KPMG

KPMG Critical Reasoning Test 2

Solution Booklet

Instructions

This Critical reasoning test comprises 20 questions, and you will have 20 minutes in which to correctly answer as many as you can.

The test comprises of two sections:
1. Verbal Critical Reasoning Section (10 Questions)
2. Numerical Critical Section (10 Questions)

You will have to work quickly and accurately to perform well in this test. If you don't know the answer to a question, leave it and come back to it if you have time.

You may click Back and Next during the test to review or skip questions.

You can submit your test at any time. If the time limit is up before you click submit the test will automatically be submitted with the answers you have selected. It is recommended to keep working until the time limit is up.

Try to find a time and place where you will not be interrupted during the test.
When you are ready, begin the test.

1. Recent studies have highlighted the harmful effects of additives in food (colors, preservatives, flavor enhancers etc.). There are no synthetic substances in the foods we produce at Munchon Foods – we use only natural ingredients. Hence you can be sure you are safeguarding your family's health when you buy our products.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the contention of Munchon Foods?

A. Some synthetic substances are not harmful

B. Some natural substances found in foods can be harmful

C. Food without additives is unlikely to taste good

D. Munchon Foods produces only breakfast cereals

E. Without preservatives some foods could cause harm

The Best option is B

Explanation
Munchon's contention is that buying their products safeguards health. To weaken that argument we can show that, for some reason, their foods might not be healthy. Munchon claims that the products are healthy because they contain only 'natural ingredients'. But bacteria and molds are 'natural' as are certain poisons derived from plants! Hence the word 'natural' is no guarantee of healthful properties

2.   In Los Angeles, a political candidate who buys saturation radio advertising will get maximum name recognition.

The statement above logically conveys which of the following?

A. Radio advertising is the most important factor in political campaigns in Los Angeles.

B. Maximum name recognition in Los Angeles will help a candidate to win higher percentage of votes cast in the city.

C. Saturation radio advertising reaches every demographically distinct sector of the voting population of Los Angeles.

D. For maximum name recognition a candidate need not spend on media channels other than radio advertising.

E. A candidate's record of achievement in the Los Angeles area will do little to affect his or her name recognition there.

Correct answer is D

Explanation

An L.A. political candidate who buys saturation radio advertising will get maximum name recognition. In other words, such advertising is sufficient for maximum name recognition. If so, then it must be true that, as (D) says, a candidate can get such recognition without spending on other forms of media

3. After thousands of miles of use, the tread on many bike tires wears down. One common theory about why tires wear down contends that the perpetual friction and heat generated by the contact between the tire and pavement erode the material on the surface of the tire. However, a local scientist who is also an avid cyclist proposed a new theory for why bike tires wear down. This scientist contended that chemicals from the road's composition and chemicals from rain residue wore down the surface of the tire.

Which of the following would best evaluate the veracity of the scientist's proposed theory?

A) Ride a road bike aggressively through spring rain storms.

B) Place chemicals from rain water and pavement on a bike's idle tires.

C) Ascertain whether chemicals from the road's composition also reside within the bike's frame.

D) Ascertain whether the bike's frame is made of rust-resistant components.

E) Determine the number of miles that a bike tire can be used on a wet road before wearing down.

Correct Answer: B

There are two different proposed causes of tire decay on bikes: (1) "contact between the tire and pavement" (2) "chemicals from the road's composition and chemicals from rain residue"
In order to ascertain which theory is correct, we must separate the two proposed causes. This can be done by applying chemicals from rain water and pavement (theory 2) onto a bike's idle tires. It is important that the bike is idle as this rule out theory 1.
A. This method does not isolate the new and proposed theory for why bike tires wear down as the testing method exposes the tires to both potential causes (i.e.: (1) tire and pavement contact (2) chemicals from the road's composition and rain residue).

B. This method isolates the two competing sources of explanations for the tires' erosion. If the tires erode under this scenario, we know that it was not riding on the pavement that caused the erosion but rather it was the exposure to chemicals.

C. This method does not account for both the potential influence of chemicals from the road's composition and chemicals from rain residue on the surface of the bike tire. Simply because the manufacturer used or did not use chemicals from the road's composition within the bike's frame does not enable us to conclude that the same chemicals will or will not have a corrosive effect if applied to the bike's tires. In other words, testing effects on the bike's frame is entirely unrelated to testing effects on the bike's tires as these two components (i.e., frame and tire) are made of entirely different materials.

