

**TYPE 1: CONCLUSION**

Q.1) In the United States, about \$5,200 per person per year is spent on health care, while in Britain the amount is about half that. A recent study indicated that middle-aged white Americans have a significantly higher rate of diabetes and heart disease than do middle-aged white Britons. Even after eliminating from the study the lifestyle differences of diet, exercise, smoking, and drinking, the data showed that the Americans have poorer health than their British counterparts. The statements above, if true, best support which of the following assertions?

- A. Health care spending in the United States should be reduced by 50%.
- B. More expensive health care causes a higher incidence of certain diseases.
- C. The money spent on health care in the United States is not being used effectively.
- D. The average health care spending for middle-aged white Americans is probably less than the average health care spending for Americans in general.
- E. Something other than diet, exercise, smoking, and drinking must account for the difference in health for the two groups in the study.

Q.2) Spokesperson: In the 2006 election of the city mayor, 55% of the voters were female. All the voters were between ages 18 and 70 and 2/3 of them supported the incumbent mayor. The incumbent mayor won the election with a substantially greater number of votes than any other candidate. If the statements made by the Spokesperson are true, then which of the following must be true?

- A. At least 1/2 of the female voters supported the incumbent mayor.
- B. The incumbent mayor received stronger support from the female voters than from the male voters.
- C. There were no other candidates in the election who received more than 30% of all the votes.
- D. 45% of the voters in the election were male and none of them were 75 years old.
- E. If the proportion of male and female voters in the city remains the same, the incumbent mayor is also likely to win the next election.

Q.3) In 2003, the Making Hits Record Company spent 40% of its total budget on the production of ten albums, 30% of its budget on the marketing of these albums, and the remainder of its budget on overhead costs. In the same year, the Song Factory Record Company spent 20% of its total budget on the production of 10 albums and 60% of its budget on the marketing of these albums. Making Hits sold a total of 800,000 copies of the ten records it produced in 2003, while the Song Factory sold a total of 1,600,000 copies of the ten records it produced in 2003. Assuming each company met its budget, which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information given above?

- A. The amount of money spent on marketing is directly related to the number of copies sold.
- B. Making Hits spent more money on the production of its albums in 2003 than did the Song Factory.
- C. Song Factory's total revenue from the sale of albums produced in 2003 was higher than that of Making Hits.
- D. In 2003, Making Hits spent a larger percentage of its budget on overhead costs than did the Song Factory.
- E. The Song Factory sold more copies of its 2003 albums

than Making Hits did because the Song Factory spent a higher percentage of its budget on the marketing of its albums.

Q.4) Due to high jet fuel costs, airline carriers are looking for new ways to increase revenues and thereby counteract declining profits. Airline A has proposed increasing the number of passengers that can fit on its airplanes by creating several standing room only "seats" in which passengers would be propped against a padded backboard and held in place with a harness. This proposal, since it relates to passenger safety, cannot be implemented without prior approval by the Federal Aviation Administration. The above statements, if true, indicate that Airline A has made which of the following conclusions?

- A. The addition of standing room only "seats" will generate more revenue than the cost of ensuring that these seats meet safety standards.
- B. The Federal Aviation Administration will approve Airline A's specific proposal.
- C. The revenue generated by the addition of standing room only "seats" is greater than the current cost of jet fuel.
- D. There are no safer ways in which Airline A can increase revenues.
- E. Passenger safety is less important than increasing revenue.

Q.5) A recent research study of undergraduate students analyzed the effects of music on human emotions. Each of the 200 participants attended at least 1 two-hour concert of classical music per week over the course of 12 weeks of their spring semester. At the end of the experiment, all of the students filled out a questionnaire assessing their emotional state. Based on the results of the questionnaires, all of the 10 students who attended the greatest number of concerts reported lower stress levels and higher satisfaction with their lives. Also, most of the 20 students who attended the fewest number of concerts reported below-average levels of emotional comfort. Which of the following must be true based on the evidence presented above?

- A. Most of the 200 participants improved their emotional state and lowered their stress levels.
- B. During each week of the experiment, the participants spent at least 2 hours less on their academic work as a result of concert attendance.
- C. Listening to classical music for at least 2 hours per week improves the emotional well-being of the majority of young adults.
- D. More than 6 participants attended at least 14 concerts during the course of the experiment.
- E. At least some of the students participated in the study in order to gain free access to classical concerts.

Q.6) Columnist: The winner of this year's national spelling bee won by correctly spelling the spoken word Ursprache, which means "fame" in German. Given the richness of our language, why must we resort to words taken from modern foreign languages to challenge our best spellers? Ursprache is listed in our dictionary, as are words from many other foreign languages, but future spelling bees should limit themselves to words in our dictionary that have been anglicized in all aspects because spelling English words, not knowledge of linguistics and international phonetics, is the

point of these contests. Which of the following can most reasonably be inferred from the argument above?

- A. The spelling contest winner knew how to spell most of the anglicized words in the dictionary.
- B. Foreign words are more difficult than anglicized words for all contestants to spell.
- C. Spelling contestant winners should be determined by their facility with all aspects of language.
- D. To spell foreign words, contestants must recognize the language and know its pronunciation.
- E. The English language contains more borrowed words than most other languages.

Q.7) In Eastland, from 2000 to 2005, the total consumption of fish increased by 4.5 percent, and the total consumption of poultry products increased by 9.0 percent. During this time, the population of Eastland increased by 6 percent, in part due to new arrivals from surrounding areas. Which of the following can one infer based on the statements above?

- A. For new arrivals to Eastland between 2000 and 2005, fish was less likely to be a major part of families' diet than was poultry.
- B. In 2005, the residents of Eastland consumed twice as much poultry as fish.
- C. The per capita consumption of poultry in Eastland was higher in 2005 than it was in 2000.
- D. Between 2000 and 2005, both fish and poultry products were a regular part of the diet of a significant proportion of Eastland residents.
- E. Between 2000 and 2005, the profits of wholesale distributors of poultry products increased at a greater rate than did the profits of wholesale distributors of fish.

Q.8) Everyone who has graduated from TopNotch High School has an intelligence quotient (IQ) of over 120. Most students with an IQ of over 120 and all students with an IQ of over 150 who apply to one or more Ivy League universities are accepted to at least one of them. The statements above, if true, best support which of the following conclusions?

- A. Every graduate of TopNotch High School with an IQ of 150 has been accepted to at least one Ivy-League school.
- B. If a person is a high-school graduate and has an IQ of less than 100, he or she could not have been a student at TopNotch High School.
- C. If a person has an IQ of 130 and is attending an Ivy-League school, it is possible for him or her to have graduated from TopNotch High School.
- D. At least one graduate from TopNotch high school who has applied to at least one Ivy-League university has been accepted to one of them.
- E. If a high-school graduate has an IQ of 150 and is not attending an Ivy-League school, then he or she did not apply to one of them.

Q.9) According to a recent study on financial roles, one-third of high school seniors say that they have "significant financial responsibilities." These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, contributing to food, shelter, or clothing for themselves or their families. At the same time, a second study demonstrates that a crisis in money management exists for high school students. According to this study, 80% of high school seniors have never taken a personal finance class even though the same percentage of seniors has opened bank accounts and one-third of these account holders have bounced a check. Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn from the statements above?

- A. High schools would be wise to incorporate personal finance classes into their core curricula.
- B. At least one-third of high school seniors work part-time

jobs after school.

- C. The number of high school seniors with significant financial responsibilities is greater than the number of seniors who have bounced a check.
- D. Any high school seniors who contribute to food, shelter, or clothing for themselves or their families have significant financial responsibilities.
- E. The majority of high school students have no financial responsibilities to their families.

Q.10) Analyst: Creative professionals, such as clothing designers, graphic designers, and decorators, often have very poor managerial skills and do not succeed when they try to run their own businesses. In fact, most of these creative types are less skilled in business than is the average white-collar professional who does not work in a creative field. Generally, creative talent and business acumen rarely go hand in hand. If the analyst's argument is taken as true, which of the following statements can properly be concluded?

- A. No successful businesspeople are creative.
- B. Some creative types are not less skilled at business than is the average white-collar worker who is not creative.
- C. Creativity precludes success in business.
- D. Any white-collar worker who is not creative is more successful in business than any creative professional.
- E. Business is not a creative endeavor.

Q.11) Advocates insist that health savings accounts are an efficient method to reduce medical expenses. However, widespread adoption of these accounts will soon undermine the public's health. One reason for this is that most people will be reluctant to deplete their accounts to pay for regular preventive examinations, so that in many cases a serious illness will go undetected until it is far advanced. Another reason is that poor people, who will not be able to afford health savings accounts, will no longer receive vaccinations against infectious diseases. The statements above, if true, most support which of the following?

- A. Wealthy individuals will not be affected negatively by health savings accounts.
- B. Private health insurance will no longer be available.
- C. Most diseases are detected during regular preventive examinations.
- D. Some people without health savings accounts are likely to contract infectious diseases.
- E. The causal relationship between an individual's health and that person's medical care has been adequately documented.

Q.12) Albinism is a rare genetic condition that inhibits the production of melanin, or pigmentation, in the skin and hair. People born with albinism are unusually susceptible to sunburn, melanoma, and a range of other health issues that are generally connected to excessive exposure to the sun. The statements above, if true, provide the most support for which of the following conclusions?

- A. People born with albinism develop other biological protections against melanoma and other sun-related health issues.
- B. Humans with a high production of melanin can easily ignore health issues related to exposure to the sun.
- C. When a non-albino person gets sunburn, the amount of melanin produced by that person decreases.
- D. In humans, melanin plays a role in protecting the skin from developing sunburn and other sun-related ailments.
- E. It is not possible for a person born with albinism to adopt other artificial protective measures against excessive exposure to the sun.

