

TESTMASTERS

TESTMASTERS LSAT COURSE

Jam One

Logical Reasoning—Selected Questions

TestMasters LSAT Jam

1. The incidence in Japan of most types of cancer is remarkably low compared to that in North America, especially considering that Japan has a modern life-style, industrial pollution included. The cancer rates, however, for Japanese people who immigrate to North America and adopt the diet of North Americans approximate the higher cancer rates prevalent in North America.

If the statements above are true, they provide the most support for which one of the following?

- (A) The greater the level of industrial pollution in a country, the higher that country's cancer rate will tend to be.
 - (B) The stress of life in North America is greater than that of life in Japan and predisposes to cancer.
 - (C) The staple foods of the Japanese diet contain elements that cure cancer.
 - (D) The relatively low rate of cancer among people in Japan does not result from a high frequency of a protective genetic trait among Japanese people.
 - (E) The higher cancer rates of Japanese immigrants to North America are caused by fats in the North American diet.
2. Economist: Some policymakers believe that our country's continued economic growth requires a higher level of personal savings than we currently have. A recent legislative proposal would allow individuals to set up savings accounts in which interest earned would be exempt from taxes until money is withdrawn from the account. Backers of this proposal claim that its implementation would increase the amount of money available for banks to loan at a relatively small cost to the government in lost tax revenues. Yet, when similar tax-incentive programs were tried in the past, virtually all of the money invested through them was diverted from other personal savings, and the overall level of personal savings was unchanged.

The author criticizes the proposed tax-incentive program by

- (A) challenging a premise on which the proposal is based
- (B) pointing out a disagreement among policymakers
- (C) demonstrating that the proposal's implementation is not feasible
- (D) questioning the judgment of the proposal's backers by citing past cases in which they had advocated programs that have proved ineffective
- (E) disputing the assumption that a program to encourage personal savings is needed

3. Parents who wish to provide a strong foundation for the musical ability of their children should provide them with a good musical education. Since formal instruction is often a part of a good musical education, parents who wish to provide this strong foundation need to ensure that their children receive formal instruction.

The reasoning is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it fails to consider that

- (A) parents might not be the only source of a child's musical education
 - (B) some children might not be interested in receiving a strong foundation for their musical ability
 - (C) there are many examples of people with formal instruction whose musical ability is poor
 - (D) formal instruction might not always be a part of a good musical education
 - (E) some children might become good musicians even if they have not had good musical educations
4. Art historian: Robbins cannot pass judgment on Stuart's art. While Robbins understands the art of Stuart too well to dismiss it, she does not understand it well enough to praise it.

The art historian's argument depends on the assumption that

- (A) in order to pass judgment on Stuart's art, Robbins must be able either to dismiss it or to praise it
- (B) if art can be understood well, it should be either dismissed or praised
- (C) in order to understand Stuart's art, Robbins must be able to pass judgment on it
- (D) Stuart's art can be neither praised nor dismissed
- (E) if Robbins understands art well, she will praise it

TestMasters LSAT Jam

5. Leachate is a solution, frequently highly contaminated, that develops when water permeates a landfill site. If and only if the landfill's capacity to hold liquids is exceeded does the leachate escape into the environment, generally in unpredictable quantities. A method must be found for disposing of leachate. Most landfill leachate is sent directly to sewage treatment plants, but not all sewage plants are capable of handling the highly contaminated water.

Which one of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (A) The ability to predict the volume of escaping landfill leachate would help solve the disposal problem.
 - (B) If any water permeates a landfill, leachate will escape into the environment.
 - (C) No sewage treatment plants are capable of handling leachate.
 - (D) Some landfill leachate is sent to sewage treatment plants that are incapable of handling it.
 - (E) If leachate does not escape from a landfill into the environment, then the landfill's capacity to hold liquids has not been exceeded.
6. A year ago the government reduced the highway speed limit, and in the year since, there have been significantly fewer highway fatalities than there were in the previous year. Therefore, speed limit reduction can reduce traffic fatalities.

The argument is most vulnerable to the criticism that it takes for granted that

- (A) highway traffic has not increased over the past year
- (B) the majority of drivers obeyed the new speed limit
- (C) there is a relation between driving speed and the number of automobile accidents
- (D) the new speed limit was more strictly enforced than the old
- (E) the number of traffic fatalities the year before the new speed limit was introduced was not abnormally high

7. Politician: The bill that makes using car phones while driving illegal should be adopted. My support of this bill is motivated by a concern for public safety. Using a car phone seriously distracts the driver, which in turn poses a threat to safe driving. People would be deterred from using their car phones while driving if it were illegal to do so.

The argument's main conclusion follows logically if which one of the following is assumed?

