- A. Raoul does not discuss the distinction between no change and no decrease. However, even if he did, it would not call Sonya's conclusion into question. If smoking does not decrease, then either it does not change at all, or it increases; and if it increased, then revenue from the tax would likely increase as well, which is what Sonya's conclusion states.
- B. **Correct.** As explained above, Raoul suggests that the change in the tax might increase sales of untaxed illegal cigarettes and thus potentially reduce tax revenues from legal sales. Therefore, he calls Sonya's conclusion into question.
- C. Raoul nowhere suggests that Sonya should cite a precedent.
- D. Raoul points out a factor that might decrease government revenue from the tax, not another cause that might increase the revenue as Sonya claims.
- E. Both Sonya and Raoul imply that a bolder, higher tax increase could have an effect opposite the one Sonya predicts.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-042 VCR003964 Medium

In Berinia, the age at which people could begin to drink alcohol legally used to be 18. In 1990, in an attempt to reduce alcohol consumption and thereby to reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths among Berinians under 21, the legal drinking age was raised to 21. Alcohol-related traffic deaths among people under 21 have decreased significantly since 1990. Nevertheless, surveys show that people in that age-group drink just as much alcohol as they did before 1990.

Which of the following, if true of Berinia, most helps to resolve the apparent discrepancy?

- A. For the population as a whole, annual alcohol consumption is no lower now than it was in 1990.
- B. Alcohol consumption away from home, for example in bars and restaurants, is much lower among people under 21 than it was in 1990.
- C. The proportion of people under 21 who own a car is higher now than it was in 1990.
- D. Alcohol consumption is lower among people under 21 than among adults in most other age-groups.
- E. Alcohol-related deaths among people over 21 have increased since 1990.

Reasoning

What would most help explain why alcohol-related traffic deaths have declined among people under 21 even though people in that age group still drink just as much alcohol? Alcohol-related traffic deaths depend not just on the amount of drinking, but on the amount of drunk driving. Even if people under 21 are drinking just as much, they may be driving drunk less often. Therefore, consider the answer options and find one that explains why that would happen.

- A. This does not help explain why alcohol-related traffic deaths have declined among people under 21.
- B. **Correct.** If people under 21 are drinking less often in bars and restaurants, then they are probably driving home drunk from bars and restaurants less often, and drinking more at home where they don't have to drive afterwards.
- C. This suggests that people under 21 are driving more and hence may be driving drunk more, since they are still drinking just as much as ever.
- D. Since people under 21 still drink just as much as people in that age group did before, this does not explain why alcohol-related deaths have declined in that age group.
- E. Increased alcohol-related traffic deaths among people over 21 would not help explain declining alcohol-related traffic deaths among people under 21.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-043 VCR004534 Medium

Two centuries ago, Tufe Peninsula became separated from the mainland, isolating on the newly formed Tufe Island a population of sunflowers.

This population's descendants grow to be, on average, 40 centimeters shorter than sunflowers found on the mainland. Tufe Island is significantly drier than Tufe Peninsula was. So the current average height of sunflowers is undoubtedly at least partially attributable to changes in Tufe's environmental conditions.

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

- A. There are no types of vegetation on Tufe Island that are known to benefit from dry conditions.
- B. There were about as many sunflowers on Tufe Peninsula two centuries ago as there are on Tufe Island today.
- C. The mainland's environment has not changed in ways that have resulted in sunflowers on the mainland growing to be 40 centimeters taller than they did two centuries ago.
- D. The soil on Tufe Island, unlike that on the mainland, lacks important nutrients that help sunflowers survive and grow tall in a dry environment.
- E. The 40-centimeter height difference between the sunflowers on Tufe Island and those on the mainland is the only difference between the two populations.

Reasoning

What must be true in order for the given information to justify the conclusion that changes in Tufe's environmental conditions have affected the heights of sunflowers? The argument implies that the drying of Tufe's climate has made the sunflowers shorter than sunflowers on Tufe used to be. In comparing the heights of Tufe Island's sunflowers to those of mainland sunflowers, the argument assumes that on the mainland today, the sunflowers are the same height as sunflowers on Tufe Peninsula were two centuries ago, or at least no taller.

- A. Even if the dry climate of Tufe Island has stunted the sunflowers, it may have benefited other vegetation.
- B. The argument does not discuss the number of sunflowers, only their average heights.
- C. **Correct.** If changes in the mainland's environment had made mainland sunflowers taller than they used to be, then the mainland sunflowers' greater height would not justify the conclusion that sunflowers on Tufe Island are shorter than they used to be.
- D. Even if the dry of Tufe Island has stunted the sunflowers, the soil may be no different from that on the mainland.
- E. The dry climate of Tufe Island could both stunt the sunflowers and change them in other ways not affecting mainland sunflowers.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-044 VCR005074 Medium

The Nile Delta of Egypt was invaded and ruled from 1650 to 1550 B.C. by a people called the Hyksos. Their origin is uncertain, but archaeologists hypothesize that they were Canaanites. In support of this hypothesis, the archaeologists point out that excavations of Avaris, the Hyksos capital in Egypt, have uncovered large numbers of artifacts virtually identical to artifacts produced in Ashkelon, a major city of Canaan at the time of the Hyksos invasion.

In order to evaluate the force of the archaeologists' evidence, it would be most useful to determine which of the following?

- A. Whether there were some artifacts found at Avaris that were unlike those produced in Ashkelon but that date to before 1700 B.C.
- B. Whether the Hyksos ruled any other part of Egypt besides the Delta in the period from 1650 to 1550 B.C.
- C. Whether Avaris was the nearest Hyksos city in Egypt to Canaan
- D. Whether Ashkelon after 1550 B.C. continued to produce artifacts similar to those found at Avaris
- E. Whether many of the artifacts found at Avaris that are similar to artifacts produced in Ashkelon date to well before the Hyksos invasion

Reasoning

What would most help determine how well the discovered artifacts support the hypothesis that the Hyksos were Canaanites? The archaeologists reason that since many artifacts at Avaris in Egypt resemble those from the Canaanite city of Ashkelon in the Hyksos period, Canaanites must have come to Egypt and produced or imported their artifacts there, so the Hyksos who invaded Egypt were probably Canaanites. But there are many possible alternative explanations. For example, non-Canaanite Hyksos or Egyptians might have imported or copied Canaanite artifacts in Avaris, or invaded Ashkelon and made the artifacts found there. Consider the answer options and find one that would most help decide whether the discovered artifacts suggest the archaeologists' hypothesis is more plausible than the alternative explanations.

- A. Whether such artifacts were found might shed light on whether Avaris was inhabited before the Hyksos invasion, but it would not indicate whether the Ashkelon-style artifacts at Avaris suggest that the Hyksos were Canaanites.
- B. We already know that the Hyksos ruled Avaris. Therefore, the geographical extent of Hyksos rule in Egypt would not indicate whether the artifacts at Avaris suggest the Hyksos were Canaanites..
- C. Whether some other Hyksos city in Egypt was slightly closer to Canaan than Avaris was would not indicate whether the artifacts at Avaris came from Canaan, so it would not help determine whether they suggest the Hyksos were Canaanites.
- D. After the Hyksos rule ended in Egypt, it may or may not have continued in Canaan. Therefore, this would not help determine whether the artifacts at Avaris suggest the Hyksos were Canaanites.
- E. **Correct.** Whether many Canaanite—style artifacts at Avaris were produced before the Hyksos invasion would indicate the likelihood that the Hyksos brought that style to Egypt, which would be relevant to assessing whether the discovered artifacts suggest the Hyksos were Canaanites.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-045 VCR005479 Medium

Three large companies and seven small companies currently manufacture a product with potential military applications. If the government regulates the industry, it will institute a single set of manufacturing specifications to which all ten companies will have to adhere. In this case, therefore, since none of the seven small companies can afford to convert their production lines to a new set of manufacturing specifications, only the three large companies will be able to remain in business.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the author's argument relies?

- A. None of the three large companies will go out of business if the government does not regulate the manufacture of the product.
- B. It would cost more to convert the production lines of the small companies to a new set of manufacturing specifications than it would to convert the production lines of the large companies.
- C. Industry lobbyists will be unable to dissuade the government from regulating the industry.
- D. Assembly of the product produced according to government manufacturing specifications would be more complex than current assembly procedures.
- E. None of the seven small companies currently manufactures the product to a set of specifications that would match those the government would institute if the industry were to be regulated.

Reasoning

What other information must be implicit in the argument if the argument is to justify its conclusion? The argument is that if the government regulates the industry, it will impose its own manufacturing specifications on all the companies; but the seven small companies cannot afford to adopt new specifications, and consequently they will be forced out of business. This reasoning assumes that the seven small companies would all have to change their current procedures to match the new specifications, or else go entirely out of business. Therefore, look for an answer option that expresses or follows from this assumption.

- A. The argument is about what will happen if the government does regulate the industry, not what will happen if it does not.
- B. This possibility is certainly not ruled out by the information given—but that does not mean that the argument requires that it be assumed. It simply suggests one among a number of possible circumstances that could help explain why none of the small companies could afford a conversion—if indeed a conversion is actually needed.
- C. The argument is about what would happen if the government did regulate the industry, not about whether it will do so.
- D. It would be compatible with the argument to deny that the new assembly procedures would be more complex than the existing ones. Therefore, the argument does not require this answer option to be assumed as part of the argument.
- E. **Correct.** The argument is that none of the small companies can survive because none of the small companies can afford to convert to new government-imposed specifications. But this takes for granted that they will need to convert—which in turn presupposes that they do not currently meet the new specifications.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-046 VCR005617 Medium

A study of high blood pressure treatments found that certain meditation techniques and the most commonly prescribed drugs are equally effective if the selected treatment is followed as directed over the long term. Half the patients given drugs soon stop taking them regularly, whereas eighty percent of the study's participants who were taught meditation techniques were still regularly using them five years later. Therefore, the meditation treatment is the one likely to produce the best results.