Q.13) Celiac disease results from an inability of the digestive tract, specifically the small intestine, to absorb gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley, and certain other grains. The body's immune system attacks the gluten as if the protein were a harmful pathogen, often resulting in serious damage to the intestinal lining. People who suffer from celiac disease must eliminate gluten from their diets. Symptoms of the disease include abdominal cramps, bloating, and anemia. If the statements above are true, which of the following assertions can be made on the basis of them?

- A. Anyone who suffers from celiac disease will experience anemia.
- B. Eliminating gluten from one's diet will cure celiac disease.
- C. People experiencing abdominal cramps, bloating, and anemia have celiac disease.
- D. Gluten is found only in grains.
- E. The human body cannot always recognize harmless substances.

Q.14) Mayville Airport and Newcomb Airport have the same number of flight departures each day. Mayville Airport experiences 26 departure delays per 100 flights, while Newcomb Airport experiences 20 departure delays per 100 flights. When delays caused by bad weather are disregarded, Mayville Airport has 5 fewer departure delays per 100 flights than Newcomb Airport does. Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information given above?

- A. Bad weather causes a greater number of departure delays at Mayville Airport than at Newcomb Airport.
- B. On average, the weather at Mayville Airport is worse than it is at Newcomb Airport.
- C. Mechanical problems cause a greater number of delays at Newcomb Airport than at Mayville Airport.
- D. The fleet of airplanes leaving from Newcomb Airport is better equipped to handle inclement weather than the fleet of airplanes leaving from Mayville Airport.
- E. Mayville Airport experiences a greater number of arrival delays per 100 flights than Newcomb Airport does.

Q.15) The head baker at Barry's Bagels can either purchase flour in-person from the local flour mill, Larry's Local Mill, or order a shipment of flour from an out-of-state mill, Isadore's Interstate Mill. The cost of the flour from Isadore's Interstate Mill is 10 percent less than the cost of the flour from Larry's Local Mill. Even after shipping and handling fees are added, it is still cheaper to order flour that has to be shipped from Isadore's than to buy flour locally from Larry's. The statements above, if true, best support which of the following assertions?

- A. Production costs at Isadore's Interstate Mill are 10 percent below those at Larry's Local Mill.
- B. Buying flour from Isadore's Interstate Mill will eliminate 10 percent of the local flour mill jobs.
- C. The shipping and handling fees for a batch of flour purchased from Isadore's Interstate Mill are less than 10

Q.18) To decrease the number of crimes in city Y, the city's Police Commissioner proposed taking some police officers from low-crime districts of the city and moving them to high-crime districts of the city. His proposal is based on city Y crime data that show that the number of crimes in any district of the city decreases when additional police officers are moved into that district. The Police Commissioner's proposal depends on which of the following assumptions?

- A. City X experienced a drastic reduction in crime after implementing a proposal similar to that proposed by the Police Commissioner of city Y.
- B. The severity of crimes committed in any district of the city decreases when additional police officers are moved into

percent of the cost of an identical batch of flour purchased from Larry's Local Mill.

D. The shipping and handling fees for a batch of flour purchased from Isadore's Interstate Mill are more than 10 percent of the cost of Isadore's flour.

E. Isadore's Interstate Mill produces flour 10% more efficiently than Larry's Local Mill does.

Q.16) Box office receipts for independent movies for the first half of this year have increased by 20 percent over the total receipts for independent movies for all of last year. Last year, 50 independent movies were released, while so far this year only 20 independent movies have been released. The number of independent movies slated for release in the second half of this year is roughly equal to the number released so far. If the statements above are true, which of the following must be true?

- A. The total box office receipts for independent movies this year will be significantly more than 20 percent greater than the receipts for independent movies last year.
- B. The number of independent movies released in the first half of this year is equal to the number released in the first half of last year.
- C. The price of a movie ticket has not increased since last year.
- D. The average revenues of the independent films released during the first half of this year is greater than that of all independent films released last year.
- E. The number of people seeing independent movies during the first half of this year is greater than the number who saw independent movies last year.

Q.17) According to a recent magazine article, of those office employees who typically work 8 hours at the office each day but sometimes say that they will work at home on a particular day, 25 percent actually work less than one hour. At the same time, over 90 percent of those same office employees believe they are more productive working at home than working in their office. The statements above, if true, best support which of the following conclusions about the office employees discussed in the article?

- A. On average, the office employees working at home for a day work fewer hours than office employees working at the office.
- B. 10 percent of the office employees are less productive working from home than working in their office.
- C. At least 15 percent of the office employees do not define productivity exclusively in terms of the number of hours worked.
- D. At least 25 percent of the office employees can complete the same amount of work in one hour at home as in 8 hours at the office.
- E. Some of the office employees make statements regarding their productivity that are not in fact true.

## TYPE 2: ASSUMPTION

that district.

C. The number of crimes committed in all high-crime districts of city Y is more than triple the number of crimes committed in all low-crime districts of city Y.

D. There are more low-crime districts than high-crime districts in city Y.

E. Districts of the city from which police officers are removed do not experience significant crime increases shortly after the removal of those officers.

Q.19) Although there has been great scientific debate for decades over global warming, most scientists now agree that human activity is causing the Earth's temperature to

rise. Though predictions vary, many global warming experts believe that average global temperatures will rise between three and eight degrees Fahrenheit during the next century. Such an increase would cause an alarming rise in sea levels, displacing millions of people by destroying major population centers along the world's coastlines. Which of the following is an assumption in support of the argument's conclusion?

- A. New technological developments in the next century will not divert rising seas from the world's coastal cities.
- B. Individuals will not become more aware of the steps they can take to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
- C. Rising sea levels similarly affect all coastal population centers.
- D. Some global warming experts predict a greater than eight degree Fahrenheit increase in global temperatures during the next century.
- E. Human activity is the sole cause of increasing global temperatures.

Q.20)"The new HitItFar driver is the only golf club that uses space-age Titanium-Kryptonium alloy to strengthen its head. This driver is SO good, the last 12 winners of the major tour championships have all recently switched to it! Isn't it time for you to add power to your swing and distance to your drives? Trade in your old driver today — and HitItFar tomorrow!" All of the following claims are either implied or made explicitly in the above advertisement EXCEPT:

- A. Switching to the HitItFar driver will improve your play.
- B. The HitItFar driver helped the last 12 major championship winners achieve their victory.
- C. Major championship winners are experts and know what constitutes a great golf club.
- D. Your existing driver is inferior to the HitItFar driver.
- E. Only HitItFar golf clubs have Titanium-Kryptonium alloy in the head of their drivers.

Q.21)Researchers studying the spread of the Black Plague in sixteenth-century England claim that certain people survived the epidemic because they carried a genetic mutation, known as Delta-32, that is known to prevent the bacteria that causes the Plague from overtaking the immune system. To support this hypothesis, the researchers tested the direct descendants of the residents of an English town where an unusually large proportion of people survived the Plague. More than half of these descendants tested positive for the mutation Delta-32, a figure nearly three times higher than that found in other locations. The researchers' hypothesis is based on which of the following assumptions?

- A. Delta-32 does not prevent a carrier from contracting any disease other than the Plague.
- B. The Plague is not similar to other diseases caused by bacteria.
- C. Delta-32 did not exist in its current form until the sixteenth century.
- D. No one who tested positive for Delta-32 has ever contracted a disease caused by bacteria.
- E. The Plague does not cause genetic mutations such as Delta-32.

Q.22)The popular notion that a tree's age can be determined by counting the number of internal rings in its trunk is generally true. However, to help regulate the internal temperature of the tree, the outermost layers of wood of the Brazilian ash often peel away when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, leaving the tree with fewer rings than it would otherwise have. So only if the temperature in the Brazilian ash's environment never exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit will its rings be a reliable measure of the tree's age. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above depends?

- A. The growth of new rings in a tree is not a function of

levels of precipitation.

- B. Only the Brazilian ash loses rings because of excessive heat.
- C. Only one day of temperatures above 95 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to cause the Brazilian ash to lose a ring.
- D. The internal rings of all trees are of uniform thickness.
- E. The number of rings that will be lost when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit is not predictable.

Q.23)The Department of Homeland Security has proposed new federal requirements for driver's licenses that would allow them to be used as part of a national identification system. Using licenses for purposes not directly related to operating a motor vehicle is un-American because it would require U.S. citizens to carry the equivalent of "papers." Such a requirement would allow the government to restrict their movements and activities in the manner of totalitarian regimes. In time, this could make other limits on freedom acceptable. The author assumes which of the following?

- A. The next presidential election will be dishonest, as has happened in eastern European countries.
- B. The government will soon start curtailing the activities of those it considers "dissidents."
- C. Blanket restrictions on law-abiding individuals are contrary to the traditions of American culture and law.
- D. The majority of Americans are not willing to give up their right to travel and move about without identification.
- E. Americans should resist all government regulation of their lives.

Q.24)Since the new publisher took control, a news magazine's covers have featured only models and movie stars. Previously, the covers had displayed only politicians, soldiers, and business leaders. A leading gossip columnist claimed that the changes made the magazine relevant again. However, many newspaper editorials disagreed and suggested that the new publisher is more interested in boosting sales than in reporting important news events. Which of the following is an assumption necessary for the argument made by the gossip columnist's opponents?

- A. The charitable activities of models and movie stars often focus public attention on pressing problems.
- B. Final authority for choosing the cover subject of the magazine lies with the publisher.
- C. A magazine can boost sales while highlighting the coverage of important world leaders.
- D. Some of the movie stars featured are now running for political office.
- E. Magazine issues with models or movie stars on the covers are purchased at a rate more than three times greater than is the case with issues featuring politicians on the covers.

