

CRITICAL REASONING – DAY : 01

FIND THE ASSUMPTION

1. C

The conclusion here is that since the number of people killed each year by tigers is the same as the number killed by lightning on golf courses or electrocution from blenders, tigers are only as dangerous as golf or a blender.

A. How much is “most”? Vague. Secondly, negation does not break the argument. Let’s negate. Only some tiger incidents are fatal. So what?

B. Irrelevant

C. Let’s negate. The fatalities per year are not an adequate indication of something’s dangerousness. In that case, the argument itself is flawed as the conclusion is based on fatality statistics. Hence, correct.

D. Irrelevant.

E. First of all, majority means more than 50% of instances. Secondly, the use of the word “only” is very restrictive. The argument merely indicates that if something results in death, it is dangerous, not necessarily “only if”.

2. E

Psychiatrists are using the Rorschach test (a personality test) to predict occupations of professionals. What is the underlying assumption?

A. Irrelevant. Whether they have the same personality type is immaterial to the argument.

B. Non-business contexts –out of scope.

C. US firms which do not use this test –out of scope.

D. Other more effective techniques –out of scope.

E. Upon negating, this choice says that there is no correspondence between personality type and choice of profession; in that case, why would you use the Rorschach test? The argument is broken upon negation. Correct.

3. C

Concludes that the decrease in number of violations between 1981-85 indicates that the govt. was more lax about copyright enforcement in this period.

A. Minor versus major violations –irrelevant

B. How did they change because of political pressure? DKCS.

C. Let's negate –the decrease in number of violations was because fewer co.s violated these laws. This provides an alternative explanation for the finding and thus, breaks the argument. Hence, correct.

D. What the govt. should or should not do is irrelevant

E. Before 1981. Out of scope

4. D

Conclusion is that an SUV driver is more likely to be injured than a car driver in case of a serious accident because trucks are exempted from the govt.'s car-safety standards while cars are not.

A. How good are these SUV safety standards? We don't know. They could be inferior to the car safety standards. DKCS.

B. Recklessness of drivers. Irrelevant

C. Likelihood of accidents. Irrelevant.

D. Let's negate –SUVs are as or more likely to meet car-safety standards than are cars; in which case, the likelihood of their drivers getting injured is less than or equal to that of drivers of cars. Negation breaks the argument. Correct.

E. Engines. Out of scope.

5. B

As the editor judges submissions without seeing the name of the author, he could not have identified who wrote which story and hence, could not have discriminated against Scudamore.

A. Whether there was a grudge is irrelevant. The question here is about discrimination regarding submissions.

B. Negate –the editor can recognize Scudamore's poems through some other means. Perhaps her style of writing. This means that he could have recognized her stories despite there being no name attached to them, and rejected them. Breaks the argument. Hence, correct.

C. Irrelevant

D. Lends support to the argument that the editor could have been biased. Not the assumption on which the chief editor's defense is based.

E. Since the editor does not see the name of the author, what does it matter if the real name is given or the pen name? Irrelevant.

6. E

The conclusion is that the methods used to determine the platinum content of Reddington's samples must have been inaccurate. This is because neither of the two subsequent expeditions found any platinum content on the island.

A. Comparison of today versus 17th century. Irrelevant.

B. Where the mined on the island. Irrelevant.

C. Even if the methods were different, we don't know which one is better or more accurate. So we can't make any conclusions about the inaccuracy of Reddington's

methods.

D. Other island. Out of scope.

E. Correct. Let's negate this option: if Reddington had deliberately added platinum to his original samples for whatever reasons (perhaps to get funding!), the problem is not with the methods used to test the sample, but with the sample itself.

7. C

Inmates who took university courses committed fewer crimes than others, after being released. Therefore, the conclusion is that the Mayor's decision to stop allowing the delinquents to take up university courses is counter-productive because it will not result in a reduction in crime.

A. This says that not taking university courses has no impact on the inmates. So they would go ahead and commit the crimes they would have committed anyway. Thus, the Mayor's decision has no impact on their behavior. So, we cannot conclude that his decision is counter-productive. It is merely ineffectual.

B. Comparison of former inmates with general public. Irrelevant.

C. Correct. Let's negate: If the inmates who take up university courses while at the center are anyway less likely to commit crimes, the conclusion that the university courses are responsible for their orderly behavior is invalidated and the argument breaks. As negation breaks the argument, this is the right answer.

D. high school courses. Out of scope.

E. Mayor's ultimate goal is popularity. Irrelevant.