- (A) The more attention one pays to driving, the safer a driver one is.
 - (B) The only way to reduce the threat to public safety posed by car phones is through legislation.
 - (C) Some distractions interfere with one's ability to safely operate an automobile.
 - (D) Any proposed law that would reduce a threat to public safety should be adopted.
 - (E) Car phone use by passengers does not distract the driver of the car.
8. Ditrana is a federation made up of three autonomous regions: Korva, Mitro, and Guadar. Under the federal revenue-sharing plan, each region receives a share of federal revenues equal to the share of the total population of Ditrana residing in that region, as shown by a yearly population survey. Last year, the percentage of federal revenues Korva received for its share decreased somewhat even though the population survey on which the revenue-sharing was based showed that Korva's population had increased.

If the statements above are true, which one of the following must also have been shown by the population survey on which last year's revenue-sharing in Ditrana was based?

- (A) Of the three regions, Korva had the smallest number of residents.
- (B) The population of Korva grew by a smaller percentage than it did in previous years.
- (C) The populations of Mitro and Guadar each increased by a percentage that exceeded the percentage by which the population of Korva increased.
- (D) Of the three regions, Korva's numerical increase in population was the smallest.
- (E) Korva's population grew by a smaller percentage than did the population of at least one of the other two autonomous regions.

TestMasters LSAT Jam

9. Several carefully conducted studies showed that 75 percent of strict vegetarians reached age 50 without developing serious heart disease. We can conclude from this that avoiding meat increases one's chances of avoiding serious heart disease. Therefore, people who want to reduce the risk of serious heart disease should not eat meat.

The flawed pattern of reasoning exhibited by which one of the following is most similar to that exhibited by the argument above?

- (A) The majority of people who regularly drive over the speed limit will become involved in traffic accidents. To avoid harm to people who do not drive over the speed limit, we should hire more police officers to enforce the speed laws.
- (B) Studies have shown that cigarette smokers have a greater chance of incurring heart disease than people who do not smoke. Since cigarette smoking increases one's chances of incurring heart disease, people who want to try to avoid heart disease should give up cigarette smoking.
- (C) The majority of people who regularly drink coffee experience dental problems in the latter part of their lives. Since there is this correlation between drinking coffee and incurring dental problems, the government should make coffee less accessible to the general public.
- (D) Studies show that people who do not exercise regularly have a shorter life expectancy than those who exercise regularly. To help increase their patients' life expectancy, doctors should recommend regular exercise to their patients.
- (E) Most people who exercise regularly are able to handle stress. This shows that exercising regularly decreases one's chances of being overwhelmed by stress. So people who want to be able to handle stress should regularly engage in exercise.

10. The interstitial nucleus, a subregion of the brain's hypothalamus, is typically smaller for male cats than for female cats. A neurobiologist performed autopsies on male cats who died from disease X, a disease affecting no more than .05 percent of male cats, and found that these male cats had interstitial nuclei that were as large as those generally found in female cats. Thus, the size of the interstitial nucleus determines whether or not male cats can contract disease X.

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

- (A) No female cats have been known to contract disease X, which is a subtype of disease Y.
- (B) Many male cats who contract disease X also contract disease Z, the cause of which is unknown.
- (C) The interstitial nuclei of female cats who contract disease X are larger than those of female cats who do not contract disease X.
- (D) Of 1,000 autopsies on male cats who did not contract disease X, 5 revealed interstitial nuclei larger than those of the average male cat.
- (E) The hypothalamus is known not to be causally linked to disease Y, and disease X is a subtype of disease Y.

TestMasters LSAT Jam

11. While it is true that bees' vision is well suited to the task of identifying flowers by their colors, it is probable that flowers developed in response to the type of vision that bees have, rather than bees' vision developing in response to flower color.

Which one of the following, if true, most strongly supports the statement above?

- (A) Many insects that have vision very similar to that of bees do not depend on perceiving an object's color.
- (B) Some flowers rely on insects other than bees.
- (C) The number of different species of flowers is greater than the number of different species of bees.
- (D) Many nonflowering plants rely on bees.
- (E) Present-day bees rely exclusively on flowers for their food.

12. Each year, an official estimate of the stock of cod in the Grand Banks is announced. This estimate is obtained by averaging two separate estimates of how many cod are available, one based on the number of cod caught by research vessels during a once-yearly sampling of the area and the other on the average number of tons of cod caught by various commercial vessels per unit of fishing effort expended there in the past year—a unit of fishing effort being one kilometer of net set out in the water for one hour. In previous decades, the two estimates usually agreed closely. However, for the last decade the estimate based on commercial tonnage has been increasing markedly, by about the same amount as the sampling-based estimate has been decreasing.

If the statements in the passage are true, which one of the following is most strongly supported by them?

- (A) Last year's official estimate was probably not much different from the official estimate ten years ago.
- (B) The number of commercial vessels fishing for cod in the Grand Banks has increased substantially over the past decade.
- (C) The sampling-based estimate is more accurate than the estimate based on commercial tonnage in that the data on which it relies is less likely to be inaccurate.
- (D) The once-yearly sampling by research vessels should be used as the sole basis for arriving at the official estimate of the stock of cod.
- (E) Twenty years ago, the overall stock of cod in the Grand Banks was officially estimated to be much larger than it is estimated to be today.