Q.25)In response to the increasing cost of producing energy through traditional means, such as combustion, many utility companies have begun investing in renewable energy sources, chiefly wind and solar power, hoping someday to rely on them completely and thus lower energy costs. The utility companies claim that although these sources require significant initial capital investment, they will provide stable energy supplies at low cost. As a result, these sources will be less risky for the utilities than non-renewable sources, such as gas, oil, and coal, whose prices can fluctuate dramatically according to availability. The claim of the utility companies presupposes which of the following?

- A. The public will embrace the development of wind and solar power.
- B. No new deposits of gas, oil, and coal will be discovered in the near future.
- C. Weather patterns are consistent and predictable.

- D. The necessary technology for conversion to wind and solar power is not more expensive than the technology needed to create energy through combustion.
- E. Obtaining energy from non-renewable sources, such as gas, oil and coal, cannot be made less risky.

Q.26) Surveys consistently show that the best-selling ice cream flavor is vanilla, although those who prefer chocolate rarely order vanilla. Vanilla-flavored candy, then, probably sells better than chocolate-flavored candy. Which of the following is an assumption upon which the author of the argument relies?

- A. Because someone prefers vanilla ice cream does not mean he prefers vanilla-flavored candy.
- B. Children who prefer vanilla ice cream also tend to like chocolate candy.
- C. Those who prefer neither vanilla nor chocolate ice cream also prefer other flavors of candy.
- D. Someone who prefers vanilla ice cream may still order chocolate on occasion.
- E. Preferences for certain ice cream flavors are similar to preferences for candy flavors.

Q.27) The media claim that the economy is entering a phase of growth and prosperity. They point to lower unemployment rates and increased productivity. This analysis is false, though. The number of people filing for bankruptcy has increased every month for the last six months, and bankruptcy lawyers report that they are busier than they have been in years. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- A. Unemployment rates are not useful indicators of growth and prosperity.
- B. Economic growth cannot be measured in terms of productivity.
- C. Legislation has not been recently passed to make legal bankruptcy easier to obtain.
- D. There has not been an increase in the number of bankruptcy lawyers.
- E. The media often misrepresent the current state of economic affairs.

Q.28) A newly discovered painting on wooden panel by Michelangelo must have been completed after 1507 but before 1509. It cannot have been painted earlier than 1507 because one of its central figures carries a coin that was not minted until that year. It cannot have been painted after 1509 because it contains a pigment that Michelangelo is known to have abandoned when a cheaper alternative became available in that year. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- A. No stocks of the abandoned pigment existed after 1509.
- B. Michelangelo did not work on the painting over the course of several years.
- C. The coin depicted in the painting was known to general public in 1507.
- D. The wooden panel on which the painting was executed cannot be tested accurately for age.
- E. Michelangelo's painting style did not change between 1507 and 1509.

Q.29) In order to save money, some of Company X's manufacturing plants converted from oil fuel to natural gas last year, when the cost of oil was more than the cost of natural gas. Because of a sudden, unexpected shortage, however, natural gas now costs more than oil, the price of which has fallen steeply over the past year. The cost of conversion back to oil would more than negate any cost savings in fuel. So Company X's fuel costs this year will be significantly higher than they were last year. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above

depends?

- A. Company X does not have money set aside for the increased costs of fuel.
- B. The increase in the cost of fuel cannot be offset by reductions in other operating expenses.
- C. The price of natural gas will never again fall below that of oil.
- D. The cost of fuel needed by those of Company X's plants that converted to natural gas is not less than the cost of fuel needed by those plants still using oil.
- E. The price of oil will not experience a sudden and steep increase.

Q.30) Advertisement: Avian Oculars are the newest in binocular technology for the professional bird watcher. For a price comparable to that of traditional binoculars, Avian Oculars are specially designed with the features demanded by birding enthusiasts: they are lightweight, compact and extremely durable. So, use Avian Oculars on your next bird watching excursion, and see some of the world's rarest species in all of their beautiful plumage. Which of the following is an assumption on which the author of the advertisement relies?

- A. Avian Oculars weigh less than traditional binoculars.
- B. Avian Oculars should be used only by bird watchers.
- C. The reader will travel through the habitats of rare species during his or her next bird watching trip.
- D. Avian Oculars are similar in cost to traditional binoculars.
- E. Birding enthusiasts often determine the specifications of new products.

Q.31) Every year many people become ill because of airborne mold spores in their homes. After someone becomes ill, specialists are often hired to eradicate the mold. These specialists look in damp areas of the house, since mold is almost always found in places where there is substantial moisture. If one wishes to avoid mold poisoning, then, one should make sure to keep all internal plumbing in good condition to prevent leakage that could serve as a breeding ground for mold. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- A. Mold itself does not create moisture.
- B. Most homeowners know enough about plumbing to determine whether theirs is in good condition.
- C. Mold cannot grow in dry areas.
- D. No varieties of mold are harmless.
- E. Mold spores cannot be filtered from the air.

Q.32) The legislature of the Philippines voted recently to abolish the death penalty. In contrast, the death penalty remains legal in the United States. The difference in the legality of capital punishment demonstrates that the majority of American citizens believe in the death penalty, while the majority of Filipino citizens do not. Which of the following is an assumption upon which the above argument depends?

- A. There are more murders per year in the United States than in the Philippines.
- B. The legal status of capital punishment in the United States and the Philippines aligns with how the majority of citizens in those respective countries view the death penalty.
- C. There are not strong voices opposing the death penalty in the United States.
- D. Most American citizens who believe in the death penalty think that it acts as a deterrent for potential criminals, while most Filipino citizens do not.
- E. The legal standard used to determine whether a criminal should be sentenced to the death penalty in the United States is similar to the legal standard used in the Philippines before capital punishment was abolished there.

Q.33)Smoking is a known cause of certain serious health problems, including emphysema and lung cancer. Now, an additional concern can be added to the list of maladies caused by smoking. A recent study surveyed both smokers and non-smokers, and found that smokers are significantly more anxious and nervous than non-smokers. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument rests?

- A. Anxiety and nervousness can lead to serious health problems.
- B. Anxiety and nervousness do not make individuals more likely to start smoking.
- C. Equivalent numbers of smokers and non-smokers were surveyed for the study.
- D. Smokers are aware of the various health problems attributed to smoking, including lung cancer and emphysema.
- E. Smokers who had smoked a cigarette immediately before responding to the survey were more anxious and nervous than smokers who had not smoked for several hours.

Q.34)Over the past 5 years, Company X has posted double-digit growth in annual revenues, combined with a substantial improvement in operating margins. Since this growth is likely to persist in the future, the stock of Company X will soon experience dramatic appreciation. The argument above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- A. Company X has a large market share in its industry.
- B. Prior to the last 5 years, Company X had experienced similarly dramatic growth in sales associated with stable or improving operating margins.
- C. The growth of Company X is likely to persist in the future.
- D. The current price of the stock of Company X does not fully reflect the promising growth prospects of the firm.
- E. The stock of Company X will outperform other stocks in the same industry.

### TYPE 3: WEAKEN

Q.35)A certain baseball team has just completed its season. In stadiums that seat 20,000 or fewer people, the team averaged 1 home run per game; in stadiums that seat between 20,000 and 40,000 people, the team averaged 2 home runs per game; and, in stadiums that seat 40,000 or more people, the team averaged 3 home runs per game. Obviously, the excitement of playing in front of large crowds motivated the team to hit more home runs. Assuming that all stadiums during the season were filled to capacity, which of the following, if true, most undermines the argument above?

- A. The team's leading home run hitter hit more home runs in mid-sized stadiums than in large stadiums.
- B. The fans in the larger stadiums often cheered against the team.
- C. The team averaged only 2 home runs per game when playing in the league's largest stadium.
- D. In order to create seating for the additional fans, the outfield walls in the larger stadiums were constructed closer to home base.
- E. The team's announcer cited crowd noise as a major motivator for the team.

Q.36)The recent decline in the employment rate was spurred by predictions of slow economic growth in the coming year. However, those predictions would not have affected the employment rate if it had not been for the lack of capital reserves of major industries. So if major industries increase their capital reserves, the employment rate will not decline in the future. Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the validity of the argument above?

- A. Major industry foresaw the drop in employment.
- B. Some major industries had appreciable capital reserves.
- C. An increase in labor costs could adversely affect the employment rate.
- D. The government could pass legislation mandating that major industries set aside a fixed amount as capital reserves every year.
- E. The drop in the employment rate was more severe this year than last.

Q.37)Farmers in developing countries claim that the United States government, through farm subsidies, is responsible for the artificially low global price of wheat. Because the U.S. government buys whatever wheat American farmers are unable to sell on the open market, American farmers have no incentive to modulate the size of their crops according to the needs of the global market. As a result, American

farmers routinely produce more wheat than the global market can absorb and the global price of wheat is kept low. Without these subsidies, the farmers in developing economies claim, American farmers would produce only the amount of wheat that they could sell on the open market and the global price of wheat would rise. Which of the following, if true, most weakens the claims of the farmers in developing countries regarding the price of wheat?

- A. Wheat that is not processed for consumption is often used for certain industrial applications.
- B. Non-governmental buyers of wheat and wheat products are able to predict how much wheat they will need several years in advance.
- C. The United States government offers similar subsidies to soybean farmers, though the global price of soybeans is significantly higher than that of wheat.
- D. Other countries, such as Canada and Russia, are likely to produce more wheat if the United States were to reduce its output.
- E. The price of sorghum, a crop for which the United States government offers no subsidies, is lower than that of wheat.

