

THINKING SKILLS ASSESSMENT

PPS Specimen Test

Multiple-choice

Additional materials: Multiple-choice Answer Sheet
Clean soft eraser
Soft pencil (type B or HB is recommended)



1 hour 30 minutes

TEST ID:

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read this page carefully.

A separate answer sheet is provided. Please check you have one. You also require a soft pencil and an eraser.

Please write your UCAS number, name, date of birth and the TEST ID number in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. The TEST ID number is stamped on the front of this test paper. Please write very clearly.

There are **fifty** questions on this paper. Answer all questions. For each question, five possible answers, **A, B, C, D** and **E**, are provided. Choose the **one** answer you consider correct and record your choice on the separate answer sheet. If you make a mistake, erase thoroughly and try again. Each correct answer will score one mark. A mark will not be deducted for a wrong answer.

When you have finished the test, **please insert your answer sheet into this test paper** and hand them both to the person administering the test.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Not all questions are equally difficult but each accounts for one mark.

If you find a question particularly difficult, then you could leave it and return at the end. There are no penalties for incorrect responses, only points for correct answers, so you should attempt all the questions.

Any rough working may be done in the test booklet.

Calculators and dictionaries are NOT permitted.

Do not open the test paper until you are told to do so.

- 1 In the case of plastic drink bottles, recycling is not the best answer to the problem of garbage disposal. Ninety five per cent of soft-drink bottles sold in the United States are made of a compound of polyethylene (PET) which poses recycling problems. They are potentially carcinogenic if recycled into new food or drink containers. Recycled PET tends to absorb other chemicals before re-melting and these chemicals could leach into food or drink that is stored in a recycled container. However, if disposed of in landfill sites, plastic is not harmful to the environment. It can be squashed flat, so that it occupies little space and it is inert. Unlike other waste, it does not leach into soil or water, nor does it produce a dangerous build-up of methane.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the argument above?

- A Plastic waste cannot be recycled safely.
 - B Plastic waste is not a danger to the environment.
 - C Food containers made from recycled plastic are potentially carcinogenic.
 - D There is sufficient space in landfill sites to accommodate plastic waste.
 - E Recycling is not the best method of disposing of plastic drink bottles.
- 2 Over the past ten years, there has been a four-fold increase in the number of people killed in road accidents who are found to have illegal drugs in their bodies. The rate of increase is much greater than the corresponding rate for those people killed in accidents who were found with alcohol in their blood. This shows that the campaign against drink-driving has succeeded. Consequently, the Government ought now to concentrate on targeting those people who drive whilst under the influence of illegal drugs.

Which of the following is the best statement of the flaw in the argument above?

- A Those people who take illegal drugs and drive are likely to be different from those who drink and drive.
- B Targeting people who drive under the influence of illegal drugs ignores those people who take drugs but do not drive.
- C The success of the drink-driving campaign does not mean that a campaign against drivers who take drugs would succeed.
- D The increase in drug-related road deaths is insufficient to conclude that the drink-driving campaign has succeeded.
- E Evidence on the number of drug-related road accidents needs to distinguish between illegal drugs and legal drugs.

- 3** In 1997 the UK Government banned the owning of handguns after a man went on the rampage, killing several people, with a collection of legally owned firearms. In the time since then the number of crimes involving firearms as a whole has increased. The number involving legally owned firearms has gone up by 0.1% as compared to a 5% increase overall.

Which one of the following could be reliably concluded from the above information?

- A** Banning handguns has simply increased gun crime.
 - B** The number of legally owned firearms has decreased.
 - C** The number of crimes involving handguns has stayed the same.
 - D** The law change in 1997 has not resulted in a reduction in gun crime.
 - E** It has become easier to acquire illegal firearms.
- 4** If drivers were made to pay for road use according to the amount of time they spent on the road, they would drive more dangerously. Experiments were conducted with volunteers using a driving simulator. In the first experiment, the volunteers were charged for time spent driving below 10mph in order to see how people coped with trying to avoid congestion. In the second experiment, they were charged for the time spent in a particular area. The results were alarming. The volunteers in the first experiment jumped many red lights in an attempt to keep their speed up. Those in the second frequently broke the speed limit, and overtook in dangerous situations. In the interests of road safety, we should not introduce such payment schemes.

Which one of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

- A** Driving simulators are a reliable guide to real-life driving.
- B** We need to do more experiments on schemes of payment for road use.
- C** More people should practise their driving skills using a simulator.
- D** Schemes involving payment for road use will not solve the problem of road congestion.
- E** Road congestion could be solved in ways other than payment for road-use schemes.

- 5 Some of the great sea-mammals, such as the sperm whale, have brains many times larger than ours. It is a fact of evolution that organs do not grow or remain large unless they are used; if they are not used they shrink or even disappear. It must be concluded therefore that the sperm whale makes intelligent use of the vast brain it possesses, perhaps at thought levels well beyond our understanding.

Which of the following would, if true, weaken the argument?

- A Humans have developed intelligence despite having smaller brains than whales.
 - B Whales lack the ability to communicate in language.
 - C Large brains may have uses that do not involve intelligence.
 - D There is no correlation between the size of the animal and the size of its brain.
 - E Whale intelligence may be of a kind that humans do not recognise.
- 6 Every year in this country there are over 8000 personal accidents on golf courses, yet it is estimated that as few as five per cent of all golfers take out adequate insurance against claims for injury. If more golfers could be encouraged to take out appropriate insurance policies the number of accidents could be dramatically reduced.