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

- A. People who have high blood pressure are usually advised by their physicians to make changes in diet that have been found in many cases to reduce the severity of the condition.
- B. The participants in the study were selected in part on the basis of their willingness to use meditation techniques.
- C. Meditation techniques can reduce the blood pressure of people who do not suffer from high blood pressure.
- D. Some of the participants in the study whose high blood pressure was controlled through meditation techniques were physicians.
- E. Many people with dangerously high blood pressure are unaware of their condition.

Reasoning

What additional information would cast the most doubt on the value of the study as evidence for the argument's conclusion? The argument's conclusion is that the meditation treatment tends to be more effective than the drug treatment for people with high blood pressure. The study found that, although both the drugs and the meditation techniques lower high blood pressure over the long run, the patients studied were more likely to stick with the meditation techniques than the drugs over the long run. The argument then concludes that this must be true for most people treated for high blood pressure. But this assumes that the patients studied were typical of people treated for high blood pressure. If the patients studied were unusually likely to stick with the meditation or unusually unlikely to keep taking the drugs, then the study's conclusions might not hold for most people treated for high blood pressure.

- A. Whether dietary changes also lower high blood pressure is irrelevant to whether meditation tends to be more effective than drugs.
- B. **Correct.** If the study chose patients who were especially willing to meditate, then the patients in the study were probably more likely to continue meditating over the long run than most people treated for high blood pressure would be. Thus the revelation that the sample used in the study was biased in this manner indicates that the study provides poor support for generalizations about people treated for high blood pressure.
- C. This answer option neither claims nor anything about the study. Therefore, it does not weaken the value of the study as evidence for the argument's conclusion.
- D. It is not surprising that some of those in the study sample whose blood pressure was controlled successfully through meditation were physicians. Many physicians in the population at large almost certainly are treated for high blood pressure. Therefore, neither the information that the study sample included physicians treated for high blood pressure nor the more specific information given in this answer option would indicate that the study sample was unrepresentative of people in general treated for high blood pressure.
- E. People unaware of their high blood pressure generally do not start any treatment for it. That means that no such people participated in the study. But the study and the conclusions drawn from it are about people who start treatment for high blood pressure. The information provided here about people not treated for high blood pressure is irrelevant to what occurs with people who are treated for high blood pressure.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-047 VCR005663 Medium

Mayor: Migrating shorebirds stop at our beach just to feed on horseshoe-crab eggs, a phenomenon that attracts tourists. To bring more tourists, the town plans to undertake a beach reclamation project to double the area available to crabs for nesting.

Birdwatcher: Without a high density of crabs on a beach, migrating shorebirds will go hungry because shorebirds only eat eggs that a crab happens to uncover when it is digging its own nest.

Which of the following, if true, would provide the mayor with the strongest counter to the birdwatcher's objection?

- A. Every year a certain percentage of crabs are caught by fishermen as bait for eel traps.
- B. Horseshoe crabs are so prolific that given favorable circumstances their numbers increase rapidly.
- C. On average, tourists who come to the town in order to watch birds spend more money there than tourists who come for other purposes.
- D. The additional land made available by the reclamation project will give migrating shorebirds more space.
- E. Some of the migrating shorebirds make only one stop during their migration from South America to Canada.

Reasoning

What would provide the strongest evidence that the town council's plan will work despite the problem noted by the birdwatcher? By doubling the beach area for the horseshoe crabs to nest in, the town council hopes to get more crabs and hence more crab eggs for birds to eat, thus attracting more birds and hopefully more bird-loving tourists. The birdwatcher points out that if the crabs spread out more on the larger beach, fewer of their eggs will get uncovered for the birds to eat. Consequently, the town might actually end up with fewer birds and fewer tourists. But the birdwatcher assumes that the crabs will not fill up the larger beach as densely as they fill up the current, small beach. If the mayor can cite evidence that the doubled beach area will fill up with at least twice as many crabs as the smaller beach gets, the birdwatcher's objection will be irrelevant.

- A. Fishermen catching the crabs might lead to an even lower density of crabs on the beach, which could support, rather than counter, the birdwatcher's concern that the density will be too low for the plan to work.
- B. **Correct.** If the crabs are prolific enough, they will probably fill up the new, larger beach after a season or two. Thus, the problem the birdwatcher points out will not last long.
- C. If the birdwatcher is right, doubling the beach will mean fewer birds and probably fewer birdwatching tourists.

Therefore, this would make the birdwatcher's concern about the plan backfiring have even worse economic implications.

- D. If the birdwatcher is right, there will not be much food for the birds on the new beach. Thus, they may not come no matter how much space there is.
- E. If the birds only stop once on such a long migration, then the problem the birdwatcher points out may be even worse, since the birds may starve if they cannot find enough crab eggs on the town's beach.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-048 VCR005666 Medium

FastMart, a convenience store chain, is planning to add pancake syrup to the items it sells. FastMart stores do not have shelf space to stock more than one variety of syrup. Surveys of FastMart customers indicate that one-fourth of them prefer low-calorie syrup, while three-fourths prefer regular syrup. Since FastMart's highest priority is to maximize sales, the obvious strategy for it is to stock regular syrup.

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

- A. People buying pancake syrup at convenience stores, those buying it at supermarkets, generally buy it only a few times.
- B. People who prefer low-calorie syrup generally use about the same amount of syrup on their pancakes as those who prefer regular syrup.
- C. Regular syrup does not sell for a higher price per unit than low-calorie syrup.
- D. In general, customers who prefer regular syrup buy low-calorie syrup if regular is unavailable, but those who prefer low-calorie will not buy regular syrup.
- E. Sales of syrup are not expected to account for a large proportion of total dollar sales at the average FastMart store.

Reasoning

What additional information would make it less likely that stocking only regular syrup rather than only low-calorie syrup would maximize sales? The argument assumes that when a store chooses which of two products to stock, sales will be higher if it chooses the product most customers prefer. But convenience-store customers are often in a hurry and consequently may only buy whatever product is available, even if it's not their favorite. To maximize sales, the store needs to focus more on the preferences of the few picky customers who would actually refuse to buy a product that does not meet their requirements. If the picky customers will only buy low-calorie syrup, while most customers will just buy whatever is available, then the store can maximize sales by stocking the low-calorie syrup.

- A. How many times the average customer buys syrup is irrelevant to the question of which kind of syrup the customers will buy.
- B. If more customers would buy regular syrup than low-calorie syrup, but each individual customer uses about the same amount of syrup, then total sales of regular syrup would be higher than total sales of low-calorie syrup, as the argument indicates.
- C. The relevance of this fact is unclear--a higher price per unit may mean more profit per unit, but it may also mean fewer sales. The objective of the strategy recommended in the conclusion is to maximize the number of units sold.
- D. **Correct.** As explained above, this suggests that sales of low-calorie syrup would be higher than sales of regular syrup, even though most customers mildly prefer regular syrup.
- E. Even if syrup sales are only a small proportion of total sales, they might still be greater than those of any other one product that FastMart could squeeze into that small shelf space. Therefore, stocking regular syrup could still maximize sales, as the argument indicates.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-049 VCR005745 Medium

Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the argument?

Aroca County's public schools are supported primarily by taxes on property. The county plans to eliminate the property tax and support schools with a new three percent sales tax on all retail items sold in the county. Three percent of current retail sales is less than the amount collected through property taxes, but implementation of the plan would not necessarily reduce the amount of money going to Aroca County public schools, because_____.

- A. many Aroca County residents have already left the county because of its high property taxes
- B. a shopping mall likely to draw shoppers from neighboring counties is about to open in Aroca County
- C. at least some Aroca County parents are to use the money they will save on property taxes to send their children to private schools not funded by the county
- D. a significant proportion of parents of Aroca County public school students do not own their homes and consequently do not pay property taxes
- E. retailers in Aroca County are not to absorb the sales tax by reducing the pretax price of their goods

Reasoning

Reasoning *What additional information would provide a reason to believe that the county schools will not lose out on funding if the new sales tax is implemented?* We are told that the sales tax would generate less money than the property tax does based on current retail sales. But if retail sales increase enough, the sales tax may end up generating even more money than the property tax does. Consequently, more money may be available for the schools. Therefore, look for an answer option suggesting that retail sales in the county will increase significantly.

- A. However many residents have left the county, the given information states that property tax still generates more money than the sales tax would generate based on current retail sales. Therefore this answer option gives no reason to believe that switching to the sales tax would reduce funding for the schools.
- B. **Correct.** A new shopping mall that draws shoppers from neighboring counties would likely increase Aroca County's retail sales, generating more tax money for the schools.
- C. If fewer parents use the public schools, the schools may be able to cut spending and have more money left over, but that does not mean the schools will get as much money from the sales tax as they currently do from the property tax.
- D. Even if many parents rent rather than own their homes and thus do not pay the property tax themselves, presumably somebody does. Who pays the tax does not affect the total amount collected and is therefore irrelevant to the argument.
- E. This suggests that the sales tax would lead to higher after-tax retail prices, which would probably reduce retail sales and hence result in even less tax revenue for the schools-contrary to the conclusion drawn in the argument.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-050 VCR006430 Medium

The OLEX Petroleum Company has recently determined that it could cut its refining costs by closing its refinery and consolidating all refining at its Tasberg refinery. Closing the Grenville refinery, however, would mean the immediate loss of about 1,200 jobs in the area. Eventually the lives of more than 10,000 people would be seriously disrupted. Therefore, OLEX's decision, announced yesterday, to keep open shows that at OLEX social concerns sometimes outweigh the desire for higher profits.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the argument given?