Q.38)The amount of money estimated to be lost by Hollywood studios due to DVD piracy overseas increased to more than \$500 million last year. As a consequence, Hollywood studios have little prospect of making money this year by exporting their films worldwide. All of the following, if true, weaken the argument except:

- A. \$500 million represents a very small fraction of overseas profits.
- B. New laws and heightened international enforcement aimed at this piracy were implemented in January of this year and have been effective.
- C. Even in countries where DVD piracy is widespread, theatrical first-run distribution is both very popular and profitable.
- D. Last year, all films that were nominated for an Academy Award were known to have been pirated on DVD.
- E. Domestic DVD sales were sharply higher last year; in the past, strong domestic sales have been an indicator of higher international DVD sales in the following year.

Q.39)Political Analyst: Because our city is a border city, illegal immigration is an important issue in the current race for mayor. Of the two candidates for mayor, one supports a plan that would attempt to deport the city's 9,000 illegal immigrants and the other does not. Surveys consistently show that about 60% of the city's residents are opposed to the plan, while about 35% are in support of the plan.

Therefore, the candidate who does not support the plan will win the election for mayor. All of the following statements weaken the analyst's argument, EXCEPT:

- A. In the city at issue, most voters make their voting decisions based on the candidates' positions on abortion.
- B. Of the 35% of residents who support the plan, some are willing to consider alternate plans for addressing illegal immigration.
- C. Many of the residents who oppose the plan are not registered voters.
- D. The candidate who supports the plan is the incumbent mayor, and has been elected to four consecutive terms despite taking controversial positions on many important issues.
- E. Just under 30% of the city's residents are illegal immigrants who cannot vote.

Q.40) Adam will spend \$4,000 to rent a booth at the town's annual county fair to promote his new Sandwich Shoppe. In previous years, the average food booth at the fair served 400 customers. Thus, in order to cover his costs, Adam has calculated that he must sell 400 sandwiches for \$10 each. Which of the following statements casts the most doubt on Adam's chances of breaking even at the county fair?

- A. Adam should not limit himself to 400 sandwiches; he should be prepared to sell more.
- B. Adam has not factored in the costs of raw materials or labor in calculating the amount of revenue he needs to generate to break even.
- C. If booths in previous years averaged 400 customers, that means some booths served more than 400 and some served fewer than 400.
- D. Many people prefer other types of food to sandwiches.
- E. If Adam shares his booth, and the cost of the rental, with a complementary business, he will not have to sell as many sandwiches to break even.

Q.41) The people of Prohibitionland are considering banning the service of alcoholic beverages in restaurants to curb unruly behavior on the part of its residents. Proprietors of restaurants in Prohibitionland are protesting the ban on the grounds that it will reduce their revenues and profits. However, several provinces in Prohibitionland enacted restrictions on alcoholic beverages last year, and the sales taxes paid by the restaurants in those provinces rose by an average of 50 percent. In contrast, the sales taxes paid by restaurants located in areas of Prohibitionland that did not have any restrictions rose by an average of 30 percent. Which of the following, if true, supports the restaurant proprietors' economic stance against the ban?

- A. In the provinces that restricted alcoholic beverages, there was a short-term negative impact on restaurant visitation in the beginning of last year.
- B. The sales tax in Prohibitionland is lower on food and beverages than it is on other consumer goods, such as clothing.
- C. The consumption of alcoholic beverages in Prohibitionland has been on a gradual decline the last 20 years.
- D. The restrictions on alcoholic beverages enacted last year allowed for the service of drinks beginning around dinnertime each evening.
- E. Overall sales tax revenue did not increase at a substantially higher rate in the provinces that enacted the restrictions on alcoholic beverages than in the rest of Prohibitionland last year.

Q.42) Recently, some critics of the U.S. government have pointed out that this country is the only advanced industrialized nation without a national vaccine laboratory and suggested that this lack makes the American public more vulnerable than other developed nations to infectious

diseases, such as avian flu. A government official said these critics were disloyal and thus wrong about the public's vulnerability. To support his claim, the official cited the generally long life span and low infant mortality of United States citizens, relative to all United Nation member nations. Mentioning the high quality of American hospitals, he added that all of the Europeans that he knew preferred to undergo major medical treatments in the United States rather than in the socialized medical systems in place in their home countries. All of the following are weaknesses or potential weaknesses in the official's argument EXCEPT:

- A. The high quality of hospitals in the United States is not a factor affecting the public's vulnerability to infectious disease.
- B. Whether or not the critics are disloyal has no bearing on whether or not they are wrong.
- C. The Europeans that the official cited are a demographically narrow sample, overwhelmingly composed of wealthy males over the age of fifty.
- D. The average life span of United States citizens is determined not only by deaths due to infectious diseases but also by deaths due to all other causes.
- E. Comparing the United States to all United Nations member nations does not address the concern that the U.S. is behind other advanced industrialized nations in a particular way.

Q.43) Experts estimate that insurance companies' tardiness in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims adds approximately 10 percent in overhead costs for physicians. Insurance companies counter that the tardiness sometimes results from billing errors made by the doctors themselves. Since dealing with these billing errors costs the insurance companies time and money, it is clear that insurance companies do not have a significant economic incentive to delay claim payments to doctors. Which of the following pieces of information, if true, weakens the conclusion above?

- A. Some doctors who submit accurate bills to insurance companies still receive tardy payments.
- B. The cost to the insurance companies to process incorrect bills from doctors' offices is roughly equivalent to the increased costs that physicians accrue as a result of tardy payments from insurance companies.
- C. A rising proportion of medical claims submitted by doctors to insurance companies are deemed illegitimate by those insurance companies.
- D. The billing errors made by doctors' offices are typically very minor, such as the submission of a claim with an outdated patient home address.
- E. The overhead costs incurred by doctors as a result of delayed insurance payments result in an increase in the premiums paid by consumers to health insurance companies that far exceeds any increase in the fees paid to doctors by insurance companies.

Q.44) Of the people who moved from one state to another when they retired, the proportion who retired to SunState has decreased by 10 percent over the past five years. Since many local businesses in SunState cater to retirees, this decline is likely to have a noticeably negative economic effect on these businesses. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- A. SunState attracts more people who move from one state to another when they retire than does any other state.
- B. There are far more local businesses in SunState that cater to tourists than there are local businesses that cater to retirees.
- C. The number of retirees who have moved out of SunState to accept re-employment in other states has increased over the past five years.

D. SunState has lower property taxes than any other state, making the state a magnet for retirees.

E. The total number of people who retired and moved to another state for their retirement has increased significantly over the past five years.

Q.45)Market Analyst: Recent research confirms that the main cause of bad breath is bacteria build-up on the tongue. The research also concludes that tongue scrapers, when used properly, can eliminate up to 40% of the bacteria from the tongue. As the effectiveness of tongue scrapers becomes more widely known, the market for less effective breath freshening products, such as mints, gums, and sprays, will decline significantly. Which of the following provides the best evidence that the analyst's argument is flawed?

A. Some breath freshening products are advertised to eliminate up to 30% of the bacteria from the tongue.

B. Tongue scrapers have already been on the market for a number of years.

C. Many dentists recommend regular flossing, and not the use of the tongue scraper, to combat bad breath.

D. A recent survey shows that 94% of those who regularly purchase breath freshening products are aware of the effectiveness of the tongue scraper.

E. Some people buy breath freshening products for reasons other than to fight bad breath.

Q.46)Companies that offer "employer sponsored insurance" (ESI) pay a portion of employees' health care costs. In the manufacturing sector last year, companies that offered ESI had worker absentee rates 22% lower, on average, than those at companies that did not offer ESI. If, on the basis of the evidence above, it is argued that ESI decreases worker absenteeism, which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken that argument?

A. Results similar to those cited for the manufacturing sector have been found in other sectors of the economy where ESI is offered.

B. At companies that offer ESI, employees have access to preventative health care such as regular check-ups, routine laboratory tests, and nutrition counseling.

C. Because initiating an ESI plan requires a lot of paperwork for the company, employees, and the insurance provider, doing so is complex and time-consuming.

D. Many firms in the manufacturing sector have improved workplace safety and decreased the occurrence of on-the-job injuries in the last five years, and most of these companies introduced ESI at the same time.

E. In manufacturing firms where ESI is offered, the average productivity is 2% higher than it is in those firms where workers are not covered by an ESI plan.

Q.47)Studies have shown that an automobile that runs on a blend of 85% ethanol/15% gasoline gets better mileage than an otherwise similar car equipped with a gasoline engine. Many American legislators have concluded that an increase in tax incentives for ethanol production would lessen our dependence on foreign oil. Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt upon the validity of the legislators' conclusion?

A. It takes 1.5 gallons of oil to produce 1 gallon of ethanol.

B. Electric cars are cheaper to operate than cars running on the ethanol fuel mix.

C. It costs thousands of dollars to retrofit an automobile to run on the ethanol fuel mix.

D. The ethanol/gasoline blend emits more pollution than regular gasoline.

E. The ethanol/gasoline blend has not been widely adopted in Europe.

Q.48)The American Revolution arose partly in response to

British general search warrants, which gave arbitrary and intrusive powers to government officers. Thus, the founders created the Fourth Amendment to protect against unreasonable and warrant-less intrusions of privacy by a powerful and partisan federal government. During the 20th century, countless dictators have used arbitrary and intrusive surveillance to monitor and suppress dissidents. Any democracy that does not enforce equally extensive protections will systematically suppress dissent. Which of the following, if true, best weakens the argument?