Which one of the following identifies the flaw in the argument above?

- A It ignores the fact that millions of golfers never have an accident.
- B It assumes that all insurance policies provide adequate insurance against claims.
- C It implies that the occurrence of golfing accidents is causally related to the lack of insurance.
- D It overlooks the possibility that some accidents would not be covered by insurance.
- E It ignores the fact that there are different kinds of insurance for different kinds of activity.

- 7 Many people imagine that large country houses in the eighteenth century had smooth lawns. But in those days there was no way of killing wild plants and weeds and, with the lawnmower not invented, the only method of cutting a lawn was by teams of gardeners with hand scythes; today's weed-free close cuts were unthinkable. Given this, lawns must have been like flowery meadows.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the argument above?

- A Modern lawns are kept smooth only with the use of weedkillers and lawnmowers.
 - B The upkeep of eighteenth century lawns required the employment of large numbers of gardeners.
 - C In the eighteenth century, lawns were not smooth but more like flowery meadows.
 - D It is more natural to have a lawn like a flowery meadow than one kept in smooth condition.
 - E Modern lawns would seem boring to a person from the eighteenth century.
- 8 Socialist politicians are often taunted by their opponents for leading lifestyles similar to those of their capitalist counterparts. The theme of the taunts runs like this; 'You object on socialist principles to gross inequalities in the distribution of wealth; yet you enjoy a higher personal standard of living than the majority of the population. Therefore you are not really a socialist'. But the jibe can easily be answered, for there is no hypocrisy in arguing, even from a privileged position, for a fairer and more equal society.

Which of the following is a conclusion which can be reliably drawn from the passage as a whole?

- A Socialists who enjoy personal wealth cannot object to others who amass even greater wealth.
- B Someone can be a genuine socialist whilst enjoying a high standard of living.
- C Calls for reform are more effective if they come from the more privileged classes of society.
- D There is nothing immoral about inequalities in the distribution of wealth.
- E It is hypocritical to claim to be a socialist if one enjoys a standard of living above the average.

- 9 The siting of mobile phone masts is a controversial matter in the UK, particularly when they are situated at or near schools and hospitals. The Stewart Report concluded that the balance of evidence indicated that there was no general risk to the health of people living near mobile phone masts but recommended a regular audit of Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) emissions from masts sited near schools and hospitals. The Government have complied with this latter recommendation and carried out regular audits all of which show that RFR emissions are far below the levels of national and international guidelines. Therefore, mobile phone masts are safe and not injurious to health and can be sited anywhere.

Which one of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

- A RFR emissions are more injurious to younger people.
 - B RFR emissions can affect sensitive equipment in hospitals.
 - C The audits are not carried out frequently.
 - D Mobile phones are an essential part of modern communications.
 - E The only health risk from mobile phone masts is RFR emissions.
- 10 A two-month study of major producers of ivory products showed that worldwide demand for elephant tusks for ivory had fallen sharply. Consequently it is safe to assume that there will be a general decline in elephant poaching.

Which one of the following, if true, would most weaken the above argument?

- A There are far fewer elephants than there were ten years ago, so poachers are finding it increasingly difficult to make a living from the ivory trade.
- B Poachers now use high-powered rifles which make it far easier for them to kill larger numbers of elephants than was possible in the past.
- C The worldwide demand for ivory fluctuates considerably at certain times of the year, so poachers stockpile ivory to sell when the market improves.
- D More and more synthetic materials are being used as substitutes for ivory in the construction of such things as piano keys and billiard balls.
- E The worldwide demand for ivory has been falling consistently for the last twenty years and many ivory poachers have found alternative sources of income.

- 11** Alcohol is largely to blame for a rise in the incidence of breast cancer. Research from St. George's hospital in Tooting shows the number of women with breast cancer rose significantly over a 10 year period. Researchers also found the average amount of alcohol women drank rose by more than 40% over the same period. The study used figures from a number of regional hospitals and compared drinking habits between 1997 and 2007.

Which one of the following best identifies the flaw in the above reasoning?

- A** It confuses actual amounts drunk by some women with average consumption.
 - B** It gives a causal explanation when only a correlation is given.
 - C** It makes a sweeping generalisation on the strength of a very local sample.
 - D** It assumes that all serious illnesses are related to lifestyle.
 - E** It fails to specify the amount by which breast cancer has increased.
- 12** You can become a good pianist if you start to learn at an early age. You did not start to learn until you were an adult, so you cannot become a good pianist.

Which of the following has the same structure as the above argument?

- A** Children can become fluent in two languages if they start learning when very young. My children learnt two languages when young, so they speak them fluently.
- B** You can cure your headache if you are willing to try acupuncture. You refuse to try acupuncture, so you will not be able to cure your headache.
- C** You can avoid being overweight if you take sufficient exercise. You take sufficient exercise, so you will not become overweight.
- D** Children have fewer ear infections if they take cod liver oil. My children have very few ear infections, so they do not need to take cod liver oil.
- E** You can become a good singer if you have perfect pitch. You are a good singer, so you must have perfect pitch.

