

ASSIGNMENT 05
INTRO TO PARA-BASED REASONING + ASSUMPTIONS

1. 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 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) Districts of the city from which police officers are removed do not experience significant crime increases shortly after the removal of those officers.
2. 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.
3. 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 HitItFartomorrow!! **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.
4. 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) The Plague does not cause genetic mutations such as Delta-32.

5. 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?**
- The growth of new rings in a tree is not a function of levels of precipitation.
 - Only the Brazilian ash loses rings because of excessive heat.
 - Only one day of temperatures above 95 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to cause the Brazilian ash to lose a ring.
 - The number of rings that will be lost when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit is not predictable.
6. 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?**
- The next presidential election will be dishonest, as has happened in eastern European countries.
 - The government will soon start curtailing the activities of those it considers -dissidents.
 - Blanket restrictions on law-abiding individuals are contrary to the traditions of American culture and law.
 - The majority of Americans are not willing to give up their right to travel and move about without identification.
7. 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?**
- The charitable activities of models and movie stars often focus public attention on pressing problems.
 - Final authority for choosing the cover subject of the magazine lies with the publisher.
 - A magazine can boost sales while highlighting the coverage of important world leaders.
 - Some of the movie stars featured are now running for political office.
8. 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 nonrenewable 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?**
- The public will embrace the development of wind and solar power.
 - No new deposits of gas, oil, and coal will be discovered in the near future.
 - Weather patterns are consistent and predictable.
 - The necessary technology for conversion to wind and solar power is not more expensive than the technology needed to create energy through combustion.
9. 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?**
- Because someone prefers vanilla ice cream does not mean he prefers vanilla-flavored candy.
 - Children who prefer vanilla ice cream also tend to like chocolate candy.
 - Those who prefer neither vanilla nor chocolate ice cream also prefer other flavors of candy.
 - Preferences for certain ice cream flavors are similar to preferences for candy flavors.

10. 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?**
- Unemployment rates are not useful indicators of growth and prosperity.
 - Economic growth cannot be measured in terms of productivity.
 - Legislation has not been recently passed to make legal bankruptcy easier to obtain.
 - There has not been an increase in the number of bankruptcy lawyers.
11. 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?**
- No stocks of the abandoned pigment existed after 1509.
 - Michelangelo did not work on the painting over the course of several years.
 - The coin depicted in the painting was known to general public in 1507.
 - The wooden panel on which the painting was executed cannot be tested accurately for age.
12. 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?**
- Company X does not have money set aside for the increased costs of fuel.
 - The increase in the cost of fuel cannot be offset by reductions in other operating expenses.
 - The price of natural gas will never again fall below that of oil.
 - 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.
13. 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?
- The growth of new rings in a tree is not a function of levels of precipitation.
 - Only the Brazilian ash loses rings because of excessive heat.
 - Only one day of temperatures above 95 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to cause the Brazilian ash to lose a ring.
 - The number of rings that will be lost when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit is not predictable.
14. **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?
- Avian Oculars weigh less than traditional binoculars.
 - Avian Oculars should be used only by bird watchers.
 - The reader will travel through the habitats of rare species during his or her next bird watching trip.
 - Avian Oculars are similar in cost to traditional binoculars.