- A. The Grenville refinery, although it operates at a higher cost than the Tasberg refinery, has nevertheless been moderately profitable for many years.
- B. Even though OLEX could consolidate all its refining at the Tasberg plant, doing so at the Grenville plant would not be feasible.
- C. The Tasberg refinery is more favorably situated than the refinery with respect to the major supply routes for raw petroleum.
- D. If the Grenville refinery were ever closed and operations at the Tasberg refinery expanded, job openings at Tasberg would to the extent possible be filled with people formerly employed at
- E. Closure of the Grenville refinery would mean compliance, at enormous cost, with demanding local codes regulating the cleanup of abandoned industrial sites.

Reasoning

What would suggest that OLEX's decision to keep the refinery open was motivated by financial rather than social concerns? The argument is that closing the Grenville refinery would have caused social problems but would also have reduced OLEX's refining costs, which would presumably have increased profits, other things being equal. The argument concludes that since OLEX decided to keep the refinery open, the social reasons to keep it open must have outweighed the financial reasons to close it. But if there were also financial reasons for OLEX to keep the Grenville refinery open, the social issues may not have affected the decision. Therefore, look for an answer option that suggests possible financial reasons for OLEX to have kept the refinery open.

- A. This does not undermine the argument. Even if the Grenville refinery has been moderately profitable, OLEX might still be able to increase profits by consolidating its refining at the more efficient Tasberg refinery. Thus the information in this answer option does not provide a sufficient financial motivation for keeping the Grenville refinery open.
- B. This suggests that OLEX had an even stronger financial reason to close the Grenville plant, not a financial reason to keep it open.
- C. C By suggesting that consolidating operations at the Tasberg refinery would lower transportation costs as well as refining costs, this gives an additional financial reason to close the Grenville plant, not a financial reason to keep it open.
- D. D If OLEX took pains to find new jobs for the Grenville workers and thus to mitigate the social damage from the plant closure, this would suggest that OLEX is motivated by social concerns, not merely financial concerns.
- E. E Correct. Since this means it would be very expensive for OLEX to close the Grenville plant, it suggests that the decision to keep the plant open could have been motivated by financial rather than social concerns.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-051 VCR006443 Medium

Which of the following most logically completes the passage below?

Heavy rains during Centralia's corn planting season prevented some farmers there from planting corn. It is now the planting season for soybeans, another of Centralia's principal crops, and those fields originally intended for corn are dry enough for planting. Nonetheless, even though soybean prices are unusually high at present, the farmers will leave most of these fields empty rather than plant them with soybeans, since_____.

- A. the extensive rains have led to an increase in the price of corn
- B. some Centralian farmers anticipate serious financial losses due to the extremely wet spring planting season
- C. chemicals that were used to prepare the fields for corn planting would stunt the growth of soybeans
- D. the majority of Centralia's corn farmers were able to plant corn as they had intended, despite the wet planting season
- E. many Centralian farmers grow both corn and soybeans

Reasoning

Why would the farmers leave the fields empty even though conditions suggest it would be profitable to plant soybeans? The farmers were not able to plant corn this year. Consequently, why would they not make up for it by planting soybeans? Soybean prices are especially high, so it would presumably be profitable to plant them. Why would the farmers leave the fields empty instead? Look for an answer option suggesting why it would be unprofitable or unfeasible for them to take advantage of the conditions favoring soybean planting.

- A. Corn planting season is over, and therefore the farmers could not plant corn to profit from the high corn prices-- and even if they could, it would not explain why they are leaving the fields empty.
- B. This does not explain why the farmers are not planting soybeans. If the farmers anticipate serious financial losses, that would be all the more reason for them to try to recover financially by planting soybeans.
- C. **Correct.** This gives a good reason for not planting soybeans. It might not be profitable to do so.
- D. The passage is about the farmers who could not plant corn, not about those who could.
- E. If the farmers are accustomed to planting soybeans, it would probably be even easier and more profitable for them to do so this year rather than leaving the fields empty.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-052 VCR07545 Hard

Consumer advocate: It is generally true, at least in this state, that lawyers who advertise a specific service charge less for that service than lawyers who do not advertise. It is also true that **each time restrictions on the advertising of legal services have been eliminated, the number of lawyers advertising their services has increased and legal costs to consumers have declined in consequence.** However, eliminating the state requirement that legal advertisements must specify fees for specific services would almost certainly increase rather than further reduce consumers' legal costs. Lawyers would no longer have an incentive to lower their fees when they begin advertising and **if no longer required to specify fee arrangements, many lawyers who now advertise would increase their fees.**

In the consumer advocate's argument, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- A. The first is a generalization that the consumer advocate accepts as true; the second is presented as a consequence that follows from the truth of that generalization.
- B. The first is a pattern of cause and effect that the consumer advocate argues will be repeated in the case at issue; the second acknowledges a circumstance in which that pattern would not hold.
- C. The first is a pattern of cause and effect that the consumer advocate predicts will not hold in the case at issue; the second offers a consideration in support of that prediction.
- D. The first is evidence that the consumer advocate offers in support of a certain prediction; the second is that prediction.
- E. The first acknowledges a consideration that weighs against the main position that the consumer advocate defends; the second is that position.

Argument Construction

Situation

Lawyers who advertise charge less. In the past, **when advertising restrictions have been removed, the number of lawyers advertising rose and legal costs to consumers fell.** However, eliminating the requirement to specify fees in advertisements would raise consumers' legal costs. **If lawyers are not required to specify their fees in ads, many lawyers who advertise will raise their fees, and consumer costs are to rise.**

Reasoning

What part do the two sentences in boldface play in the argument? This question asks the reader to look carefully at how the advocate's argument is constructed and in particular at how the two sentences in **boldface** are related. It is necessary to understand the consumer advocate's main point: if lawyers are not required to specify fees in advertisements, consumers' legal costs are likely to rise. The first **boldface** sentence shows the cause-and-effect relation of lawyers' ads and falling consumer costs, a relation the advocate predicts will not continue in the current case. The second **boldface** sentence explains why that relation will change.

- A. The first sentence is presented as true, but the second sentence does not follow as a consequence; rather, it contradicts the first sentence.
- B. The first sentence shows cause and effect, but the consumer advocate does not argue that it will be repeated. The advocate argues that it will not be repeated.
- C. **Correct.** The first sentence shows general cause and effect in a situation that the advocate argues will not be true in this particular case. The second sentence explains why it will not be true.
- D. The consumer advocate predicts legal costs will rise; the first sentence does not offer evidence in support of that prediction, but rather evidence that costs have always fallen.
- E. The first sentence gives a general cause-and-effect relationship, not a special consideration; the second sentence shows how that relationship could change.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-053 VCR07570 Hard

The technological conservatism of bicycle manufacturers is a reflection of the kinds of demand they are trying to meet. The only cyclists seriously interested in innovation and willing to pay for it are bicycle racers. Therefore, innovation in bicycle technology is limited by what authorities will accept as standard for purposes of competition in bicycle races.

Which of the following is an assumption made in drawing the conclusion above?

- A. The market for cheap, traditional bicycles cannot expand unless the market for high-performance competition bicycles expands.
- B. High-performance bicycles are likely to be improved more as a result of technological innovations developed in small workshops than as a result of technological innovations developed in major manufacturing concerns.
- C. Bicycle racers do not generate a strong demand for innovations that fall outside what is officially recognized as standard for purposes of competition.
- D. The technological conservatism of bicycle manufacturers results primarily from their desire to manufacture a product that can be sold without being altered to suit different national markets.
- E. The authorities who set standards for high-performance bicycle racing do not keep informed about innovative bicycle design.

Argument Construction

Situation

Bicycle racers are the only consumers willing to pay for innovations in bicycle technology. Manufacturers therefore innovation to the standards established for competitive bicycle racing.

Reasoning

What is being assumed in this argument? This argument implies a connection between what bicycle racers want and what bicycle manufacturers make. The passage states that only racers are interested in innovation and to pay for it. Bicycle manufacturers have determined it is not worthwhile to produce innovative bicycles that do not meet official standards. What is the implied interaction? It is reasonable to assume that racers must not be interested in buying models that, while innovative, do not meet official standards for racing; they will pay only for those innovations that are acceptable in competition.

- A. The argument concerns innovation in bicycle technology. It is not about the entire market for all bicycles, so no assumption is made about traditional bicycles.
- B. The passage does not discuss where the best innovations are likely to be created, so no assumption about small workshops versus large manufacturers is made.
- C. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the conclusion's underlying assumption that bicycle racers do not buy bicycles they cannot use for racing.
- D. The passage does not discuss different national markets; no assumption can be made about them.
- E. The passage does not indicate what the authorities do or do not know; this statement is extraneous to the passage and cannot be assumed.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-054 VCR14019 Hard

In a study conducted in Canada, servers in various restaurants wrote "Thank you" on randomly selected bills before presenting the bills to their customers. Tips on these bills were an average of three percentage points higher than tips on bills without the message. Therefore, if servers in Canada regularly wrote "Thank you" on restaurant bills their average income from tips would be significantly higher than it otherwise would have been.