- 13** If something I do results in someone's death, I am, of course, responsible for that death. But am I similarly responsible if someone's death results from my failure to act? For example, if I go and shoot someone, their death is my fault. But if I refuse to give money to a starving person and that person dies as a result of not having money to buy food, is their death my fault? If I had never lived, the starving person would have died anyway, whereas the person whom I shoot would not have died had it not been for me. So, doing something makes me more responsible for the consequences than when I fail to act.

Which of the following illustrates the principle that the author argues for in the above passage?

- A** The government's refusal to fund the crime prevention programme means that they alone are responsible for the high crime rate.
 - B** Many people who are sent to prison commit further crimes when they come out, which shows that prison fails to make criminals feel responsible for their actions.
 - C** The people more responsible for the high crime rate are the people who break the law, not the local authority for failing to support the crime prevention programme.
 - D** The crime prevention programme does not work because it places the responsibility for crime on the local authority which has insufficient funds to implement it.
 - E** Community service orders work better than prison because they focus the convicted person's mind on the direct consequences of anti-social behaviour.
- 14** Sometimes poverty is defined in relation to average income. For example, people may be said to be poor if their income is less than 60 per cent of the average income for the population. This is not a legitimate definition, because it is a measure of inequality rather than poverty. This is obvious if we consider the consequences of using the definition. It means that a huge pay rise for middle managers automatically throws some people into poverty, even though their income has not changed. On the other hand, the definition implies that in a society where almost everyone is starving, no one is poor.

Which of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A** Having a relatively low income is not the same as being poor.
- B** It is impossible to find an appropriate definition of poverty.
- C** It is wrong to define poverty in relation to average income.
- D** A huge pay rise for middle managers makes other people poor.
- E** There is no inequality in a society where most people are starving.

- 15** The effect of shortening degree courses at universities from three years to two would be that students would have two-thirds as much time to think about their subject. The result would be graduates whose understanding of their subject was shallower and whose intellectual development was much less extended. Any measure that leads to a lowering of the quality of graduates should be resisted by universities.

Which one of the following conclusions can reliably be drawn from the above passage?

- A** University graduates at present have an in-depth understanding of their subject.
 - B** Universities should oppose the shortening of degree courses to two years.
 - C** Universities are not proposing to reduce the length of degree courses to two years.
 - D** Students should oppose moves by universities to shorten degree courses.
 - E** Universities should adopt more rigorous standards for the award of degrees.
- 16** The Executive of the Students' Union has recently carried out a survey to identify dangerous areas on campus. The survey led to the recommendation and implementation of measures such as improved lighting in suspect areas. Such reforms can only help to reduce the number of attacks on campus.

However, the University lake and its surrounding area was not included in the survey as, despite being considered part of the campus, it actually belongs to the City Council. This means the University has no direct influence over safety standards in the area. It should therefore definitely be avoided by lone students at night.

Which one of the following is an underlying assumption of this argument?

- A** Students do not look after their own safety but rely on others to take safety measures on their behalf.
- B** The City Council regard the lake area as part of the campus.
- C** Students walking on and off campus at night would go via the university lake.
- D** The safety measures taken by the City Council are either non-existent or are inferior to those implemented by the Student Union.
- E** The Executive of the Student Union is not merely seeking popularity in implementing its reforms but is genuinely concerned about safety risks.

- 17** The expense of advertising adds greatly to overall production costs and thus to the prices of goods when they reach the public. There is particular public resentment of mass advertising for rival brands of products such as petrol or detergents - which, most people suspect, are so similar in character as to be virtually indistinguishable except in their packaging. Much of the huge sum devoted to advertising could be used more fruitfully to bring down prices. Therefore, advertising disadvantages the consumer.

Which one of the following, if true, would most weaken the above argument?

- A** Manufacturers would not spend money on advertising unless they believed it would benefit the public.
 - B** By increasing competition, advertising leads to an overall improvement in the quality of goods.
 - C** Advertising does not affect in any way what customers choose to buy.
 - D** The advertising industry is able to employ people who would otherwise be out of work.
 - E** Advertisements often make misleading claims about the quality of the product.
- 18** The government has announced that it wants to reduce the level of ill-health due to workplace stress. Ministers could learn a lot from a recent study of 8000 white-collar workers in America which found that men who had a high level of control over the way they carried out their jobs had a low rate of heart disease, a stress-related disease. Clearly, therefore, the most stressful jobs are those in which employees have little control over the pace of their work and how it is organised. If the government is serious about wanting to reduce the level of stress-related disease, then it needs to encourage employers to give their workers greater control over their work.

Which of the following is the best statement of a major flaw in the argument?

- A** It contradicts itself by implying that the government is not serious about wanting to reduce stress-related disease.
- B** It assumes that in general workers want to be given more control over the organisation of their work.
- C** It ignores the practical question of how much control workers can be given.
- D** It assumes that where there was a low incidence of heart disease this was caused by a reduction in stress.
- E** It assumes that stress in the workplace only affects white-collar workers.

- 19** There is much evidence to suggest that cannabis has therapeutic uses for people suffering from conditions such as multiple sclerosis. Given this, the prescription of cannabis should be made legal. If doctors were legally allowed to prescribe cannabis, multiple sclerosis sufferers and others might be spared much pain. Moreover, if cannabis could be legally prescribed, it would be possible to conduct large-scale surveys to establish whether cannabis really is of benefit in such cases.