A. The United Kingdom's parliamentary system does not have such extensive protections but has never systematically suppressed dissent.

B. Many dictators have been very beneficial and constructive leaders for their countries.

C. Many democracies have haphazardly used surveillance to monitor dissidents and suppress dissent during times of war.

D. Some dictators have been supported by the United States.

E. At least some countries in the former Soviet Union now have democratic elections but still suppress dissent.

Q.49)A researcher studying corporate executives found that they tend to have "take charge" personalities, with the predominant traits of assertiveness, decisiveness, and self-confidence. The researcher concluded that people who are more "take charge" than the average person are more likely to become corporate executives. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the researcher's conclusion?

A. Holding the job of a corporate executive causes people to develop "take charge" personality traits.

B. When working on charitable or community projects, corporate executives often use their ability to make decisions and lead people to make those projects successful.

C. Some people who are not executives have stronger "take charge" personalities than some people who currently serve as corporate executives.

D. Many people who aspire to become executives exhibit different management styles in their current jobs.

E. The executives that the researcher studied were often unsuccessful when they tried to manage their family activities as they do their business activities.

Q.50) Because of a rare type of fungus that killed off many cacao trees in Brazil, there was an unusually meager harvest of cacao beans this year. The wholesale price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter has increased significantly and is unlikely to fall in the foreseeable future. As a result, the retail price of chocolate is certain to increase within six months. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?

A. Consumers will purchase other sweets if the price of chocolate increases.

B. Researchers have discovered an effective method to kill the fungus.

C. Dark and bittersweet varieties of chocolate will be affected more seriously than milk varieties.

D. The price of chocolate has decreased steadily for three years.

E. Most chocolate in stores is manufactured from cocoa that was purchased two years earlier.

Q.51) A recent survey conducted in the New Homes magazine indicated that more than 70% of its readers are planning to purchase or build a new home over the next two years. Based on the results of the survey, the editor of the magazine concluded that over the next two years, the real estate industry is likely to experience rapid growth driven by the high market demand for new homes. Which of the following statements, if true, would be the most damaging to the conclusion of the magazine's editor?

- A. The survey included over 50,000 respondents representing all major age categories.
- B. The survey was mailed to all the subscribers of the magazine and included prepaid postage to facilitate returning the questionnaire.
- C. Readers of the New Homes magazine are much more likely to be interested in buying or purchasing a home than the rest of the public.

- D. The number of the magazine's readers has more than doubled over the past 2 years.
- E. All survey respondents received one free issue of the magazine as a token of appreciation for filling out the survey.

## SOLUTIONS

Q.1) To make a valid assertion from the information in the argument, we can only rely on the facts that we are given:

1) A study found that middle-aged white Americans are sicker than middle-aged white Britons, 2) the researchers eliminated the lifestyle differences of diet, exercise, smoking, and drinking as causes of the health difference, and 3) average health care spending per person is higher in the United States than in Britain. If any additional information is needed in order to support an assertion, then it is not a valid conclusion.

Be careful to avoid making unintentional assumptions! The health care costs given in the argument are the average costs per person per year in each nation, yet the study only looked at the health of middle-aged white people. It is unclear exactly what amount of money is spent on health care for the age group and race studied. For example, the average health care spending in the United States may include dramatically higher costs for care of premature infants, so it is possible that health care expenditures for the middle-aged white Americans in the study are actually the same as, or even less than, expenditures for their British counterparts.

(E) CORRECT. The study revealed some differences in the health of middle-aged white Americans and middle-aged white Britons. The study did not indicate the reason for the difference. However, the researchers did eliminate the lifestyle differences of diet, exercise, smoking, and drinking as causes of the health difference. Thus, it can be conclusively asserted that something else (other than diet, exercise, smoking and drinking) must account for the difference in health for the two groups in the study.

Q.2) This argument essentially asks us to find a conclusion that must be true based on the facts presented by the spokesperson. When you analyze the answer choices, remember that the correct answer to questions of this type must be the claim that does not require any additional assumptions.

(D) CORRECT. Since 55% of the voters were female, the remaining 45% were male; also, since all the voters were between ages 18 and 70, no voters, either male or female, could have been 75 years old. This answer choice does not require any additional assumptions and therefore must be true.

Q.3) When drawing a conclusion, we must remember not to conclude too much; i.e., do not make unwarranted assumptions. In this case, we are looking for the conclusion that must be true based only on the information given in the passage without requiring any additional assumptions.

(D) CORRECT. Since Making Hits spent 40% of its budget on production, 30% on marketing, and the rest on overhead, we can conclude that Making Hits spent 30% of its budget on overhead. Since the Song Factory spent 20% of its budget on production and 60% on marketing, and met its budget, it could not have spent more than 20% on overhead. Therefore, Making Hits spent a higher percentage of its budget on overhead than did the Song Factory.

Q.4) Only two pieces of information are given about Airline

A's standing room "seats" proposal. First, that it is geared toward increasing revenue in order to counteract declining profits. And second, that, since the proposal relates to passenger safety, it must be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Airline A must have concluded that the cost of implementation of its proposal is less than the revenue that the new seats will generate.

(A) CORRECT. Since Airline A knows that its proposal would have to comply with safety standards, it must have concluded that the cost of compliance is worth it. In other words, the only way for Airline A to achieve its goal of increasing profit is to implement ideas that will generate more revenue than they cost. Airline A must therefore have concluded that the standing room only "seats" meet this criteria.

Q.5) The argument above provides a detailed description of a research study. Note that the question stem contains only factual information and does not have a conclusion. Our task is to provide the most probable conclusion for this argument, i.e. the one that must be true based on the provided evidence. When looking for the most probable conclusion, remember not to make any additional assumptions and choose the answer that directly follows from premises stated in the argument.

(D) CORRECT. We know that 20 students attended the fewest number of concerts, 10 students attended the greatest number of concerts, and the remaining 170 students attended some other number of concerts in between. The term 'greatest' indicates that there are at least 3 different numbers of concerts attended by the students (as opposed to 'greater' to distinguish between 2 different numbers). Since each of the participants attended at least one concert per week during the 12 weeks of the experiment, all of the study participants must have attended at least 12 concerts. Even if the 20 bottom students attended the smallest possible number of concerts (i.e. 12), it must be the case that the next 170 students in the middle attended at least one more (i.e. at least 13 concerts) and the 10 most active participants must have attended at least one more than the middle group, i.e. at least 14 concerts. Thus, it must be true that the 10 most active participants (i.e. more than 6 participants) attended at least 14 concerts, as stated in this answer choice. Note that if the students attended more concerts than the minimum requirement, the number of students with at least 14 concerts attended will be even greater, still validating the accuracy of this statement.

Q.6)

This argument concludes that spelling bees should only use anglicized words in the dictionary because spelling should be the only criterion that determines the winner. To make this point, the author must believe that correctly spelling spoken foreign words requires knowledge of the phonetics of the particular language.

(D) CORRECT. The author wants to exclude foreign words because spelling bees should be based only on spelling ability, not on "knowledge of linguistics and international phonetics." Thus, the author must believe that spelling foreign words correctly when they are spoken

requires knowledge of the phonetics of the foreign language in question.

Q.7) This argument includes statistics about the relative increases in the consumption of fish and poultry in Eastland, respectively, as well as the population growth in Eastland during the same period. Because we are given only information about the percentage increases of fish consumption, poultry consumption, and the population of Eastland, we should look for an inference that is closely tied to percentage information and not actual numbers.

(C) CORRECT. As we are given that the population of Eastland increased by 6 percent, and the total consumption of poultry increased by 9 percent in the same period, then it must be the case that the per capita, or average, consumption of poultry rose from 2000 to 2005. For example, let's say that the population of Eastland increased by 6 percent from 1000 to 1060 people, while the consumption of poultry increased by 9 percent from 100 to 109 units. The per capita consumption in 2000 would have been exactly 100/1000 while the per capita consumption in 2005 would have been 109/1060, a slightly greater value.

Q.8) Since the passage contains information about both TopNotch High School graduates and those accepted to Ivy League universities, a valid conclusion must contain information that does not contradict either situation. In addition, a valid conclusion must remain true for every possible situation compatible with the passage. In contrast, a conclusion can be shown to be invalid if it can be demonstrated that a situation can occur that does not contradict the passage, but contradicts the given conclusion. Be careful not to make unwarranted assumptions: for example, a person who attends a school does not necessarily graduate from it, a person who graduates from high school does not necessarily apply to a university, and a person who is accepted to a university does not necessarily attend it.

(C) CORRECT. Nothing in the passage precludes a person who is a graduate of TopNotch High from having an IQ of 130 and from attending an Ivy League university. Neither does anything in the passage preclude a person who has an IQ of 130 and is attending an Ivy League school to have graduated from TopNotch High. Therefore, it is possible for both situations to exist simultaneously, so the conclusion is valid.

Q.9) This passage relates information from two studies concerning high school seniors: the first discusses the financial responsibilities of high school seniors, while the second explains the coursework in finance taken by typical high school seniors. On the CAT, a proper response to a draw-a-conclusion question must be directly supported by evidence from the passage.

(C) CORRECT. The first study states that one-third of all high school seniors have significant financial responsibilities to their families. The second study states that 80% of seniors have opened a bank account, and of this 80%, one-third has bounced a check. The number of seniors that has bounced a check (one-third of 80%) is fewer than the number of seniors with significant financial responsibilities to their families (one-third of 100%).