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

- A. The "Thank you" messages would have the same impact on regular patrons of a restaurant as they would on occasional patrons of the same restaurant.
- B. Regularly seeing "Thank you" written on their bills would not lead restaurant patrons to revert to their earlier tipping habits.
- C. The written "Thank you" reminds restaurant patrons that tips constitute a significant part of the income of many food servers.
- D. The rate at which people tip food servers in Canada does not vary with how expensive a restaurant is.
- E. Virtually all patrons of the Canadian restaurants in the study who were given a bill with "Thank you" written on it left a larger tip than they otherwise would have.

Argument Construction**Reasoning**

Another way to look at the question is "could the average from tips still increase if this assumption were not true?"

- A. Even if the increase came only from occasional patrons, then average of tips would still be higher. This assumption is not needed.
- B. **Correct.** If effect is a function of the rarity of seeing thank you, then regularly writing thank you would not increase average tips. This assumption must be met for the argument to hold.
- C. This assumes that knowing that tips are part of the income for servers will lead to higher tips. There is not enough information about this requirement for the argument to hold.
- D. Even if initial tipping rates differ, the increase could be shown to be applicable across restaurants and rates, particularly if restaurants of different expense levels were included in the study. There is not enough information to fully evaluate the need for the assumption.
- E. The assumption is not needed; as with A, if a small portion of patrons left much larger tips, the average would still be higher.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-055 VCR07635 Hard

Correctly measuring the productivity of service workers is complex. Consider, for example, postal workers: they are often said to be more productive if more letters are delivered per postal worker. But is this really true? What if more letters are lost or delayed per worker at the same time that more are delivered?

The objection implied above to the productivity measure described is based on doubts about the truth of which of the following statements?

- A. Postal workers are representative of service workers in general.
- B. The delivery of letters is the primary activity of the postal service.
- C. Productivity should be ascribed to categories of workers, not to individuals.
- D. The quality of services rendered can appropriately be ignored in computing productivity.
- E. The number of letters delivered is relevant to measuring the productivity of postal workers.

Argument Evaluation

Situation

In considering how best to measure productivity, the assumption is made that the more letters postal workers deliver, the more productive they are. This assumption is then challenged: What if the number of delayed and lost letters increases proportionately with the number of letters delivered?

Reasoning

Which statement would NOT be accepted by those objecting to the measure? The point of the objection is that the number of letters delivered is, by itself, an inadequate measure of postal workers' productivity. The challenge introduces the issue of the quality of the work being performed by suggesting that the number of misdirected letters should also be taken into account. The challenge is based on rejecting the idea that quality can be ignored when measuring productivity.

- A. The argument uses postal workers as an example; the challenge does not question the fairness of the example.
- B. Letter-delivery is assumed to be the primary activity of postal workers because their productivity is measured on that basis; the challenge does not reject this point.
- C. The argument does discuss a category of workers, postal workers, rather than individuals; the challenge does not reject this point.
- D. **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the point that is the basis of the challenge to the measure; the objection does NOT accept the position that quality can be ignored in evaluating productivity.
- E. There is no doubt that counting letters delivered is part of measuring productivity; the challenge is to its being the only measure.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-056 VCR000727 Hard

Pretzel vendor: The new license fee for operating a pretzel stand outside the art museum is prohibitively expensive. Charging typical prices, a vendor would need to sell an average of 25 pretzels per hour to break even. At my stand outside city hall, I average only 15 per hour. Therefore, I could not break even running a pretzel stand outside the art museum, much less turn a profit.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the pretzel vendor's argument?

- A. There is currently no license fee for operating a pretzel stand outside city hall.
- B. Pretzel vendors who operate stands outside the art museum were making a profit before the imposition of the new license fee.
- C. The number of pretzel stands outside the art museum is no greater than the number of pretzel stands now outside city hall.
- D. People who buy pretzels at pretzel stands are most likely to do so during the hours at which the art museum is open to the
- E. Fewer people passing the art museum than passing city hall are to buy pretzels.

Reasoning

Given the facts the vendor has stated, what would make it less likely that the vendor could break even running a pretzel stand outside the museum? The vendor says that to break even, it would be necessary to sell more pretzels per hour outside the art museum than outside city hall. Therefore, look for an answer choice suggesting that the vendor could not sell that many pretzels outside the art museum. To strengthen the argument, the correct answer must present evidence that goes beyond what the vendor has already stated.

- A. A license fee outside city hall would not affect the vendor's need or ability to sell 25 pretzels an hour outside the art museum to break even.
- B. If vendors were making a profit before the license fee was imposed, there might be enough demand for pretzels to allow a profit even with the license fee
- C. Fewer pretzel stands outside the art museum would mean less competition. Therefore, it might be easier for the vendor to make a profit.
- D. Even if many more people buy pretzels while the museum is open than when it's closed, the vendor might still sell at least 25 pretzels an hour, on average, whether it's open or closed.
- E. **Correct.** If the vendor only sells 15 pretzels an hour outside city hall, and fewer people want pretzels outside the art museum than outside city hall, then it would be hard for the vendor to sell 25 pretzels an hour outside the art museum.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-057 VCR000738 Hard

When a city experiences a sharp decline in population, the city's tax revenues, which pay for such city services as police protection and maintenance of water lines, also decrease. The area to be policed and the number and length of the water lines to be maintained, however, do not decrease. Attempting to make up the tax revenue lost by raising tax rates is not feasible, since higher tax rates would cause even more residents to leave.

The information given most strongly supports which of the following general claims?

- A. If, in a city with sharply declining population, police protection and water line maintenance do not deteriorate, some other service previously provided by the city will deteriorate or be eliminated.
- B. If a city's tax rates are held stable over a period of time, neither the population nor the levels of city services provided will tend to decline over that period.
- C. If a city's population declines sharply, police protection and water line maintenance are the services that deteriorate most immediately and most markedly.
- D. A city that suffers revenue losses because of a sharp decline in population can make up some of the lost tax revenue by raising tax rates, provided the city's tax rates are low in relation to those of other cities.
- E. A city that is losing residents because tax rates are perceived as too high by those residents can reverse this population trend by bringing its tax rates down to a more moderate level.

Reasoning

What conclusion does the information suggest about cities in general? The information suggests that in cities, a population decline tends to reduce overall revenues that fund city services without reducing the need for two specific services: police protection and water lines. It also says that raising tax rates causes further population declines and does not raise revenues. But we are not told how overall revenues are distributed among city services, nor how the distribution might change. Even if overall funds decline, revenues for some specific city services could remain the same, while revenues for other services are severely cut.

- A. **Correct.** If police protection and water lines have not deteriorated as population has declined, then probably the funding for them has been preserved. Therefore, funding for some other services must be severely cut, since (as the argument states) making up tax revenue lost due to population decreases is not feasible.
- B. Although increased tax rates cause population declines, a city's population and total tax revenue may for other reasons even if tax rates are stable.
- C. No specific information is given about how other city services would be affected by population declines. Therefore, we have no basis on which to compare any resulting deterioration to that of police protection and water lines.
- D. We are told that raising tax rates in a city with declining revenues does not increase revenues, and none of the information given suggests any exceptions to this principle.
- E. Reducing high tax rates to moderate levels may not attract many new residents, since other cities may have moderate tax rates as well; furthermore, those other cities may have better city services or other more attractive features.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-058 VCR000905 Hard

The cause of the wreck of the ship Edmund Fitzgerald in a severe storm on Lake Superior is still unknown. When the sunken wreckage of the vessel was found, searchers discovered the hull in two pieces lying close together. The storm's violent waves would have caused separate pieces floating even briefly on the surface to drift apart. Therefore, the breakup of the hull can be ruled out as the cause of the sinking.

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

- A. Ships as large as the *Edmund Fitzgerald* rarely sink except in the most violent weather.
- B. Underwater currents at the time of the storm did not move the separated pieces of the hull together again.
- C. Pieces of the hull would have sunk more quickly than the intact hull would have.
- D. The waves of the storm were not violent enough to have caused the ship to break up on the surface.
- E. If the ship broke up before sinking, the pieces of the hull would not have remained on the surface for very long.

Reasoning

What must be true in order for the given premises to justify the conclusion that the broken hull did not sink the ship?
The ship wrecked in a storm. If the hull was in separate pieces during the storm, the waves would have made the pieces drift apart. But the two pieces of the hull were found close together. Therefore, the argument concludes that the hull must not have been in separate pieces when the ship sank. This assumes that since the two pieces of the hull were found together, the storm waves never made them drift apart.

- A. This need not be true for the premises to justify the conclusion. It is perfectly compatible with the argument that large ships often sink in calm weather for example, due to factors such as icebergs or naval battles.
- B. **Correct.** The argument assumes that the pieces of the hull never drifted apart in the first place and hence that underwater currents did not move them back together again.
- C. If the pieces of the hull had sunk quickly, they would have had little time to drift apart. Therefore, they might have been found together even if the ship's hull had broken in the storm.
- D. Even if the waves had been violent enough to potentially break up the ship, they might not actually have done so. For instance, the ship may have sunk before the waves were able to break it up.
- E. As in C, if the pieces of the hull had not remained on the surface for long, they would have had little time to drift apart.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-059 VCR001283 Hard

Press Secretary: Our critics claim that the president's recent highway project cancellations demonstrate a vindictive desire to punish legislative districts controlled by opposition parties. They offer as evidence the fact that 90 percent of the projects canceled were in such districts. But all of the canceled projects had been identified as wasteful in a report written by respected nonpartisan auditors. So the president's choice was clearly motivated by sound budgetary policy, not partisan politics.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the press secretary's argument depends?