Which of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A** There is no justification for existing laws against cannabis.
 - B** Cannabis can relieve the suffering of people with multiple sclerosis.
 - C** Doctors are opposed to existing laws on cannabis.
 - D** It should be legal for doctors to prescribe cannabis.
 - E** Large-scale surveys are needed to establish whether cannabis really is beneficial.
- 20** Scientists are now developing genetically modified crop plants that produce their own pesticide. But pesticides are only effective if they are not overused; if they are applied continuously for long periods, then the pests that they are supposed to kill develop resistance to them. Pesticides only remain effective against pests, therefore, if periods are left during which they are not used. The genetically modified crop plants will produce pesticides continuously.

Which of the following is a conclusion that can reliably be drawn from the above passage?

- A** The pesticides produced by the genetically modified crop plants become ineffective against pests.
- B** The genetic modification of crop plants will make the crops unusable, as they will be contaminated with pesticide.
- C** The genetically modified crop plants will help to prevent the overuse of pesticides.
- D** The development of genetically modified crop plants will enable more effective use of pesticides, since periods may be left when they are not used.
- E** The development of genetically modified crop plants will mean that pesticides need no longer be sprayed onto fields.

- 21** It is not always clear whether a doctor should tell the truth to a patient or not. On the one hand, patients have a right to know what is the matter with them and what the future holds, so that they can make their own informed decisions, however upsetting the truth may be. It is a simple issue of human rights. But on the other hand, a patient's health may sometimes be better served by not knowing a frightening truth. For instance, a doctor may believe that a patient's medical condition will actually worsen if they realise how serious it is. Therefore, there are cases in which doctors have no choice: they must decide in favour of deceiving the patient.

Which of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

- A** Patients accept that a doctor has a responsibility to decide what will be in their best interests.
 - B** Doctors have a duty to conceal the truth if they believe it will frighten the patient.
 - C** Doctors have a duty to tell their patients the truth even when the truth would upset them.
 - D** Doctors have a greater responsibility for a patient's well-being than for their right to know the truth.
 - E** It is the responsibility of doctors to respect a patient's human rights whatever their medical condition.
- 22** The United States attempts to reduce the supply of illegal drugs by intercepting shipments and eradicating illegal crops. Despite these efforts, illegal drugs are still readily available, because growers, for example those in Colombia, move to different areas and plant smaller plots that are harder to find. So more effort should be made to reduce demand. This does not simply mean reducing the total number of people using illegal drugs. Because the important task is to cut consumption by heavy users, drug-dependent criminals in the country's jails should be treated for their addiction. In this way drug-related social problems can be reduced.

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

- A** The price of drugs has not fallen despite efforts to reduce their supply.
- B** Statistics show that many crops of illegal drugs in Colombia have been eradicated.
- C** Most of the drug users in US jails do not want treatment for their drug addiction.
- D** Heavy drug users are responsible for committing most of the drug-related crime.
- E** The majority of the US public are in favour of rehabilitating prisoners who are drug users.

- 23** The quantity of food produced has always fluctuated according to environmental conditions: gluts and shortages have been with us for five hundred years or more. In the past, the free operation of market forces limited the adverse effects of these fluctuations, usually with far more success than any attempts at planned responses. But now we are changing the environment irreversibly. These changes will not only be permanent, but will have such devastating effects on world agriculture that market forces alone will be unable to prevent a global famine. So it is now vital to seek some sort of planned response.

Which one of the following summarises the main conclusion of the argument above?

- A** Environmental changes will have devastating effects on world agriculture.
 - B** Market forces cannot prevent global famine.
 - C** A planned response to current environmental changes is necessary.
 - D** The recent environmental changes cannot be reversed.
 - E** Market forces have limited the adverse effects of the environment on food production.
- 24** Amrik cannot afford to buy the Advanced version of the software. The Professional version is even more expensive, so Amrik cannot afford that either.

Which one of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the above argument?

- A** Amrik does not like foods containing garlic. This pizza contains garlic and anchovies, so Amrik won't like it either.
- B** It is too far for Amrik to walk to the garden centre. The shops are closer, so he will go there instead.
- C** Amrik cannot sleep at night if he drinks a cup of tea after 9pm, because tea contains caffeine. Coffee contains more caffeine than tea, so Amrik won't drink that after 9pm either.
- D** Amrik didn't have enough patience to complete the 1000 piece jigsaw he got for his birthday. The Times crossword also requires patience, so he won't complete that either.
- E** Amrik's hair is shorter, and Callum's hair is longer, than Bill's. So Amrik's hair is shorter than Callum's.

- 25** If the government gives financial support for the arts, this means that a proportion of each person's taxes will be used to finance museums and theatres. But some people who pay taxes never set foot in a museum or a theatre and those who do use these services are usually well able to afford to pay for them. Since no one should be forced to subsidise services which they themselves do not use, taxpayers' money should not be used to support the arts.

Which of the following statements is an application of the principle underlying the argument in the passage?