15. The profits of BEL Corp. for the quarter ending June 31st dipped below last quarter's profits. The corporation then decided to give a pay raise to its employees so that they improve the quality of the work and deliver better returns. The profits of BEL Corp. then surpassed their expectations and rose 124% when compared to last quarter's profit.
- Which of the following is the assumption on which the argument depends?
- (a) The quality of the work can be improved by raising the pay standards of the employees.
 - (b) Even BEL Corp. had not assumed that the pay raise would deliver returns in the next quarter only.
 - (c) The profits rose significantly due to the improvement in the work of the employees, caused primarily by the management by raising their pay standards.
 - (d) Even big corporations like BEL Corp. need to increase their profits every quarter.
16. With 6 medals in the bag, the Indians should have been satisfied with London Olympics. However, the Indians are dissatisfied with the performance of various high-profile players on whom million hopes were pinned. But we should understand that thinking about and following the activities of these athletes for a few months around the Olympics, and losing track of the same during the other time would do no good to their preparations. They need media support, public support which they don't usually get. Thus, not much can be expected from the Indian contingent even in Rio Olympics in 2016.
- The author moves on all of the following assumptions except:
- (a) Public support and media support plays a huge role in tacitly improving the performance of the players.
 - (b) India won lesser medals this time than the past few Olympics.
 - (c) The author doesn't foresee increased public support for such games even in near future.
 - (d) The public support and media support decreases when the Olympics are not around and only increase during and just before the Olympics.
17. 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 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.
18. 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.
19. 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 nonsmokers, and found that smokers are significantly more anxious and nervous than nonsmokers. 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 nonsmokers were surveyed for the study.
 - (d) Smokers are aware of the various health problems attributed to smoking, including lung cancer and emphysema.

20. **Antoine:** The alarming fact is that among children aged 19 years and younger, the number taking antipsychotic medicines soared 73 percent in the last four years. That is greater than the increase in the number of adults taking antipsychotic medicines during the same period. **Lucy:** But the use of antipsychotic drugs by adults is considered normal at the current rate of 11 adults per 1,000 taking the drugs. In contrast, the number of children on antipsychotic medication last year was 6.6 per 1,000 children. Lucy's argument relies on the assumption that _____
- (a) Normal levels of antipsychotic drug use are rarely exceeded.
 - (b) The percentage of adults taking antipsychotic medication is always higher than the percentage of children on such medication.
 - (c) The use of antipsychotic medication in children is no different from the use of such medications in adults.
 - (d) Antoine is not consciously distorting the statistics he presents.
21. An oil field prospector and developer reported a large oil deposit in southwestern Texas. As a result, a large oil and gas company purchased the field with the intention of drilling oil wells in the area soon afterwards. However, the company found that what had been reported to be a large oil deposit was actually much smaller than had been indicated. Thus, the methods that the prospector had used to determine the size of the oil deposit must have been inaccurate. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?
- (a) The company's methods of measuring the size of the oil deposit were determined by a third party to be more accurate than those used by the prospector.
 - (b) The prospector did not purposefully fabricate or misrepresent the size of the oil deposit.
 - (c) Though smaller than originally thought, the oil deposit contained enough oil to make drilling commercially feasible.
 - (d) The prospector did not explore other oil fields and use the same methods to determine the magnitude of the oil present, if any.
22. The Ergonomic Society conducted a study that indicated that many people develop severe back problems during adulthood, and that virtually all such people who received chiropractic treatment showed great improvement. Therefore, in order to minimize the proportion of the population that suffers from back pain, the Ergonomic Society recommended that chiropractic treatment be directed toward those adults who suffer from severe back problems. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?
- (a) Any person who receives chiropractic treatment for back pain may also benefit from other forms of treatment.
 - (b) Large insurance carriers cover chiropractic care for back problems to a lesser degree than they do other medical treatments.
 - (c) Individuals who receive chiropractic or other treatment prior to developing severe back problems are not less likely to develop back pain than those who do not.
 - (d) Chiropractic treatment is more effective in treating severe back problems when utilized over a long period of time, as opposed to sporadically.
23. Because most hospitals suffer a chronic undersupply of physicians, patients must sometimes wait hours in the emergency room to see a doctor. Nurses should therefore perform initial examinations in hospital emergency rooms to determine which patients merit immediate treatment and which can wait until the emergency physicians have more time to see them. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above is based?
- (a) Hospitals should expand their medical staffs.
 - (b) Physicians cannot be trained to perform initial examinations themselves.
 - (c) Emergency rooms will run more smoothly if initial examinations are performed.
 - (d) Nurses are competent to judge the severity of patients' conditions.