- A. Canceling highway projects was not the only way for the president to punish legislative districts controlled by opposition parties.
- B. The scheduled highway projects identified as wasteful in the report were not mostly projects in districts controlled by the president's party.
- C. The number of projects canceled was a significant proportion of all the highway projects that were to be undertaken by the government in the near future.
- D. The highway projects canceled in districts controlled by the president's party were not generally more expensive than the projects canceled in districts controlled by opposition parties.
- E. Reports by nonpartisan auditors are not generally regarded by the opposition parties as a source of objective assessments of government projects.

Reasoning

What must be true in order for the press secretary's premise to support the conclusion that the president's choice was not partisan politics? The passage discusses two opposing arguments: an attack by critics, and a rejoinder by the press secretary. The critics' evidence that the president's choice was motivated by political bias is that 90 percent of the canceled projects were in opposition districts. To overcome this evidence, the press secretary only cites an apparently unbiased, authoritative report that indicated that all of the canceled projects were wasteful. For this response to be good, however, the press secretary must assume that it is not the case that most of the districts that the report indicated as wasteful were supportive of the president. If most were supportive, then the fact that the vast majority of canceled projects were from opposition districts would suggest a partisan motive.

- A. The press secretary's argument suggests that the president had no interest in punishing opposition districts. Therefore, it does not assume that the president had other ways to do so.
- B. **Correct.** If this were false, then it would make no sense for the press secretary to cite the report in denying that the president's choice was biased; it would in fact undermine the press secretary's rejoinder.
- C. Even if all the projects canceled were chosen for sound budgetary reasons, only a small proportion of all governmental highway projects may have been canceled.
- D. If the canceled projects in districts controlled by the president's party were more expensive, that might indicate that more money would have gone to those districts had they not been canceled, which would suggest that the motivation for canceling them probably was not partisan politics, which is the claim that the press secretary is arguing for.
- E. The press secretary's argument assumes that the report by the nonpartisan auditors was unbiased, not that the opposition parties must regard it as such.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-060 VCR001308 Hard

Environmental organizations want to preserve the land surrounding the Wilgrinn Wilderness Area from residential development. They plan to do this by purchasing that land from the farmers who own it. **That plan is ill-conceived:** if the farmers did sell their land, they would sell it to the highest bidder, and developers would outbid any other bidders. On the other hand, these farmers will never actually sell any of the land, provided that farming it remains viable. But farming will not remain viable if the farms are left unmodernized, and most of the farmers lack the financial resources modernization requires. And that is exactly why **a more sensible preservation strategy would be to the farmers to modernize their farms to the extent needed to maintain viability.**

In the reasoning above, the two **boldface** portions play which of the following roles?

- A. The first assesses the goal held by certain environmental organizations; the second presents the goal that the reasoning concludes should be adopted instead.
- B. The first assesses the goal held by certain environmental organizations; the second presents the strategy that the reasoning concludes has the best chance of reaching that goal.
- C. The first is the conclusion reached about one strategy for attaining a certain goal; the second presents the strategy that the reasoning advocates.
- D. The first is the main conclusion toward which the reasoning is directed; the second presents a strategy that is called sensible but for which no support is offered.
- E. The first is the main conclusion toward which the reasoning is directed; the second is a consideration raised in order to support that conclusion.

Reasoning

What roles do the two boldfaced statements play in the passage? The passage starts by presenting a goal and a strategy for reaching that goal. The first boldfaced statement is a rejection of that strategy. The passage then presents a premise that supports the first boldfaced statement as a conclusion. Next, the passage describes other factors that suggest an alternative strategy. Finally, the second boldfaced statement presents and recommends that alternative strategy.

- A. The first statement assesses not the goal, but rather a strategy for reaching the goal; the second presents not another goal, but rather another strategy for reaching the same goal.
- B. The first statement assesses not a goal, but rather a strategy for reaching a goal.
- C. **Correct.** The first statement presents the conclusion that one strategy is ill-conceived; the second statement presents and advocates an alternative strategy.
- D. The main conclusion is not that the first strategy should be rejected, but rather that the alternative strategy should be accepted.
- E. E The idea that the first strategy should be rejected is used to support the idea that the alternative strategy should be accepted, not vice versa.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-061 VCR001371 Hard

Historian: In the Drindian Empire, censuses were conducted annually to determine the population of each village. **Village census records for the last half of the 1600s are remarkably complete.** This very completeness makes one point stand out; in five different years, villages overwhelmingly reported significant population declines. Tellingly, each of those five years immediately followed an increase in a certain Drindian tax. This tax, which was assessed on villages, was computed by the central government using the annual census figures. Obviously, **whenever the tax went up, villages had an especially powerful economic incentive to minimize the number of people they recorded;** and concealing the size of a village's population from government census takers would have been easy. Therefore, the reported declines probably did not happen.

In the historian's argument, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- A. The first presents a finding to support the position the historian seeks to establish; the second is a consideration that has been used to argue against that position.
- B. The first provides a context for certain evidence that supports the position that the historian seeks to establish; the second is a judgment advanced to support that position.
- C. The first is a position that the historian seeks to establish; the second is evidence that has been used to argue against that position.
- D. The first is an assumption that the historian explicitly makes in support of a certain position; the second is that position.
- E. The first is a claim that the historian rejects; the second is a conclusion drawn to justify that rejection.

Reasoning

What roles do the two boldfaced statements play in the passage? The first boldfaced statement provides background information about the census records. The passage says that the situation described by the first boldfaced statement makes a certain observation stand out. To explain that observation, the passage then argues that the records were probably falsified; the second boldfaced statement presents a hypothesis about economic incentives that supports that argument's conclusion. Therefore, the second boldfaced statement is a premise in the argument.

- A. The historian seeks to establish the position that the records were falsified, and the hypothesis about economic incentives explains why they would have been falsified.
- B. **Correct.** The completeness of the records provides a context for the evidence supporting the conclusion that the records were falsified; the hypothesis about economic incentives supports the same conclusion by explaining why the records would have been falsified.
- C. The passage does not argue that the records are complete, but simply states that they were; the hypothesis about economic incentives is not used to argue that the records are incomplete, but rather that they are inaccurate.
- D. The completeness of the records does not support the hypothesis that the villagers had an economic incentive to record fewer people when the tax went up.
- E. The historian does not deny that the records are complete, but rather that they are accurate.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-062 VCR002697 Hard

In 1992 outlaw fishing boats began illegally harvesting lobsters from the territorial waters of the country of Belukia. Soon after, the annual tonnage of lobster legally harvested in Belukian waters began declining; in 1996, despite there being no reduction in the level of legal lobster fishing activity, the local catch was 9,000 tons below pre-1992 levels. It is therefore highly likely that the outlaw fishing boats harvested about 9,000 tons of lobster illegally that year.

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

- A. The illegal lobster harvesting was not so extensive that the population of catchable lobsters in Belukia's territorial waters had sharply declined by 1996.
- B. The average annual lobster catch, in tons, of an outlaw fishing boat has increased since 1992.
- C. Outlaw fishing boats do not, as a group, harvest more lobsters than do licensed lobster-fishing boats.
- D. The annual legal lobster harvest in Belukia in 1996 was not significantly less than 9,000 tons.
- E. A significant proportion of Belukia's operators of licensed lobster-fishing boats went out of business between 1992 and 1996.

Reasoning

What must be true in order for the given information to justify the conclusion that the outlaw fishing boats harvested about 9,000 tons of lobster in 1996? The argument is that since the legal catch was 9,000 tons lower in 1996 than the total annual catch was before 1992, even though the level of legal lobster activity did not decline, the illegal catch in 1996 must have been about 9,000 tons. Despite the fact that the conclusion says about 9,000 tons, this is still a rather specific number. How can such a specific number be inferred? The argument must be assuming that the total annual catch was roughly the same in 1996 as it had been before 1992. Furthermore, there would be no justification for inferring such a specific number regarding the illegal lobster catch, unless the argument assumed that the number of catchable lobsters in 1996 was not dramatically different from the number in 1992, since the level of illegal lobster activity was not known (as appears to be the case, since the argument is intended to make an inference related to that level of activity). Consider the answer choices and find one that expresses or follows from the assumption.

- A. **Correct.** If illegal lobster harvesting had been so extensive that the population of catchable lobsters in Belukia's territorial waters had sharply declined by 1996, then the number of catchable lobsters would have been dramatically different that year from what it had been in 1992, and it would be impossible to infer, from the premises given, such a specific number as is given in the conclusion.
- B. The argument does not discuss how many lobsters have been caught illegally each year since 1992, but rather how many were caught in 1996 specifically.
- C. Whether the illegal catch in 1996 was higher or lower than the legal catch, it still could have been 9,000 tons.
- D. The annual legal catch before 1992 could not have been less than 9,000 tons, but the legal catch in 1996 could have been.
- E. The argument says there was no reduction in the amount of legal lobster activity. Therefore, it does not assume that any lobster boats went out of business.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-063 VCR003782 Hard

Printwell's Ink Jet Division manufactures ink-jet printers and the ink cartridges they use. Sales of its ink-jet printers have increased. Monthly revenues from those sales, however, have not increased, because competition has forced Printwell to cut the prices of its printers. Unfortunately, Printwell has been unable to bring down the cost of manufacturing a printer. Thus, despite the increase in printer sales, the Ink Jet Division must be contributing less to the company's profits than it used to.