- A** Without support from central government many aspects of the nation's cultural life would be accessible only to the wealthy.
 - B** London's transport system should not be subsidised from taxpayers' money, since some people who pay taxes never visit London.
 - C** Those who can afford private health insurance should nevertheless pay a contribution to the National Health Service.
 - D** Education should be financed from taxpayers' money because it is a service which is beneficial to the nation as a whole.
 - E** If public funding for art galleries were withdrawn and replaced by admission charges, those who were genuinely interested in art would still visit them.
- 26** Store loyalty cards are designed to encourage customers to use one supermarket only. But all the major supermarkets now have loyalty cards, so people are able to possess a loyalty card for all of their local supermarkets. So it is pointless for the supermarkets to continue using them and they might as well abandon the costly schemes, because they cannot be the primary reason that people choose to shop at a particular store.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A** People obtain loyalty cards for all of their local supermarkets.
- B** Loyalty schemes are not the primary reason that people choose to shop at a particular store.
- C** Supermarkets might as well abandon loyalty schemes.
- D** Loyalty card schemes cost too much to be worthwhile.
- E** Store loyalty cards are designed to encourage customers to use one supermarket only.

- 27 Increasingly, the affluent middle classes are choosing private health care. This has been accompanied by steady decline in the National Health Service (NHS), evidenced by poor funding, understaffing, long waiting lists and substandard hygiene. The obvious solution would be to ban private healthcare, since its take-up by a privileged but growing minority is inevitably driving down standards in the NHS.

Which one of the following is the best illustration of the flaw in the above argument?

- A The NHS has recently received funding increases.
- B The NHS is not in decline, we simply expect more of it these days.
- C People might choose private health care because of decline in the NHS.
- D People should have the freedom to choose the best healthcare option.
- E The NHS would flourish if funds were not diverted to private health care.

28

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Young smokers' perceptions of parents' attitudes to their smoking</i>	<i>Parents' actual attitude to their children smoking</i>
<i>Don't mind</i>	56 %	13 %
<i>Rather they didn't</i>	22 %	15 %
<i>Do not like it</i>	19 %	63 %
<i>Don't know that they smoke</i>	3 %	9 %

Which one of the following conclusions is best supported by the data given above?

- A Young people are likely to be more tolerant of smoking than their parents.
- B Young people tend to underestimate their parents' disapproval of their smoking.
- C More than half of young people's parents are tolerant of smoking.
- D Smoking in a young person can lead to a deterioration in relations with their parents.
- E Parents are unlikely to express strong disapproval of their children's habits.

- 29** Powdered rhinoceros horn has often been claimed to have aphrodisiac properties. However, a recent investigation showed no evidence that it has any chemical effect whatsoever on the human nervous system. What is more, in an experiment in which 100 people were given powdered rhinoceros horn and another 100 people were given powdered rice, without knowing what they were taking, more of those taking the rice indicated that they felt an increase in sexual arousal than did those taking the rhinoceros horn. This demonstrates conclusively that rhinoceros horn is not an aphrodisiac.

Which one of the above is an underlying assumption of the argument in the passage?

- A** Powdered rice does not have significant aphrodisiac properties.
 - B** Claims made about aphrodisiacs are in general untrustworthy.
 - C** Powdered rice has no effect on the human nervous system.
 - D** The claims about its aphrodisiac properties are spread to create a demand for rhinoceros horn.
 - E** A ban on the trade in rhinoceros horn should be enforced worldwide.
- 30** Catalytic convertors are increasingly being fitted to cars as a means of reducing some of the harmful emissions from car exhausts. But, though they eliminate one form of pollution, their action serves only to create another one. Ground-level ozone is kept at very low levels in the cities by some of the pollutants catalysts remove. So the more catalytic convertors that are fitted, the more such ozone can build up. Since ozone is a major cause of choking summer smogs, we can assume that people with breathing difficulties, such as asthmatics, will be much worse off the more that catalytic convertors are used. We should stop fitting cars with catalytic convertors.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the above argument?

- A** Most cars are not fitted with a catalytic convertor.
- B** Catalytic convertors are the best-known method of reducing harmful car emissions.
- C** The pollutants that catalytic convertors remove can create breathing difficulties.
- D** The number of cases of people with breathing difficulties has risen over the past few years.
- E** Air pollution affecting people with breathing difficulties is also caused by emissions from industry.

- 31** Mrs Jackson said that, if Mrs List were promoted, she would resign and we definitely do not want to lose Mrs Jackson. However, we are not going to promote Mrs List: we are going to offer the promotion to Mr Wade. Therefore Mrs Jackson will not resign.

Which of the following is the best statement of the flaw in the argument?

- A** It implies that Mrs Jackson threatened to resign because she wanted the promotion herself.
 - B** It does not explain why it is so important to keep Mrs Jackson.
 - C** It overlooks the possibility that Mrs Jackson might resign even if Mrs List is not promoted.
 - D** It overlooks the possibility that Mrs Jackson would not have resigned even if Mrs List had been promoted.
 - E** It overlooks the possibility that Mr Wade might not accept the promotion.
- 32** Although the general public are demanding action to reduce the number of pedestrians killed in road accidents in residential areas, road bumps in these areas should be abolished. Road bumps were introduced to residential areas because they were cheap, quick to implement, and showed that Local Authorities were acting to reduce road deaths. They are admittedly effective at restricting the speed of traffic but they also hinder emergency services. The London Ambulance Service has stated that they cause delays in reaching critically ill people and this results in 500 deaths per year from heart failure alone in the London area. Electronic speed signs, and more effective signing of speed limits in residential areas, would be just as effective at reducing pedestrian deaths.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A** The general public are demanding action to reduce the number of pedestrians killed in road accidents in residential areas.
- B** Road bumps are cheaper and easier to implement than other ways of reducing traffic speed.
- C** Electronic speed signs are just as effective as road bumps.
- D** Road bumps should be abolished in residential areas.
- E** Road bumps interfere with the Emergency Services causing many deaths.