Q.10) The analyst presents several points about the business talents of creative professionals. In drawing a conclusion from the analyst's argument, we must be careful to choose a provable claim, whether or not this claim pulls together all the premises. We also must avoid extending the analyst's argument or selecting statements that are too extreme. Finally, we must not allow this process to be clouded by reactions to the content of the argument; whether or not we agree with the premises, we have to find a provable

conclusion.

(B) CORRECT. The passage states that most creative types are less skilled in business than the average white-collar worker who does not work in a creative field. This implies that some creative types are not less skilled than the average white-collar worker who is not creative.

Q.11) The passage states that health savings accounts will undermine the health of the public because people will not use them for preventive care. Furthermore, people who cannot afford them will not be able to receive even basic care such as vaccinations. The correct answer will be a conclusion that can be supported solely by the facts stated in the argument, without relying on outside information or additional assumptions.

(D) CORRECT. The argument states that "poor people, who will not be able to afford health savings accounts, will no longer receive vaccinations". Based on this statement, it is reasonable to conclude that some people without health savings are likely to contract infectious diseases.

Q.12) This argument provides that albinos, or people whose bodies do not produce melanin, are unusually susceptible to solar exposure. This suggests a connection between the production of melanin in humans and protection from sunburn and other sun-related ailments; we should look for a conclusion that draws this connection.

(D) CORRECT. The argument does strongly suggest that melanin plays some role in protecting the skin from developing sunburn and other sun-related ailments, since albinos do not produce melanin and are unusually susceptible to sun-related ailments.

Q.13) The text tells us that celiac disease results when the body mistakes gluten for a harmful pathogen, causing damage to the intestine. We are also told that gluten is a protein found in certain grains, and that people suffering from celiac disease must eliminate it from their diets. Finally, we are told that symptoms of the disease include cramps, bloating, and anemia. We need to find an answer choice that is inferable from these facts alone.

(E) CORRECT. If the body mistakes gluten for a harmful pathogen, then it must be true that the body cannot always recognize harmless substances.

Q.14) When drawing a conclusion, we must remember not to conclude too much. In this case, we are looking for the conclusion that comes directly from the information given without requiring any additional assumptions.

(A) CORRECT. In general, Mayville experiences a greater number of delays per 100 flights than Newcomb does. However, when delays caused by bad weather are discounted, Mayville has 5 fewer delays per 100 flights. Since the two airports run the same number of flights, bad weather must cause a greater number of delays at Mayville Airport than at Newcomb Airport.

Q.15) The cost of flour from the local mill is higher than the cost of the flour from the out-of-state mill. However, when purchasing from the out-of-state mill, Barry's Bagels must pay shipping and handling fees that would not apply to a purchase from the local mill. Purchasing the flour from the out-of-state mill will only be cheaper if those shipping and handling fees are smaller than the difference in the flour costs of the two suppliers. Also, we cannot assume any additional information or move beyond the scope of the given premises in order to find the conclusion.

(C) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies the point that, for ordering from an out-of-state mill to be less expensive, the shipping and handling fees must be less than the difference in the flour costs of the two suppliers. Say,

for example, that a batch of flour costs \$100 from Larry's Local Mill. The passage tells us that the same batch would cost \$90 from Isadore's Interstate Mill, yet when purchasing from Isadore's, shipping and handling fees would apply. We are told that Isadore's total cost is cheaper than Larry's, so mathematically that is:  $\$90 + \text{Shipping \& Handling} < \$100$ , which means that  $\text{Shipping \& Handling} < \$10 = 10\%$  of the cost of flour from Larry's.

Q.16)The text tells us that the revenues for independent movies for the first half of this year are already greater than the total revenues for independent movies for all of last year. We are then asked to draw a conclusion based on that information.

(D) CORRECT. The average revenue per film = total revenues  $\div$  number of films.

Revenues: We are told that the revenues for independent movies for the first half of this year (say \$1000) are already greater than the total revenues for all of last year (say \$999).

Number of Films: We know that more independent movies were released last year (say 10) than in the first half of this year (say 9).

We can clearly see that the average revenues per film for independent movies in the first half of this year ( $\$1000 \div 9$ ) are greater than the average revenues for all independent movies released last year ( $\$999 \div 10$ ).

Q.17)The passage presents information about what office employees who work 8-hour days and who have worked at home told a certain magazine. The first piece of information is about what some of those office employees actually do: 25 percent of office employees actually work less than an hour on days that they work at home. The second piece of information is about what some of those office employees believe: 90 percent believe that they are more productive working at home than at the office. A proper conclusion must be provable by those two pieces of information.

(C) CORRECT. 90 percent of the office employees believe that they are more productive at home than at work. At the same time, 25 percent of the office employees actually work fewer hours when they work at home than when they work at the office. The overlap between these two groups is at least 15 percent of all of the office employees. This group of employees believes that they are more productive at home than at work and yet this group actually works fewer hours at home than at work. Thus, these employees must not define productivity exclusively in terms of the number of hours worked

Q.18)The Police Commissioner's proposal hopes to decrease the number of crimes in city Y by shifting police officers from low-crime to high-crime districts. His proposal is based on data that demonstrate that crime decreases when additional police officers are moved into a district. However, the data do not mention anything about the effect on the districts from which the police officers were removed. The commissioner's plan is based on the assumption that the movement of police officers will not have any adverse effects on the low-crime districts.

(E) CORRECT. The police commissioner's proposal would not make sense if districts of the city from which police officers are removed experience significant crime increases shortly after the removal of those officers. This would at least partially, if not fully, negate the reduction in the number of crimes in the high-crime districts. This choice establishes that, in fact, the low-crime districts do NOT suffer from significant crime increases after the removal of some officers-- an essential assumption upon which the commissioner's proposal depends.

Q.19)The argument concludes that rising sea levels caused by global warming will destroy major coastal population centers and displace millions of people. Any assumption in support of this conclusion would have to corroborate that these events will definitively take place.

(A) CORRECT. If new technological developments in the next century allow people to divert rising seas from the world's cities (i.e., population centers), cities will not be destroyed and millions of people will not be displaced. Thus, a necessary assumption is that these technologies will not be developed.

Q.20)As an advertisement, this passage attempts to entice the reader into purchasing a new HitItFar driver by touting its benefits, both implied or explicit. The key to answering this question is to be able to analyze each claim to determine whether it is implied, explicitly stated, or neither.

(B) CORRECT. The advertisement states that the 12 major championships winner have recently switched to the new driver. There is nothing in the passage to imply that any of them were using the driver at the time of their victories; hence, this claim is neither implied, nor made explicitly, in the passage.

Q.21)The researchers claim that Delta-32 prevents its carriers from contracting the Plague. They support this claim by noting that a strikingly large percentage of descendants of Plague survivors carry the mutation. We are asked to find an assumption underlying the claim.

(E) CORRECT. The researchers claim that Delta-32 prevented its carriers from contracting the Plague on the basis of its presence in descendants of Plague survivors. But it is theoretically possible that these descendants carry the mutation Delta-32 because the Plague mutated the genes of their ancestors. In order to claim that the mutation prevented the Plague, we must assume that the Plague did not cause the mutation Delta-32.

Q.22)The author concludes that one will only be able to determine the age of a Brazilian ash by counting its rings if the temperature in the tree's environment never exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit. The author bases this conclusion on the fact that the tree loses rings when the temperature exceeds that level. However, if the number of rings lost by a Brazilian ash at high temperatures can be predicted, it may be possible to determine the age of a tree even if the temperature exceeds 95 degrees.

(E) CORRECT. The conclusion is that the rings will be a reliable measure only if the temperature never exceeds 95 degrees. This is true only if there is no way to predict how many rings would be lost when the temperature does exceed 95 degrees. (If it were possible to predict this, one might be able to assess the age of a tree using its rings even if the temperature had exceeded 95 degrees.)

Q.23)The conclusion of this argument is that the national identification system ("using licenses for purposes not directly related to operating a motor vehicle") is un-American. The basis for this claim is that such a system would allow the government to restrict the liberty of its people. The necessary assumption is one that connects restrictions on liberties to the concept of "un-American" policies.

(C) CORRECT. This choice connects the concept of "un-American" policies to restrictions on liberties, essentially defining blanket restrictions on citizens as un-American.

Q.24)The argument presents the facts of an apparent change in a magazine's cover features since the new publisher took control. While a gossip columnist hailed the change, newspaper editorials disagreed and concluded that

the publisher favored profit over reporting. The editorials are the opponents of the gossip columnist; since their conclusion is about the publisher's desires, there must be an assumption connecting the publisher to the covers.

(B) CORRECT. Since the conclusion concerns the publisher's desires based on the content of the magazine covers, the editorials have to assume that the publisher decides who is to be a cover subject. If not, there is no connection between the covers and the publisher's interests.

Q.25)The conclusion of the argument is that renewable sources of energy, chiefly solar and wind, will be less risky for certain utilities than non-renewable sources, such as oil and gas. The basis for this claim is that the renewable sources will provide stable, low-cost supplies of energy, whereas the prices for non-renewable sources will fluctuate according to availability. We are asked to find an assumption underlying this argument. In order for this argument to be valid, it must in fact be true that these renewable sources of energy will provide stable, low-cost supplies.

(C) CORRECT. If we assume that weather patterns are consistent and predictable, then with the stated premises, we can conclude that solar and wind power will be less risky than oil and gas. If, on the other hand, weather patterns are not consistent and predictable, then solar and wind power are not reliable and thus will not provide "stable energy supplies at low cost." Thus, the argument's conclusion directly depends on this assumption.

Q.26)We are given two premises based on survey results: first, vanilla is the best-selling flavor of ice cream and, second, those who prefer chocolate usually don't order vanilla. The author concludes that vanilla-flavored candy should sell better than chocolate-flavored candy. The author bases this conclusion on the assumption that it is valid to extend the survey's results beyond ice cream to include candy.