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

- A. Ink-jet printers in regular use frequently need new ink cartridges, and Printwell's printers only accept Printwell's ink cartridges.
- B. Unlike some competing companies, Printwell sells all of its printers through retailers, and these retailers' costs account for a sizable proportion of the printers' ultimate retail price.
- C. Some printer manufacturers have been forced to reduce the sale price of their ink-jet printers even more than Printwell has.
- D. In the past year, no competing manufacturer of ink-jet printers has had as great an increase as Printwell in unit sales of printers.
- E. In the past year, sales of Printwell's ink-jet printers have increased more than sales of any other type of printer made by Printwell.

Reasoning

What would make it least likely that the Ink Jet Division is contributing less to the company's profits than it used to? Printwell's ink-jet printer sales have increased, but manufacturing expenses per printer have not fallen. Therefore, total expenses for printer manufacturing have increased. But total monthly revenues from the printer sales have not increased. Therefore, total monthly profits from the printers must have fallen. The argument concludes that total profits from the Ink Jet Division have fallen. But, since the Ink Jet Division also produces ink cartridges, this reasoning assumes that profits from the ink cartridges have not increased enough to compensate for the lower profits from the printers. Therefore, look for an answer option that undermines this assumption by suggesting that profits from the ink cartridges have increased.

- A. **Correct.** This suggests that Printwell's ink-cartridge sales have increased along with its ink-jet printer sales, which might compensate for the falling profits from the printers.
- B. The retailers' added costs would probably make the Ink Jet Division less profitable, not more profitable.
- C. Even if ink-jet printer profits have fallen less than those of some other manufacturers, they may still have fallen.
- D. Printwell's monthly revenues from ink-jet printer sales have not increased, but costs per printer sold have not decreased. Therefore, this evidence that Printwell has been selling more ink-jet printers supports the argument's reasoning that Printwell's total profits from ink-jet printer sales must have fallen.
- E. As in option D, evidence that Printwell has been selling more ink-jet printers supports the argument's reasoning that Printwell's total profits from ink-jet printer sales must have fallen.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-064 VCR003810 Hard

Agricultural societies cannot exist without staple crops. Several food plants, such as kola and okra, are known to have been domesticated in western Africa, but they are all supplemental, not staple, foods. All the recorded staple crops grown in western Africa were introduced from elsewhere, beginning, at some unknown date, with rice and yams. Therefore, discovering when rice and yams were introduced into western Africa would establish the earliest date at which agricultural societies could have arisen there.

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

- A. People in western Africa did not develop staple crops that they stopped cultivating once rice and yams were introduced.
- B. There are no plants native to western Africa that, if domesticated, could serve as staple food crops.
- C. Rice and yams were grown as staple crops by the earliest agricultural societies outside of western Africa.
- D. Kola and okra are better suited to growing conditions in western Africa than domesticated rice and yams are.
- E. Kola and okra were domesticated in western Africa before rice and yams were introduced there.

Reasoning

What must be true in order for the given information to justify the conclusion that knowing when rice and yams arrived in western Africa would establish the earliest date that agricultural societies could have arisen there? The argument is that agricultural societies require staple crops, and there were no recorded staple crops in western Africa before rice and yams were introduced there. Therefore, no agricultural societies could have arisen there before rice and yams were introduced. This assumes there were no unrecorded staple crops in western Africa before rice and yams. Therefore, look for an answer option that expresses or follows from this assumption.

- A. **Correct.** This follows from the assumption discussed above, that there were no earlier, unrecorded staple crops in western Africa before rice and yams.
- B. The argument assumes that no plants actually were domesticated as staple crops in western Africa, not that there are no plants suitable for such domestication.
- C. The argument assumes that early agricultural societies outside western Africa grew rice and yams as staple crops, but not necessarily the agricultural societies.
- D. The argument says that kola and okra are not staple crops. Therefore, it does not matter how well they grow in western Africa compared to rice and yams.
- E. Kola and okra are not staple crops, but if they ever had been, this claim would undermine the argument. Therefore, it's not an assumption on which the argument depends.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-065 VCR003842 Hard

The percentage of households with an annual income of more than \$40,000 is higher in Merton County than in any other county. However, the percentage of households with an annual income of \$60,000 or more is higher in Sommer County.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must also be true?

- A. The percentage of households with an annual income of \$80,000 is higher in Sommer County than in Merton County.
- B. Merton County has the second-highest percentage of households with an annual income of \$60,000 or more.
- C. The percentage of households with an annual income between \$40,000 and \$60,000 is higher in Merton County than in Sommer County.
- D. The total number of households with an annual income of more than \$40,000 is greater in Merton County than in Sommer County.
- E. Average annual household income is higher in Sommer County than in Merton County.

Reasoning

What follows from the statistics about annual household incomes in the two counties? We can infer that in Merton County, the percentage of households with incomes above \$40,000 is higher than in Sommer County. Therefore, the percentage with incomes below \$40,000 must be lower. And we are told that the percentage with incomes above \$60,000 is also lower in Merton County than in Sommer County. Since the percentage with incomes below \$40,000 and the percentage with incomes above \$60,000 are both lower in Merton County than in Sommer County, the remaining percentage, with incomes between \$40,000 and \$60,000, must be higher in Merton County than in Sommer County.

- A. We have no information about the percentage of households with incomes of \$80,000 or higher in either county. It's even possible that no household in either county has an income of \$80,000 or higher.
- B. Some third county could also have a higher percentage of households with incomes above \$60,000 than Merton County does, even though Merton County has the highest percentage of households with incomes above \$40,000.
- C. **Correct.** This can be deduced as explained above.
- D. We have no information about the total numbers of households in the two counties, only about the percentages with different income levels.
- E. Since a higher percentage of households in Sommer County than in Merton County have incomes below \$40,000, average annual household income might also be lower in Sommer County.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-066 VCR003941 Hard

A product that represents a clear technological advance over competing products can generally command a high price. Surprisingly, perhaps, **the strategy to maximize overall profit from a new product is to charge than the greatest price the market will bear.** Many companies charge the maximum possible price for such a product, because they want to make as much profit as they can and technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed. The drawback is that **large profits on the new product give competitors a strong incentive to quickly match the new product's capabilities.**

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

- A. The first is the position the argument advocates; the second presents grounds for rejecting an alternative position.
- B. The first is the position the argument advocates; the second is an alternative position that the argument rejects.
- C. The first presents a strategy for achieving a certain goal; the second presents a drawback to that strategy.
- D. The first presents a strategy for achieving a certain goal; the second presents grounds for preferring a different goal.
- E. The first presents a strategy that, according to the argument, is ineffective; the second presents a way of improving the effectiveness of that strategy.

Reasoning

What roles do the two boldfaced portions play in the passage? The passage's first sentence just introduces the general topic of prices for new, technologically advanced products. In the second sentence, the first boldfaced portion explicitly recommends a strategy for maximizing overall profit from such products. The third sentence describes a popular alternative strategy. In the fourth sentence, the second boldfaced portion explicitly describes a drawback of that alternative strategy.

- A. **Correct.** The argument advocates the strategy recommended in the first boldfaced portion; the second boldfaced portion states a drawback of an alternative strategy and thus presents grounds for rejecting the position that the alternative strategy is effective.
- B. The second boldfaced portion is not an alternative position, but rather a reason for rejecting an alternative position.
- C. The second boldfaced portion presents a drawback not to the strategy presented in the first boldfaced portion, but rather to an alternative strategy.
- D. The second boldfaced portion does not present any reason to prefer a goal other than maximizing presents a drawback to a strategy for attaining that goal.
- E. The first boldfaced portion presents a strategy the argument recommends, and the second presents a reason why an alternative strategy might be ineffective.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-067 VCR005068 Hard

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A recent poll found that over 80 percent of the residents of Nalmed Province favored a massive expansion of the commuter rail system as a means of significantly reducing congestion on the province's highways and were willing to help pay for the expansion through an increase in their taxes. Nevertheless, the poll results contain an indication that expansion of the rail system, if successfully completed, might be unlikely to achieve its goal of reducing congestion, because_____.

- A. most people in favor of expanding the rail system reported less congestion during their highway commute as the primary benefit they would experience
- B. of the less than 20 percent of residents not counted as favoring the expansion, about half claimed to have no opinion one way or the other
- C. the twice-daily periods of peak congestion caused by people commuting in cars have grown, over the past 20 years, from about an hour each to about two hours each
- D. expanding the commuter rail system will require the construction of dozens of miles of new bed
- E. the proposed expansion would make commuting by rail possible for many people who live in one suburb and work in a different suburb of the province's main city

Reasoning

What most supports the claim that the poll data indicate that the rail system expansion may not reduce congestion?
The expansion will not reduce highway congestion unless it results in fewer people driving during congested periods, such as rush hours when many people commute. Therefore, look for an answer option that takes the poll results as suggesting that not many drivers would switch to commuting on the expanded rail system.