- 33** Ecotourism now accounts for twenty per cent of tourists. It should provide a sustainable alternative to overuse of natural resources. However, tourists may introduce new diseases to animal populations. Mongooses and meerkats in Botswana have died from tuberculosis caught from humans, and gorillas in East Africa picked up new internal parasites after the introduction of tourism. Moreover, the presence of humans in increased numbers has been shown to stress polar bears, penguins, dolphins and rainforest birds, affecting their natural routines and reducing breeding success.

Which of the following can reliably be inferred from the above passage?

- A** Subtle changes to wildlife health may not be apparent to a casual observer.
 - B** Many ecotourist projects are ecologically viable.
 - C** Dolphins become increasingly frenetic when tourist boats are present.
 - D** Guidelines for ecotourism mostly address obvious issues such as changes in land use or cutting down trees.
 - E** The benefits of sustainable resources may be outweighed by harm to wildlife.
- 34** French golfer, Jean Van de Velde, appeared to throw away his big chance to win the Open Championship, after giving up what could only be described as an unassailable lead. Most players would have been distraught to have victory snatched from them in such a way. But, interviewed afterwards, Van de Velde pointed out that it was, after all, only a game: There are worse things in life, he said. Really? It may be refreshing to hear a top competitor express such a philosophical attitude, but it also explains fully why the prize eluded him. At that level you have to believe that nothing is worse than losing.

Which one of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

- A** If winning had mattered more to him, Van de Velde would have won.
- B** Anyone can win the top tournaments if they believe they can do it.
- C** Nothing in sport is worse than losing.
- D** Van de Velde was very unlucky in the last stages of the game.
- E** Van de Velde should have cared more about losing.

- 35** Birds of the tit family are very fond of tearing paper - wallpaper, newspaper, notices and bank notes included. They make no use of the paper they have torn. We might explain this puzzling behaviour by noting that the technique that they use for tearing paper is identical to their technique for stripping tree bark to search for insects to eat. This indicates that tits that tear paper are searching for food.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the above argument?

- A** On many occasions tits reject food on bird tables to tear paper.
 - B** Tits carry on tearing paper even when it is obvious to humans that no food is forthcoming.
 - C** Eighty per cent of householders who reported paper tearing behaviour fed the birds.
 - D** Tits use moss from trees and wool from dead sheep for nesting materials.
 - E** Animals often engage in apparently pointless activities that turn out to have a purpose.
- 36** Membership of the European Union (EU) has resulted in the maintenance of economic growth and political stability for the countries that make it up. It is desirable that the countries that used to be part of the Communist Eastern Bloc become comparably prosperous and stable. Therefore the European Union should be enlarged as soon as possible to include more Eastern Bloc countries.

This argument is flawed. Which of the following identifies an error in its reasoning?

- A** It assumes that the Eastern Bloc countries have the potential for growth and stability that the existing members had prior to entry.
- B** It fails to acknowledge that there are countries outside the EU that are just as prosperous and stable.
- C** It relies on there being no opposition to the enlargement of the EU from existing member countries.
- D** It implies that exclusion of the Eastern Bloc countries from the EU would result in their being unstable.
- E** It assumes that the success of a political affiliation like the EU can be measured in purely economic terms.

- 37** If Nusra is to find a job that really interests her, then she must be prepared to earn much less than she does in her present job. However, because she is unwilling to sacrifice her current high wage, she will not find a job that would interest her.

Which one of the following most closely parallels the reasoning in the argument above?

- A** If Lopez wants to do better at school, he will need to give up his part-time job. He stresses that he wants to improve his school work, so he will obviously have to give up his job.
- B** If Julie and Mike are to adopt a child, they have to be able to show that they have a stable relationship. Unfortunately, they haven't got a good history of stability in their marriage, so they are going to have to work hard at improving this.
- C** If Myra is to start up her own business, she will need at least £5000 to cover her start up costs. She has only £1000, so she will need to borrow the rest from the bank.
- D** If Paul and Lisa are to be happily married, they must talk to each other more. Their counselling sessions have shown, however, that they find this impossible, so their marriage will not be a happy one.
- E** If Carl and Tesfa are going to go through with their divorce, they must be sure that they don't want to give their marriage another go. They have both insisted that divorce is the only option, so further counselling is pointless.
- 38** We do not pay a fixed amount for electricity, gas or telephone calls irrespective of how much we use. How is it then that some people are still expected to do so in the case of water? People who use relatively little water should no longer be required to subsidise those who use a great deal. Water meters should therefore be introduced in all regions as soon as it is feasible to do so.

Which one of the following best illustrates the principle underlying the argument above?

- A** Our town is providing a series of recycling banks so that residents who wish to recycle household waste can do so.
- B** When we eat out as a group we divide the bill by the number of people dining.
- C** The government is paying compensation to house owners whose properties were damaged in the floods.
- D** The new road is going to be financed by a toll system rather than out of taxation.
- E** People who have difficulty paying the annual television licence fee may pay in monthly instalments.