(E) CORRECT. This assumption supports the author's conclusion by tying ice cream preferences directly to candy preferences.

Q.27)The conclusion of the argument is that the media are wrong in saying that the economy is entering a phase of growth and prosperity. The basis for that claim is that the number of people filing for bankruptcy has increased every month for the last six months and that bankruptcy lawyers are busier than they have been in years. In order for this argument to be valid, however, the author has to assume that the increase in the number of bankruptcies is a result of the state of the economy and not the result of something unrelated.

(C) CORRECT. This has to be true for the conclusion to hold. If legislation has recently been passed that makes it easier to obtain bankruptcy, then the evidence cited would be less relevant. The increased number of bankruptcies could have been the result of the easier process rather than of a poor economy.

Q.28) The correct answer is B.

The conclusion of the argument is that Michelangelo must have completed the painting between 1507 and 1509. The basis for that claim is that the painting depicts a coin that did not exist before 1507 and that it contains a pigment that Michelangelo ceased using in 1509. We are asked to find an assumption that completes the logic of this argument.

Choice B is correct. In order to conclude that the painting must have been completed before 1509 on the basis of the pigment, we must assume that he did not begin the painting before 1509 using the old pigment and complete the painting after 1509 with the new pigment.

Q.29) The conclusion of the argument is that "Company X's fuel costs this year will be significantly higher than they were last year. Why? Because some of the company's plants switched from oil to natural gas when the price of gas was lower, and now the price of gas has outstripped the price of oil. We are asked to find an assumption that is necessary for the argument to work.

(D) CORRECT. The author does not take into account the fact that only "some" of the company's plants converted to natural gas. Some of the plants, then, still use oil, which is now cheaper. So in order to conclude that the company will have to spend more on fuel, the author must assume that the extra cost of the natural gas for the plants that converted is at least as much as the cost of the oil for the plants that did not.

Q.30)The advertisement discusses the merits of Avian Oculars, explaining that they are reasonably priced and contain several popular features. The advertisement concludes, however, by encouraging readers to use Avian Oculars in order to see some of the world's rarest bird species. A proper assumption must reasonably connect these diverse ideas.

(C) CORRECT. The conclusion of the advertisement is that, by using Avian Oculars, the reader will see some of the world's rarest bird species on his or her next bird watching trip. In order for this to be true, the reader would have to have access to these rare bird species. Even the best bird watching technology would prove useless to view a particular species of bird if the species were not present.

Q.31)The basic structure of this argument is fact that "mold is almost always found in places where there is substantial moisture," so therefore, to avoid mold and the resultant mold poisoning, then people should take steps to prevent wet areas. This argument assumes that wet areas occur first, causing mold to grow. Conversely, this assumption requires that the mold growth itself does not occur first, creating wet areas as a result.

(A) CORRECT. The argument depends on the assumption that the reason mold and wetness are observed together is that wet areas cause mold growth. If the reverse causation (mold causes wetness) were true, then keeping all plumbing in good condition to prevent leakage would do little to prevent the growth of mold. This choice eliminates the alternate causation.

Q.32) The conclusion of the argument is that the majority of American citizens believe in the death penalty while the majority of Filipino citizens do not. This conclusion is based solely on the fact that the death penalty is legal in the United States while it is now illegal in the Philippines. The argument assumes that there is a link between the legal status of capital punishment and the beliefs of the majority of citizens.

(B) CORRECT. It is possible that the legal status of capital punishment in the United States and the Philippines does NOT align with how the majority of citizens in those countries view the death penalty. For example, it may be that the governing bodies of one or both countries are out of touch with the views of the populace. The argument assumes that this is NOT the case.

Q.33)Although the premises of this argument suggest only a correlation between smoking and anxiety or nervousness, the argument has a causal conclusion: it concludes that smoking causes individuals to be anxious and nervous (i.e., that A causes B). Any assumption in a causal argument must support the causal "direction" of the conclusion, that A causes B as opposed to some other explanation. Often,

assumptions support a causal conclusion either by eliminating an alternate cause for the conclusion (that C did not cause B) or by demonstrating that the causation, if one exists, is in the proper direction (that B did not cause A).

(B) CORRECT. For smoking to be the cause of anxiety and nervousness (i.e., that A caused B) it must be true that these individuals were not more likely to be anxious and nervous before they started smoking. If smokers had these preconditions, which contributed to their decision to begin smoking (i.e., that B caused A), our conclusion – that smoking causes these maladies – would be incorrect.

Q.34) The argument concludes that the stock of the firm will experience rapid growth. The basis for this claim is that the firm has shown strong historical performance that is likely to continue in the future. The stock will appreciate dramatically in the future as a result only if it has not already appreciated in anticipation of the company's expected growth.

(D) CORRECT. If this assumption were not true, i.e. if the current stock price already reflects future growth prospects, then the premise that the company will experience high growth is certainly insufficient to warrant future stock price appreciation, since all of this growth would already be reflected in the current price. It is necessary to assume that the current price of Company X stock does not yet reflect the promising growth prospects of the firm, allowing the possibility that the stock price will rise further.

Q.35) On average, the team hit more home runs playing in front of larger crowds than in front of smaller crowds. The argument attributes this statistic to the motivation that comes from playing in front of larger crowds. In order to undermine this conclusion, look for another reason to explain why more home runs were hit in front of larger crowds.

(D) CORRECT. This choice explains that the larger stadiums actually have different dimensions from the smaller stadiums. In order to accommodate a larger number of fans, the outfield walls are closer to the batters. Thus, it is very possible that the greater number of home runs is due to the fact that the ball does not have to travel as far in larger stadiums.

Q.36) The conclusion is that "if major industries increase their capital reserves, the employment rate will not decline in the future." Why? Because major industry did not have capital reserves. The author assumes that having capital reserves is sufficient to prevent a decline in the employment rate. We are asked to cast doubt (i.e., weaken) the author's claim.

(C) CORRECT. The author neglects to take into account the fact that other factors, such as an increase in labor costs, could adversely affect the employment rate. For example, if the cost of labor becomes prohibitively expensive, even with increased reserves, the employment rate could decline.

Q.37) Farmers in developing countries claim that the global price of wheat is low because American farmers produce too much of the grain. They also claim that American farmers produce too much wheat because they have no incentive to manage their crops, since the U.S. government will buy whatever wheat American farmers cannot sell on the open market. We are asked to find a choice that weakens the claims of the farmers in developing countries that removing the American subsidy would cause the price of wheat to rise.

(D) CORRECT. The farmers assume that the sole cause of the wheat surplus is the United States. This answer choice suggests that other countries would modify their

output to counterbalance any reduction on the part of the United States, keeping prices constant instead of allowing them to rise.

Q.38) This argument concludes that "Hollywood studios have little chance of making money this year by exporting their films worldwide," based on the premise that profits from piracy overseas rose sharply last year. The argument assumes that no other relevant conditions have changed for the better since then. The question asks for a choice that does not weaken the argument, which means that the correct answer will either strengthen it or is irrelevant.

(D) CORRECT. This choice is irrelevant. The conclusion (and premise) concern money. That all of the Academy Award-nominated films were pirated last year does not increase or diminish the probability of Hollywood studios making money this year. Thus, this does not weaken the argument.

Q.39) The analyst argues that the mayoral candidate who opposes the deportation plan will win the governor's race because 60% of city residents also oppose the plan. The analyst assumes that a majority of residents will vote for this candidate based on his position on illegal immigration. Any statement that calls this assumption into question will weaken the argument. We are looking for the one statement that does NOT call this assumption into question.

(B) CORRECT. This does not weaken the argument. In fact, if some of those who support the plan are willing to reconsider, they may ultimately oppose the original plan and decide to vote for the candidate who is also in opposition. If anything, this would help justify the analyst's claim that the candidate who opposes the plan will win the election.

Q.40) Adam concludes that to cover the \$4,000 cost of a booth at the fair, he will need to sell 400 sandwiches at \$10 each. He relies on information about the number of customers served by the average booth in previous years. The question asks what most weakens Adam's conclusion. The correct answer will either show that Adam has overlooked other important costs, or that his logic is fundamentally flawed. There could be more than one choice that seems to suggest that Adam might not break even; the correct answer will be the one that eliminates any possibility that he will break even.

(B) CORRECT. Each sandwich costs some amount of money to make and sell, so even if Adam sells the 400 sandwiches as planned, his net income will certainly be less than \$4,000. Based on this statement, Adam definitely will not break even.

Q.41) The argument concerns the economic impact on restaurants in Prohibitionland if the service of alcoholic beverages is banned. It presents evidence that, despite restrictions on the service of alcohol in certain areas of Prohibitionland, sales taxes in restaurants in those areas rose at a higher rate than for those in other parts of Prohibitionland, suggesting that the ban would not have any adverse economic impact. We are asked to support the restaurant proprietors' claim, so the correct answer choice will call the relevance of the seemingly contradictory evidence into question.

(D) CORRECT. This statement calls the evidence into question by indicating that any measured increase in sales taxes and, presumably, revenues for restaurants that have been operating under the restrictions last year enacted is irrelevant, as the restrictions could be argued to be completely different than the total ban that is being proposed. This answer choice substantially strengthens the

proprietors' argument by threatening to make the cited evidence irrelevant.

Q.42)The official's conclusion is that people who claim that the U.S. is more vulnerable than other nations because of the country's lack of a national vaccine laboratory are disloyal and incorrect. His basis for that conclusion is that the U.S. has generally long life span and low infant mortality relative to all UN countries. Moreover, he cites the high quality of American hospitals, and he adds that many people he knows from around the world come to the U.S. for medical care. We are asked to find the choice that does NOT point out a weakness or potential weakness in the official's argument.