24. **MTC & Asthma**

Methyl tetrachloride (MTC) is a chemical found in some pesticides, glues, and sealants. Exposure to MTC can cause people to develop asthma. In order to halve the nation's asthma rate, the government plans to ban all products containing MTC.

The government's plan to halve the nation's asthma rate relies on which of the following assumptions?

- (a) Exposure to MTC is responsible for no less than half of the nation's asthma cases.
- (b) Products containing MTC are not necessary to the prosperity of the American economy.
- (c) Asthma has reached epidemic proportions.
- (d) Exercise and proper nutrition are helpful in maintaining respiratory health.

25. Passport applicants who are unable to get an appointment online can now directly walk into the office of the regional passport officer to get an appointment. Regional passport officer Mr. X informed the media that those who were in need of passports urgently could get their passports at the regional office with documents proving the urgency.

Which of the following assumption(s) is implicit in the above statement?

- (a) There are applicants who need passport urgently.
- (b) Passport authority can earn revenue for the department by providing urgent passports.
- (c) Some applicants may approach to obtain urgent passports without documents that prove urgency.
- (d) More than one of the above.

ASSIGNMENT 05
ANSWER & EXPLANATIONS
INTRO TO PARA-BASED REASONING + ASSUMPTIONS

1. (d) 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.
 - (A) While it is encouraging that a similar plan worked successfully in City X, this fact is certainly not essential for the success of the plan in City Y. The cities may be so different as to make the comparison meaningless.
 - (B) The police commissioner's proposal is focused solely on decreasing the number of crimes in city Y. The severity of the crimes has no bearing on whether the commissioner's proposal will succeed or not.
 - (C) The actual numerical distinction between high and low-crime areas of the city is immaterial to the commissioner's proposal. For instance, if the number of crimes committed in all high crime districts was only double (instead of more than triple) the number of crimes committed in low crime districts, the proposal could still be valid.
 - (D) 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.
2. (a) 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.
 - (B) A simple awareness of the steps to reduce emissions in no way undermines the argument's conclusion, as this answer choice does not describe any action being taken by individuals. Additionally, greenhouse gases are never mentioned as the primary by-product of human activity that causes global warming, and are therefore not sufficient to address the argument.
 - (C) The argument never suggests that all coastal population centers are similarly affected; this choice is too extreme and overreaching for the argument's conclusion.
 - (D) This might be true, but it is not an assumption on which the conclusion rests. Instead, this answer choice is simply an inference that might be drawn from the premises.
3. (b) 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.
 - (A) By asking the reader rhetorically "isn't it time you added power ... and distance ... [by switching to the HitItFar driver]?", the advertisement implies that the use of the club will add "power ... and distance" and, hence, will improve one's play.
 - (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.
 - (C) It is a reasonable assumption that professional golfers, particularly those skilled enough to win a major championship, are experts and know what constitutes a great club. The advertisement makes this implication and reinforces it by citing the recent decision of these golfers to switch to the HitItFar driver; this provides an implicit expert endorsement for the HitItFar driver.
 - (D) The point of the advertisement is to prompt the reader into purchasing a new driver to replace his or her old driver in order to "add power and distance"; this implies that the new driver is superior to the reader's existing driver.
4. (d) 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.
 - (A) The argument is specific to the relationship between Delta-32 and resistance to the