- 39** Over the past few years in parts of the South West, a number of farm animals have been found killed in the fields. The nature of the injuries indicates that a large predator must have been responsible. Local people talk of a number of 'big cats' such as pumas being responsible, claiming that such animals have indeed been seen. Official investigations into these claims have dismissed them, concluding that any sightings have been of domestic rather than of big cats. But these investigations have failed to deal with the point that, even if the sightings can be explained in terms of domestic cats, the injuries on the carcasses of the farm animals cannot be. Big cats such as pumas must be responsible for these attacks.

Which of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A** Recent attacks on farm animals must have been by big cats such as pumas.
 - B** Sightings of big cats cannot be explained as sightings of domestic cats.
 - C** The injuries on the carcasses of farm animals cannot have been caused by domestic cats.
 - D** There must be a large population of big cats such as pumas in the South West.
 - E** Official investigations into the deaths of farm animals in the South West should have been more thorough.
- 40** The demand for blood donors is increasing all over the world. In Western countries, in particular, demand has been rising so rapidly that shortages have begun to appear. In all such countries, demand is growing much faster than rates of growth in populations aged 18-65 from whom donors are drawn. And, despite a massive research effort to find alternatives, it remains true that in medicine there is no substitute for human blood.

Which one of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage?

- A** As the demand for blood has increased, so has the supply fallen.
- B** The rate of growth of the blood-donor population has been slowing recently.
- C** The increase in the rate of demand for blood is mainly due to population growth.
- D** If more blood donors could be found, there would be no need to find a substitute for human blood.
- E** The problem of the increase in demand for blood shows no sign of disappearing.

- 41** Unlike motorways in many European countries, British motorways were built with hard shoulders for use in a breakdown or emergency. The proposal to use the hard shoulders to relieve congestion during peak traffic hours should not be adopted. It would be inconvenient for emergency services because when the hard shoulders are in use, it would be difficult for emergency vehicles to reach an accident. Nor would it be likely to significantly reduce congestion because it would be difficult to remove obstructions caused by broken down vehicles, and in any case the volume of traffic is increasing massively each year. But the most important reason is that we should seek to maintain Britain's relatively good record of safety on motorways. Other ways of relieving congestion must be sought.

Which of the following is an assumption underlying the above argument?

- A** Britain's record for motorway safety is the best in Europe.
 - B** Congestion on British motorways is not a major problem.
 - C** Accidents are more likely to happen when motorways are congested.
 - D** Changing the design of British motorways will not solve the problem of congestion.
 - E** Britain's good safety record for motorways is partly attributable to the presence of hard shoulders.
- 42** The Eurovision Song Contest is coming in for increasing criticism. No matter how awful the song, Greece can always be relied on to give a maximum 12 points to Cyprus and Russia will vote for the Ukraine. In one year the political voting was so blatant that the commentator for the UK described it as 'ridiculous'. With more Eastern European countries competing, their power blocs are so strong that Western European countries have little hope of winning. The result of the Eurovision Song Contest is now determined by geo-politics and not by music.

Which one of the following, if true, would most weaken the above argument?

- A** Britain nearly always gives high marks to the Irish song.
- B** The Eastern European songs are usually sung in English.
- C** Eastern European countries have shared tastes in music.
- D** Western European countries have won 75% of contests in the past.
- E** Poland has never won the Eurovision Song Contest.

- 43** While the benefits of cardio-vascular exercise are well known, studies have shown that strenuous exercise is actually damaging to the immune system. Athletes, although fit in general terms, are highly susceptible to colds and flu. What's more, many sports people develop cancer at an early age despite their healthy diets and high levels of physical fitness. It is thought by doctors that a healthy immune system is the best way to prevent cancer. Therefore, to increase your chances of a long life, maintaining a high level of physical fitness is ill-advised.

Which one of the following identifies the flaw in the above argument?

- A** There is little or no evidence of a link between strenuous exercise and the immune system.
 - B** There may be other reasons for cancer amongst sports people, e.g. the use of performance-enhancing drugs.
 - C** There is no guarantee that a healthy immune system will prevent someone from developing cancer.
 - D** There may be more lives prolonged by high levels of fitness than are lost to early-age cancer.
 - E** There are much more damaging things for the immune system than strenuous exercise.
- 44** There is a proposal to change our passports from the present, rather imposing, book-type documents to small plastic cards, a proposal which should be rejected. The cards are seen as having many advantages. For example, they will be easier to fit into people's pockets, something which will become more important as other countries move towards compulsory identity cards. But this supposed advantage of smaller size is actually a disadvantage. It is the very fact that passports cannot be slipped into a holidaymaker's pocket (and from there into the sand on the beach) that makes us take special care of them. It is, after all, a very important document.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A** The advantages of the smaller passports are fewer than people think.
- B** The proposals to replace our passports with plastic cards should be rejected.
- C** The importance of passports will diminish if they are small plastic cards.
- D** People will take less care of passports which are small plastic cards.
- E** The proposal to change our type of passports should be looked at more carefully.

- 45** There has been a recent trend to paint speed cameras bright yellow so that they can be seen easily and so act as a deterrent to speeding motorists. This is the exact opposite of what should happen. If cameras are obvious, drivers tend to drive very fast between them and brake hard when they see one ahead, which is a very dangerous practice. If cameras were virtually invisible, drivers would have to keep within the speed limits all of the time for fear of being caught unawares.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion of the above passage?