- A. **Correct.** This shows that the poll data indicate that most of the residents who favor the new rail system plan to keep commuting by car—thus still contributing to highway congestion.
- B. The fact that 10 percent of the residents "have no opinion" provides no evidence that the poll data indicate the rail system expansion would not reduce congestion.
- C. The claim that the time needed for daily commutes has doubled says nothing at all about the interpretation of the poll data—and therefore nothing about what the poll data might indicate about the possible failure of the rail expansion to reduce congestion. It is thus irrelevant.
- D. This claim says nothing at all about the interpretation of the poll data and is incorrect because irrelevant.
- E. This claim says nothing at all about the interpretation of the poll data and is incorrect because irrelevant.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-068 VCR005084 Hard

Editorial in Krenlandian Newspaper:

Krenland's steelmakers are losing domestic sales because of lower-priced imports, in many cases because foreign governments subsidize their steel industries in ways that are banned by international treaties. But whatever the cause, the cost is ultimately going to be jobs in Krenland's steel industry. Therefore, it would protect not only steelmaking companies but also industrial employment in Krenland if our government took measures to reduce cheap steel imports.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the editorial's argument?

- A. Because steel from Krenland is rarely competitive in international markets, only a very small portion of Krenlandian steelmakers' revenue comes from exports.
- B. The international treaties that some governments are violating by giving subsidies to steelmakers do not specify any penalties for such violations.
- C. For many Krenlandian manufacturers who face severe international competition in both domestic and export markets, steel constitutes a significant part of their raw material costs.
- D. Because of advances in order-taking, shipping, and inventory systems, the cost of shipping steel from foreign producers to Krenland has fallen in recent years.
- E. Wages paid to workers in the steel industry in Krenland do not differ significantly from wages paid to workers in many of the countries that export steel to Krenland.

Reasoning

What would make it least likely that government measures to reduce cheap steel imports would protect both steelmakers and overall industrial employment in Krenland? The editorial's reasoning is that cheap steel imports are hurting steelmakers and steelmaking jobs. Since steelmaking jobs contribute to industrial employment, the editorial infers that government measures to protect steelmaking jobs will also help protect industrial employment in general. But this inference may be incorrect if the measures would reduce employment in industries other than steelmaking. Therefore, look for an answer option that suggests how measures to reduce cheap steel imports might hurt other Krenlandian industries.

- A. If Krenland exports very steel, then Krenlandian steelmakers will not be hurt, even if other nations retaliate with restrictions against Krenlandian steel imports. Therefore, this would strengthen the editorial's argument.
- B. This is compatible with the success of the strategy that the editorial's argument suggests. Even if the treaties do not specify any penalties, they may not forbid whatever penalties Krenland's government chooses to impose. Thus the government may be able to act as the editorial recommends without any special risk of international sanctions.
- C. **Correct.** This suggests that reducing cheap steel imports would hurt other Krenlandian industries by driving up their raw material costs, which in turn could reduce employment in those industries and thereby reduce overall industrial employment in Krenland—contrary to what the editorial's conclusion claims.
- D. This fact is compatible with the success of the strategy that the editorial suggests. It helps explain why the imports hurt domestic steelmakers. But it provides no reason to think that the import-reduction strategy would be ineffective in attaining its objectives.
- E. This fact is compatible with the success of the strategy that the editorial suggests. The editorial says that the imports are cheaper than Krenlandian steel. Therefore, reducing these cheaper imports could help protect Krenlandian steelmakers, even if wage differences do not account for the imports' higher prices.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-069 VCR005518 Hard

Southington University's fund-raisers succeeded in getting donations from 80 percent of the potential donors they contacted this year. This rate would be the expected rate if the only potential donors contacted were those who have donated in the past. But good fund-raisers constantly contact less likely prospects in an effort to expand the donor base. Thus the high success rate, far from showing that the fund-raisers did a good job, shows insufficient canvassing effort.

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

- A. Among potential donors contacted by Southington University's fund-raisers, the majority of those who did not make donations were people who had made donations to the university in the past.
- B. The amount of money raised by Southington University's fundraisers this year was lower than the amount they had raised in any of the previous several years.
- C. Individual donations made to Southington University this year were, on average, slightly larger than were average individual donations made to many other universities.
- D. Fund-raisers contacting past donors are not only to get new donations but also to get names of potential new donors to contact.
- E. The majority of the donations that fund-raisers succeeded in getting for Southington University were from donors who had never given to the university before.

Reasoning

What would undermine the case made for the argument's conclusion? The argument's conclusion is that the high success rate is evidence that the fund-raisers did not try hard enough to contact new potential donors. The argument is that since normally such a high donation rate could have been achieved even if only previous donors had been contacted, the fund-raisers must not have tried hard enough to contact people outside this group. But this reasoning neglects the possibility that the fund-raisers did contact lots of people who previously hadn't donated. If they had done that, one would expect the overall donation percentage to be lower than 80 percent. The 80 percent rate they actually achieved might mean, then, that they were unusually successful in getting donations from previous non-donors. Therefore, look for an answer option that suggests that that might have happened.

- A. This answer option is compatible with the case the argument makes and does not weaken it. Given the argument's suggestion that the fund-raisers contacted almost nobody other than previous donors, then it is to be expected that most of the contacted people who to make donations would be previous donors.
- B. If the fund-raisers did not raise much money this year, that would be further evidence that they did not try hard enough--which would strengthen rather than weaken the case the argument makes.
- C. This is compatible with the case the argument makes. To the extent that it is some evidence of effort on the part of Southington's fundraisers, at best it weakens the argument only very slightly. This is because we are not given information that would contextualize this new information and make clearer its significance. For example, have Southington University's fund-raisers always raised much larger average individual donations than other universities' fundraisers? Were there special circumstances this year (e.g., a centenary), resulting in higher average donations from Southington's typical donors than from most other universities' donors? Thus the information in this answer option does not significantly weaken the case the argument makes that Southington's fund-raisers might not have tried hard enough.
- D. This does not weaken the argument. It is a highly general claim about fund-raisers, not specifically about Southington's fund-raisers. We are not given information about the extent to which this was true of Southington's fund-raisers this year. Moreover, even if Southington's fund-raisers got the names of potential new donors to contact, this would not indicate that the fund-raisers actually contacted these potential donors.
- E. **Correct.** If most of the donations were from people who hadn't donated before, then the fund-raisers must have contacted lots of those unlikely prospects and been quite successful in persuading them to donate.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-070 VCR005704 Hard

Frobisher, a sixteenth-century English explorer, had soil samples from Canada's Kodlunarn Island examined for gold content. Because high gold content was reported, Elizabeth I funded two mining expeditions. Neither expedition found any gold there. Modern analysis of the island's soil indicates a very low gold content. Thus the methods used to determine the gold content of Frobisher's samples must have been inaccurate.

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

- A. The gold content of the soil on Kodlunarn Island is much lower today than it was in the sixteenth century.
- B. The two mining expeditions funded by I did not mine the same part of Kodlunarn Island.
- C. The methods used to assess gold content of the soil samples provided by Frobisher were different from those generally used in the sixteenth century.
- D. Frobisher did not have soil samples from any other Canadian island examined for gold content.
- E. Gold was not added to the samples collected by Frobisher before the samples were examined.

Reasoning

What additional information must be implicit in the argument if it is to justify the conclusion that the methods for determining the gold content in the soil samples were inaccurate? The argument is that after the gold content in soil samples from the island was determined using these methods, high gold content was reported. But neither the subsequent expeditions nor modern soil analysis found any significant gold in the soil. Therefore, the initial methods for determining the gold content must have been inaccurate. This reasoning assumes that the soil samples used were representative of the island's soil; that the gold content found was reported accurately; and that the subsequent expeditions and the modern soil analysis prove that there wasn't really much gold in the island's soil when Frobisher took the samples. Therefore, look for an answer option that expresses or follows from one of these assumptions.

- A. By citing a modern soil analysis as evidence of how gold was in the soil, the argument assumes that the gold content of the island's soil is not lower today than it was in the sixteenth century.
- B. The argument does need to assume this. In fact, information to the contrary—that is, that both mining expeditions mined the same part of the island—would, if included in the argument, make it better.
- C. The issue of whether the methods used were accurate or not is quite separate from the issue of whether those methods were standard in the sixteenth century. Therefore, the argument does not need any assumption concerning the latter issue.
- D. The argument is not about any samples Frobisher may have taken on other islands, only those he took on Kodlunarn Island.
- E. **Correct.** To conclude that the methods that found gold in the samples were inaccurate, the argument needs to assume that the samples accurately reflected the content of the island's soil—but they would not do so if extra gold had been added. Thus the argument must assume that no gold was added.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-071 VCR014016 Hard

Electric utilities pay less for low-quality coal per ton delivered than for high-quality coal. Yet more low-quality coal than high-quality coal must be burned to generate the same amount of electricity. Moreover, per ton of coal burned, low-quality coal generates more ash than does high-quality coal, and the disposal of ash is becoming more and more expensive.

The considerations above, if true, most strongly support which of the following claims?

- A. A coal-burning utility might not be assured of benefiting economically by always adhering to the policy of keeping its overall coal purchasing costs as low as possible.
- B. In those regions where the cost of disposing of coal ash is negligible, it is more expensive for coal-burning utilities to use high-quality coal than low-quality coal.
- C. Transportation costs represent a smaller proportion of the cost per delivered ton for low-quality coal than for high-quality coal.
- D. It is no less expensive to dispose of a ton of coal ash that results from the burning of high-quality coal than it is to dispose of a ton of coal ash that results from the burning of low-quality coal.
- E. In regions where coal-ash disposal is the least expensive, reserves of low-quality coal are likely to decline at a faster rate than are reserves of high-quality coal.