(A) CORRECT. This choice states that the high quality of hospitals is not a factor affecting the public's vulnerability to infectious disease. However, the quality of hospitals very arguably does affect how vulnerable the public is to such disease.

Q.43)The conclusion of the argument is that insurance companies do not have a significant economic incentive to delay claim payments to doctors. To weaken this conclusion, an answer choice must provide some significant economic incentive for insurance companies to be tardy in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims.

(E) CORRECT. This choice articulates a logical chain that establishes a clear economic motive for insurance companies to be tardy in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims. If insurance companies delay payments to doctors, this results in a 10 percent increase in overhead costs for physicians. These costs ultimately result in higher fees that doctors charge to insurance companies. Insurance companies, in turn, raise the premiums they charge consumers for health coverage. This choice states that the insurance companies increase their fees to consumers far more than the doctors increase their fees to insurance companies, enabling the insurance companies to pocket the difference; therein lies the economic motive for insurance companies to be tardy in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims.

Q.44)This argument concludes that a decline in the percentage of retirees who relocate to SunState will have a negative impact on businesses there that cater to retirees. However, a decline in this percentage would only have a negative impact on businesses if it indicated a decrease in the actual number of retirees. If the actual number of retirees is steady or increasing, then a decrease in the percentage wouldn't matter. As we are looking for a statement that weakens the argument, we should look for an answer choice that somehow mitigates the effect of this percentage decrease.

(E) CORRECT. If the total number of retirees that relocated to other states increased significantly, a 10 percent reduction in the proportion of retirees that moved to SunState may not result in a reduction in the actual number of people who moved to SunState. This choice weakens the contention that businesses that cater to retirees in SunState will suffer from a drop-off resulting from the percentage decrease.

Q.45)The market analyst concludes that the market for breath freshening products will decline as the effectiveness of the tongue scraper becomes more widely known. To show that this argument is flawed, we must attack one of two assumptions: that consumers are primarily interested in products that are most effective in fighting bad breath, or that consumers are currently unaware of the effectiveness of the tongue scraper.

(D) CORRECT. This statement weakens the argument by

attacking one of the main assumptions of the argument: people who use breath freshening products don't already know about the effectiveness of the tongue scraper. If 94% of those who consume breath freshening products already know about the tongue scraper, and if these consumers have continued to purchase breath freshening products, then only 6% of those who consume breath freshening products could decide to stop purchasing these products upon learning about the tongue scrapers effectiveness in fighting bad breath. Even if all 6% stopped purchasing the products, this would hardly create a "significant decline" in the market.

Q.46)Last year, firms in the manufacturing sector that offered employees employer sponsored insurance (ESI) plans found that their worker absentee rates were significantly lower than at firms that did not offer ESI. What could have caused the decrease? The argument is made that the existence of the ESI plan caused the decrease in worker absenteeism, but that conclusion would be weakened if another cause were identified.

(D) CORRECT. If there are fewer on-the-job injuries, then workers will miss fewer days of work. This is an alternate explanation for the decrease in absenteeism, and thus weakens the argument that the decrease in absenteeism must have been due to the availability of ESI.

Q.47) The legislators want to promote ethanol production in order to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. Any evidence that ethanol production would not lessen our dependence on foreign oil would undermine the legislators' conclusion.

(A) CORRECT. If it takes 1.5 gallons of oil to make 1 gallon of ethanol, it is not clear that producing ethanol can help us to reduce our reliance on foreign oil.

Q.48)This argument states that the United States created the Fourth Amendment to protect against unreasonable intrusions. It observes that such intrusions are often committed by dictatorships. It then makes a rather sweeping conclusion that any country without similar protections will suppress dissent. Such a broad conclusion could be weakened by citing one case in which that pattern does not hold.

(A) CORRECT. This choice cites a country without such protections that does not suppress dissent. One example weakens the conclusion, which said no country would refrain from suppressing dissent without such protections.

Q.49)Consider how the researcher reached the conclusion that having a more "take charge" personality makes a person more likely to become a corporate executive. Only one justification is given for this proposed cause and effect: the observation that a "take charge" personality tends to be observed in people who are corporate executives. However, it could be the case that the cause and effect relationship flows in the opposite direction than that proposed in the argument, as it is possible that a person first becomes a corporate executive and then develops a more "take charge" personality as a result.

(A) CORRECT. If a "take charge" personality is observed in people who are corporate executives because the job itself causes those traits to emerge, then the researcher's conclusion that the personality traits lead to the job would be weakened.

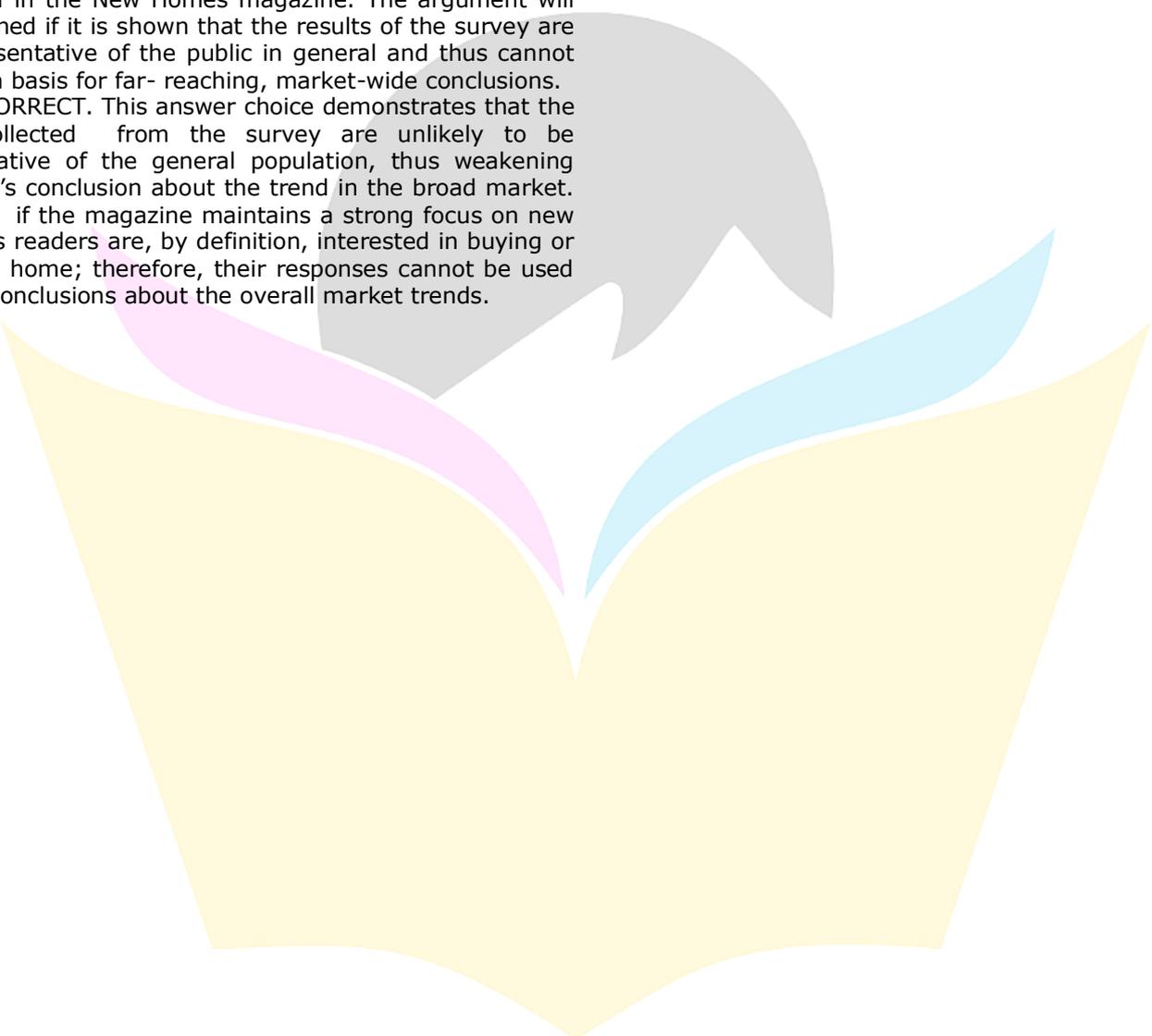
Q.50)The conclusion of the argument is that "the retail price of chocolate is certain to increase within six months." This claim is based on the fact that the wholesale price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter has increased significantly and is likely to stay high. The argument assumes that the current retail price of chocolate reflects the current wholesale price

of cocoa. The correct answer will weaken the conclusion by contradicting this assumption.

(E) CORRECT. This statement contradicts the assumption that the retail price of chocolate immediately reflects the wholesale price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter. If the chocolate currently sold in stores was made from cocoa purchased two years ago, then it may be quite some time before the current wholesale price increase is passed on to retail chocolate consumers.

Q.51) In this argument, the editor makes an inference about broad market trends based on the results of the survey conducted in the New Homes magazine. The argument will be weakened if it is shown that the results of the survey are not representative of the public in general and thus cannot serve as a basis for far-reaching, market-wide conclusions.

(C) CORRECT. This answer choice demonstrates that the data collected from the survey are unlikely to be representative of the general population, thus weakening the editor's conclusion about the trend in the broad market. Naturally, if the magazine maintains a strong focus on new homes, its readers are, by definition, interested in buying or building a home; therefore, their responses cannot be used to make conclusions about the overall market trends.



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