- Plague. Other diseases are irrelevant.
- (B) Again, the argument is specific to the relationship between Delta-32 and resistance to the Plague. Other diseases are irrelevant.
- (C) Delta-32 may have existed in its current form before the sixteenth century and the merit of the argument would not change.
- (D) 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.
5. (d) 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.
- (A) The argument says nothing about precipitation. This answer choice is out of scope since it would require a number of other assumptions to make it relevant to the argument's conclusion.
- (B) Whether other trees share this feature is irrelevant; the argument focuses only on the Brazilian ash.
- (C) The number of days of excessive heat needed to cause the tree to lose rings is irrelevant.
- (D) 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.)
6. (c) 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.
- (A) The author never mentions future presidential elections, or the role of the president in such a national identification system. Therefore, the conclusion that the national identification system is un-American does not depend on this assumption.
- (B) Whether the government will soon, or will ever, start curtailing the activities of dissidents is irrelevant to this argument: that the national identification system is un-American simply because it restricts the liberties of U.S. citizens. Even if the government does not abuse the power the national identification system provides, the system could still be considered un-American.
- (C) CORRECT. This choice connects the concept of "un-American" policies to restrictions on liberties, essentially defining blanket restrictions on citizens as un-American.
- (D) Whether Americans are willing to give up their right to travel freely is irrelevant to this argument: that the national identification system is un-American simply because it restricts the liberties of U.S. citizens. Even if Americans were willing to give up their right to move about without identification, the system could still be considered un-American.
7. (b) 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.
- (A) This choice is irrelevant, as it is not connected to the conclusion. The activities of celebrities have nothing to do with the publisher's interests.
- (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.
- (C) This choice is the opposite of a necessary assumption. For the editorials to conclude that the publisher prefers profits to reporting, they have to assume that the two are mutually exclusive.
- (D) —Somel means —at least one, so this is not a powerful statement in any direction. Furthermore, even if several such stars were running for political office, it is not at all necessary to assume that to conclude that the publisher was more interested in profits.
8. (c) The conclusion of the argument is that renewable sources of energy, chiefly solar and wind, will be less risky for certain utilities than nonrenewable 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 nonrenewable 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.

- (A) The utility companies' claim has to do with the supply risk of the new energy sources, not with how these sources are received by the public.
- (B) If no new supplies of traditional energy sources are found, then it is true that perhaps these nonrenewable supplies will continue to fluctuate in price in a risky manner. However, the argument does not depend upon any assumption about the future discovery of oil and gas 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.
- (D) To reach the required conclusion, it is not necessary to assume that the conversion technology for new sources is not more expensive than the present technology.
9. (d) 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.
- (A) As a stand-alone, this choice makes common sense but, in the argument, it would undermine the author's conclusion. We are asked to find an assumption upon which the author relies, which means the correct assumption should support the author's conclusion.
- (B) This choice is either irrelevant at best (the survey does not address children specifically) or would undermine the author's conclusion, at worst. We are asked to find an assumption upon which the author relies, which means the correct assumption should support the author's conclusion.
- (C) Preferences for flavors neither vanilla nor chocolate are outside of the scope of this argument.
- (D) CORRECT. This assumption supports the author's conclusion by tying ice cream preferences directly to candy preferences.
10. (c) 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.

- (A) This statement does not have to be true for the claim that the media are wrong about the economy to hold. Even if unemployment rates are useful indicators of growth and prosperity, the media could still be wrong about the economy (e.g., if there are other indicators that show problems in other areas).
- (B) This does not have to be true for the conclusion to hold. Productivity could be a good measure of economic growth, but the media could still be wrong about the economy (e.g., if there are other indicators that show problems in other areas).
- (C) CORRECT. recently been evidence cited This has to be true for the conclusion to hold. If legislation has passed that makes it easier to obtain bankruptcy, then the would be less relevant. The increased number of bankruptcies could have been the result of the easier process rather than of a poor economy.
- (D) This does not have to be true for the conclusion to hold. An increase in the number of bankruptcy lawyers would not explain the increase in the number of bankruptcy filings.
11. (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 A is incorrect. We do not need to assume that no stocks of the pigment existed after 1509. The argument is concerned only with the year in which Michelangelo stopped using the pigment.
- 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.
- Choice C is incorrect. The fact that the general public knew of the coin in 1507 is irrelevant to the conclusion.
- Choice D is incorrect. The fact that the panel cannot be tested for age does not relate to either the coin or the pigment, the two bases for the conclusion.
12. (d) 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.
- (A) Whether Company X has the money to cover its costs does not affect the amount of those costs.