- A** Painting speed cameras yellow does not make them a deterrent to speeding motorists.
 - B** Making speed cameras easily visible is the exact opposite of a sensible policy.
 - C** The point of installing speed cameras is to encourage drivers to reduce their speed.
 - D** When speed cameras are easily visible drivers drive in a very dangerous way.
 - E** If speed cameras were difficult to see, drivers would be likely to keep within speed limits.
- 46** Success in modern America is very much measured by the quantity of material possessions one has. A lack of material possessions means one is judged to be unsuccessful. Those people with few material possessions therefore must feel a strong sense of failure.

Which one of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

- A** Most modern Americans are successful.
- B** Success can be precisely measured.
- C** Over-emphasis on material possessions creates social problems.
- D** Excessive desire for material possessions is psychologically damaging.
- E** People in America with few material possessions want to be seen as successful.

- 47** Electrical goods retailers often offer 'extended warranties' which guarantee free repairs if the product breaks down during the term of the warranty. Salespeople are keen to persuade customers to buy these warranties because they gain substantial commission from them. Customers may also be tempted to buy them, since they ensure that the purchaser will not be faced with huge repair bills. However, surveys by consumer protection agencies show that the average cost of repairs per customer is less than the average cost of a warranty. Anybody buying electrical goods would, therefore, be well-advised not to buy an extended warranty, as it represents poor value for money.

Which one of the following, if true, would weaken the above argument?

- A** Salespeople knowingly mislead their customers into purchasing a poor value scheme.
 - B** The average cost of repairs is low because for the majority of electrical purchases the actual cost is zero.
 - C** No extended warranty scheme would be viable for the retailer if the average cost of repairs exceeded the cost of the warranty.
 - D** In most warranty agreements there are clauses which state that certain kinds of repair are not covered.
 - E** With or without an extended warranty, customers have statutory rights which retailers are obliged to observe.
- 48** All's fair in love and war - and motor racing. That's how some commentators view the failed attempt by a great driver to disable his main rival's car by steering into it. Had he succeeded, he would have won the championship, because he was ahead on points. Fair? Why not? It may have been dangerous and irresponsible but it was not unfair. This driver had earned his one-point lead in the championship and was trying, like any serious competitor, to defend it. In a reversed situation, the other driver could - and arguably would - have done the same. Motor racing is a tough and uncompromising sport with huge incentives to win at all costs and all the drivers know what to expect.

Which of the following best summarises the main conclusion of the argument above?

- A** It was not unfair of the leading driver to steer into his rival's car.
- B** Motor racing is a fierce and ruthless sport with big rewards for winning.
- C** It is not irresponsible to try to win at all costs.
- D** Some commentators thought that the race had been fought fairly.
- E** Another driver in the same position would have acted in the same way.

- 49** If you intend to have a fire you will need dry kindling wood and a firelighter. Unfortunately the kindling wood has been left out in the rain. So, even though you have a firelighter, you will not be able to light the fire.

Which of the following arguments has the same structure as the argument above?

- A** To be sure of catching the train from Paddington, you should have allowed enough time to get to the station and to find the platform. You may get to the station in time but Paddington is very large so you won't be able to find the platform in time. Therefore you are going to miss the train.
- B** To pass your exam you need to be hard-working and intelligent. You have done very little revision and your score in intelligence tests is very low. Therefore you are going to fail your exam.
- C** Your car is below the high tide line and it is stuck in the sand. The tide will be at its maximum height in 30 minutes and the tow truck is not due for 45 minutes. So you are not going to be able to save your car from by the sea.
- D** To get to Nottingham you will either have to go up the motorway or go on the train. The motorway is blocked due to an accident and will not be open for several hours. Therefore you will have to take the train
- E** For breakfast you like to have either toast or cereal. Unfortunately there is no bread and I have just eaten the last of the cereal. So you will not be able to have any breakfast.

- 50** Launched in January 2008 as part of the U.S. administration's response to the looming financial crisis, the creation of the Council of Financial Literacy, though not without merit, is not necessarily the best way to approach things, especially in regard to the meltdown of subprime mortgages. It's certainly true that many subprime mortgages were given to borrowers who may not have understood the risks. Often borrowers did not even realise that their monthly payment would rise if interest rates went up. Subprime borrowers on an adjustable interest rate, whose mortgage repayments went up by just 7%, accounted for more than 40% of the repossessions begun in the 4th quarter of 2007. Would better information or education in financial literacy have made any difference? We don't need a committee to tell us the simple solution. Don't offer subprime mortgages.

Which one of the following illustrates the principle underlying the above argument?

- A** It wouldn't make sense to withdraw strong alcohol from sale if more could be done to educate people about the dangers of drinking it.
- B** Attempting to educate people about the dangers of drinking strong alcohol is pointless. People would ignore the warnings anyway.
- C** Attempting to educate people about the dangers of drinking strong alcohol doesn't make sense. It would make more sense if people just couldn't buy it.
- D** Creating committees to look into the problems caused by drinking strong alcohol is pointless. A committee would seldom reach a unanimous decision.
- E** Creating committees to look into the problems caused by drinking alcohol is unnecessary. It would be more effective for alcohol manufacturers to put warning labels on their product.