Reasoning

What conclusion would the statements about utilities' coal-related expenses support? Low-quality coal costs less per ton, but burning low-quality coal generates electricity less efficiently and produces more ash, which utilities must pay an increasing amount to dispose of. It's unclear whether overall coal purchasing costs are lower with low-quality or high-quality coal, since the lower price per ton of the former may counterbalance the need to buy more tons to generate the same amount of electricity. Although ash disposal is becoming more expensive, we are not told how that expense compares to those of the other factors mentioned; it may be negligible.

- A. **Correct.** The information presented does not clearly support a conclusion about whether it's economically beneficial for coal-burning utilities to minimize their coal-purchasing costs. Therefore, utilities relying solely on this information cannot be assured that it is.
- B. Since high-quality coal burns more efficiently, the utilities can buy less of it to generate the same amount of electricity, potentially compensating for its greater expense per ton.
- C. The transportation costs per ton are probably about the same for low-quality coal as for high-quality coal. Therefore, they are probably a greater proportion of the cost per delivered ton of low-quality coal.
- D. We are given no information about whether the cost to dispose of a ton of coal ash depends on the type of coal burned to generate that ash.
- E. Even in the regions where coal-ash disposal is least expensive, it may still be expensive enough to encourage utilities to mine and burn more high-quality coal and thus generate less ash.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-072 VCR006014 Hard

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Yorco and Zortech are two corporations that employ large numbers of full-time workers who are paid by the hour. Publicly available records indicate that Yorco employs roughly the same number of such hourly wage workers as Zortech does but spends a far higher total sum per year on wages for such workers. Therefore, hourly wages must be higher, on average, at Yorco than at Zortech, since_____.

- A. Zortech spends a higher total sum per year than Yorco does to provide its hourly wage workers with benefits other than wages
- B. the work performed by hourly wage workers at Zortech does not require a significantly higher level of skill than the work performed by hourly wage workers at Yorco does
- C. the proportion of all company employees who are hourly wage workers is significantly greater at Yorco than it is at Zortech
- D. overtime work, which is paid at a substantially higher rate than work done during the regular work week, is rare at both Yorco and Zortech
- E. the highest hourly wages paid at Yorco are higher than the highest hourly wages paid at Zortech

Reasoning

What would support the conclusion that hourly wages are higher at Yorco than at Zortech? If both companies employ the same number of full-time hourly wage workers, but Yorco spends more on wages for those workers, then on average, wages per full-time hourly wage worker are higher at Yorco than at Zortech. Consequently, the workers at Yorco must either get paid more per hour or else work longer hours than the workers at Zortech. Thus, if the workers at Yorco do not work longer hours, they must get paid more per hour. Therefore, to support the conclusion that the Yorco workers get paid more per hour, look for an answer option suggesting that they do not work longer hours.

- A. The argument is just about wages, not about other benefits.
- B. The argument is just about wages, not about the skills used to earn those wages.
- C. The argument is not about employees other than full-time hourly wage workers.
- D. **Correct.** This suggests that full-time hourly wage workers at Yorco do not work longer hours than those at Zortech. Therefore, it supports the argument's conclusion as explained above.
- E. Even if the highest hourly wages are higher at Yorco, the average hourly wages may be the same or lower—contrary to what the argument claims.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-073 VCR006119 Hard

The Earth's rivers constantly carry dissolved salts into its oceans. Clearly, therefore, by taking the resulting increase in salt levels in the oceans over the past hundred years and then determining how many centuries of such increases it would have taken the oceans to reach current salt levels from a hypothetical initial salt-free state, the maximum age of the Earth's oceans can be accurately estimated.

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

- A. The quantities of dissolved salts deposited by rivers in the Earth's oceans have not been unusually large during the past hundred years.
- B. At any given time, all the Earth's rivers have about the same salt levels.
- C. There are salts that leach into the Earth's oceans directly from the ocean floor.
- D. There is no method superior to that based on salt levels for estimating the maximum age of the Earth's oceans
- E. None of the salts carried into the Earth's oceans by rivers are used up by biological activity in the oceans.

Reasoning

What piece of information must be an implicit part of the argument in order for the argument to succeed? The proposed method assumes that the oceans were initially salt-free and that the amount of salt entering them in the past century was roughly the average amount that has entered them per century since they formed. Since the method relies solely on the rate at which rivers have deposited salt in the oceans, it also assumes that all or almost all salt in the oceans was deposited by rivers. Therefore, look for an answer option that follows from these assumptions.

- A. **Correct.** Since the argument assumes that the amount of salt entering the oceans in the past century has been typical and that rivers deposited all or almost all the salt in the oceans, it must also assume that the amount of salt rivers have deposited in the oceans in the past century has been typical.
- B. The argument assumes that the rate at which rivers have collectively deposited salt into the oceans in the past century has been typical, but different rivers could still have different salt levels from each other.
- C. As explained above, the argument assumes that all or almost all salt in the oceans came there from rivers, not out of the ocean floor.
- D. D Provided that the proposed method is accurate, there is no need for the argument to assume that it is also "superior" to any other methods—some of which might be not only accurate but also superior in virtue of being easier, cheaper, or more elegant.
- E. E The proposed method may yield an accurate result even if biological activity uses up some of the ocean's salts, as long as the rate at which that activity has occurred in the past century has been roughly the average rate since the oceans formed.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-074 VCR006175 Hard

An overwhelming proportion of the most productive employees at SaleCo's regional work not eight hours a day, five days a week, as do other SaleCo employees, but rather ten hours a day, four days a week, with Friday off. Noting this phenomenon, SaleCo's president plans to increase overall productivity by keeping the offices closed on Fridays and having all employees work the same schedule—ten hours a day, four days a week.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most reason to doubt that the president's plan, if implemented, will achieve its stated purpose?

- A. Every employee of SaleCo who has been there for at least a year is entitled to three weeks of vacation each year and must be paid his or her regular salary for that time off.
- B. None of the employees who work four days a week had volunteered to work that schedule, but all were assigned to it by their supervisors.
- C. Working ten hours a day has allowed the most productive employees to work two hours alone each day in their respective offices relatively undisturbed by fellow employees.
- D. Employees at SaleCo are compensated not on the basis of how many hours a week they work but on the basis of how productive they are during the hours they are at work.
- E. Some of SaleCO's employees have indicated to company officials that they would quit if not allowed to work the same hours as the company's most productive employees.

Reasoning

What would suggest that putting all employees on the same schedule as the most productive employees would not increase overall productivity? The plan assumes that the most productive employees are more productive because of their work schedule; that changing to the same schedule would have the same effect on other employees; and that putting all employees on the same schedule as each other would not lower productivity somehow. Therefore, look for an answer option that casts doubt on one or more of these assumptions.

- A. The schedule change will not make employees more productive while they are on vacation—the point is to make them more productive while they are at work. This answer option is therefore irrelevant.
- B. If the employees on the four-day schedule are more productive even though they did not volunteer for it, other employees put onto the schedule without volunteering for it may also become more productive, which would make the plan more likely to succeed.
- C. **Correct.** This suggests that one reason the four-day schedule has boosted productivity for some employees is that most employees are not on it; if all employees are put on the same schedule, distractions from fellow employees will increase, and consequently productivity is likely to decrease.
- D. The employees work forty hours per week on either schedule, and the plan would not change the compensation scheme.
- E. This suggests that the plan might boost the morale of some employees, which might make them more productive and hence make the plan more likely to succeed.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-CR-075 VCR006358 Hard

Certainly, **pesticides can adversely affect the environment in localities distant from where the pesticide has actually been used.** Nevertheless, regulation of pesticide use should not take place at the national level but at the local level. **It is in the areas where pesticides are actually applied that they have their most serious effects.** Just how serious these effects are depends on local conditions such as climate, soil type, and water supply. And local officials are much more likely than national legislators to be truly knowledgeable about such local conditions.

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

- A. The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second states that conclusion.
- B. The first states the conclusion of the argument; the second provides support for that conclusion.
- C. The first identifies grounds for a potential objection to the conclusion of the argument; the second states that conclusion.
- D. The first identifies grounds for a potential objection to the conclusion of the argument; the second provides support for that conclusion.
- E. Each provides support for the conclusion of the argument.

Reasoning

What roles do the boldface portions play in the argument? The second sentence of the passage states the argument's conclusion: pesticides should be regulated at a local rather than a national level. The first boldface portion does not support this conclusion but rather conflicts with it, suggesting a reason to regulate pesticides at the national level. The word *nevertheless* before the conclusion draws attention to this conflict. The remaining sentences of the passage, including the second boldface portion, give reasons to regulate pesticides at a local level and therefore support the argument's conclusion.

- A. As explained above, the first boldface portion conflicts with the argument's conclusion, while the second supports the conclusion.
- B. As explained above, the first boldface portion conflicts with the argument's conclusion.
- C. As explained above, the second boldface portion does not state the argument's conclusion, but rather supports it.
- D. **Correct.** The first boldface portion identifies grounds for the potential objection that local pesticide regulation would not address pesticide impacts in distant localities; the second boldface portion gives one reason why pesticide regulation at the local level is nonetheless desirable.
- E. As explained above, the first boldface portion conflicts with the argument's conclusion

The correct answer is D.