- (B) We do not need to assume that the costs cannot be offset by reducing expenditures in other areas in order for Company X's costs to be higher.
- (C) We do not need to assume that gas will never be cheaper than oil in order for Company X's costs to be higher.
- (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.
13. (d) 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.)
14. (c) 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.
15. (c) Though all (a), (b) and (d) are also assumptions, (c) is the only central assumption on which this argument rests. The evidence put forward by the author is that the corporation gave a pay raise to the employees to improve their work quality as they had suffered losses. The conclusion is that the profits of BEL Corp. rose significantly pursuant to this. Thus, the central assumption is that it was the pay raise which led to the increase in productivity and quality of work of the employees, and the subsequent profits.
16. (b) The author moves on all other assumptions except (b). The author moves on assumption (a) when he says that deserting the players except the Olympics time won't do any good to their preparations. He moves on assumption (c) during the conclusion when he says that not much can be expected from the Indian team even in the next Olympics. He rests on assumption (d) when he says "But we should preparations". However, with the first sentence (With 6 medals Olympics), the author clearly implies that winning 6 medals would be categorized as a satisfactory performance. Thus, it cannot be his assumption that India had won lesser medals in the past few Olympics. Thus, (b) is the answer.
17. (d) 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.
18. (c) 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.
19. (b) 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.
20. (c) If there is no difference between children and adults on the matter of antipsychotic drug use, then Lucy can legitimately use information about adult use of such drugs to imply that the lower rate of antipsychotic drug use by children must also be normal. On the other hand, if this assumption were not valid - for example, if children responded differently to the drugs, or if the rate of the drug use by adults is considered too high for children - then Lucy's statement would not be enough to address Antoine's alarm.
21. (b) The argument concludes that the prospector's methods resulted in inaccurate measurements of the size of the oil deposit. This assumes that the prospector did not simply misreport or misrepresent the measurements, presumably for personal gain. This answer choice addresses the most plausible alternative explanation to the one given, and is necessary for the conclusion to stand based upon the evidence presented.
22. (c) This statement rules out the possibility that chiropractic care or other medical treatments could effectively prevent or lessen back pain among those people who have not yet developed severe back problems.
23. (d) This argument is valid only if we assume that nurses are competent to determine which patients merit immediate treatment. The correct answer is D.
24. (a) *The correct answer choice fills in a LOGIC GAP.*
The government plans to halve the nation's asthma rate by banning products containing MTC. For this plan to succeed, it must be true that MTC causes at least half of the nation's asthma cases.
- (A) CORRECT. The government's proposed ban on MTC cannot halve the nation's asthma rate unless MTC is actually the thing responsible for at least half the nation's asthma cases. If other things are responsible for half (or more than half) of the nation's asthma cases, then banning MTC will not have the desired effect of reducing asthma rates by half
- (B) While it might seem unwise for the government to ban products that are necessary for American prosperity, this consideration is outside the scope of the argument. The conclusion concerns whether a ban on MTC would be able to halve the nation's asthma rate. Nothing about the effect on

prosperity must be assumed for that conclusion to follow.

- (C) The fact that asthma has reached epidemic proportions might give the government a motive to ban asthma-causing substances such as MTC. However, the conclusion is not concerned with the government's motivation. That asthma has reached epidemic proportions does not have to be assumed for the conclusion to follow.
- (D) This statement may be true, but it is irrelevant because the government's plan does not involve exercise or nutrition.
25. (d) We have to identify why the regional passport made such arrangements.

The given statements states that those who need the passports urgently can get passport providing documents proving the urgency to.

Hence choice (1) is implicit. The arrangements to provide passports urgency by the passports issuing authority indicate that the authorities believe that there is such necessity.

Choice (2) is not implicit, as it is not giving any information regarding urgency.

who have completed their MBA from college

If the passport authority believes that every one who are in urgent need of passport, would come with supporting documents they would not have made a specific mention.

Both (1) and (3) are implicit. Choice (4)