D. This method does not account for the potential influence of chemicals from the road's composition and chemicals from rain residue on the surface of the bike tire. Simply because the manufacturer used or did not use rust-resistant components for the bike's frame does not enable us to conclude what effect water may have on the bike's tires. In other words, testing effects on the bike's frame is entirely unrelated to testing effects on the bike's tires as these two components are made of entirely different materials.

E. Without any useful frame of reference (such as the number of miles a tire can be used on a dry road or the number of miles a tire can be used in a grass field without the chemicals of a typical road), it is impossible to make any logical conclusion about whether friction or chemicals are causing the decay of the tire.

4. A fruit known as amla in certain parts of Asia is an excellent source of vitamin C. A small quantity of the fruit grated and added to salads provides almost all the daily requirement of this vitamin. However, the fruit is very sour. A new process designed to remove most of the sour taste will make the fruit acceptable to American tastes. We are therefore starting to grow this fruit for sale in the United States.

The argument above assumes all of the following **except**

A. Americans generally won't eat very sour foods

B. The new process does not remove a significant part of the vitamin content

C. That a market exists for a new source of vitamin C

D. The fruit can be used only in salads

E. Apart from being sour there are no other objections to eating this fruit

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:
There is a 'missing link' between saying that the fruit is sour and saying that removing the sourness will make the fruit acceptable to American tastes. The missing link is an 'assumption' in this case. Obviously the missing statement should be that Americans don't like sour foods. So now we have found one assumption but this is an 'except question' and so we need to find three more! Since we are relying on the fruit for vitamin C it should be obvious that the author thinks the new process will not take away most of the vitamin. The author also thinks a market exists or they would not be starting to grow the fruit. He or she mentions salads as a way to use the fruit but there is nothing to suggest that there are no other ways to use the fruit and so D is not assumed and is the correct answer. He or she also assumes that there is nothing else wrong with the fruit. (Note: most students go wrong on 'except' questions!)

5. Most scientists agree that new lines of interdisciplinary research are the need of the hour. Even government committees on science have stressed the need for more interdisciplinary projects. Yet, **of ten proposals for new interdisciplinary projects last year, only one was successfully funded**. Some have suggested that this means that as yet researchers are not coming up with sufficiently persuasive projects, or that their proposals are not of high enough quality, or even that the reputations of these researchers is not high enough. However, the real reason probably lies in the way funding is organized. **Funding is still allocated according to the old categories and there are no funds specifically for research that overlaps different subject areas**.

The two parts in bold-face are related to each other in which of the following ways?

A. The first is a finding that the author finds unacceptable; the second is the author's own position

B. The first is a finding that the author attempts to account for; the second is a finding that contradicts the author's main conclusion.

C. The first is a fact that the author attempts to account for. The second is data that explicitly supports the author's main conclusion.

D. The first is a position that the author opposes; the second is the author's main position.

E. The first is a situation that the author finds paradoxical; the second is an assumption that the author uses to reinforce the paradox.

Correct Answer: C
Explanation:
The first statement is a factual statement and could be called a fact, finding, or situation, but not a position (which implies a view or conclusion). So we can eliminate answer D. The author's main conclusion is given in the sentence before the last one. And the last sentence (in bold) is a fact that supports this conclusion. Now only answer C acceptably explains the role of the last sentence.

6. Anton: I sold my house on an internet site last year and was happy with the price. I got a speedy sale and the cost of advertising was insignificant. I would advise you to avoid real estate agents.

Barbie: It is in the interest of the real estate agent to get me the best price for my property because he gets a commission based on the selling price. Therefore, when selling my house I will certainly use an agent rather than trying to sell the house by word of mouth, or by advertising in newspapers or on the internet.

Barbie's could strengthen her position by pointing out all of the following **except**

A. Houses of comparable value often obtain a lower price when sold on the internet

B. Very few houses are sold on the internet at the moment an so a valid comparison is difficult

C. The agent's service includes many add-on benefits in terms of legal fees, surveyor's reports and advice that are not available on internet sites

D. Some buyers pay the agent to find them a cheap house

E. The agent's commission is usually less than the difference between the internet price and the higher price the agent obtains for you

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:
Since this is an 'except' question we must find four ways for Barbie to strengthen her position. The one answer that doesn't strengthen her conclusion will be correct. Barbie wants to use an agent and choices C and E point out benefits of the agent, while choices A and B point to reasons why the internet is not necessarily better. A careful look at D suggests that the agent might not always get the seller the best price, and so that is the best answer.

7. Early data on seat-belt use showed that seat-belt wearers were less likely to be killed in road accidents. Hence, it was initially believed that wearing a seat-belt increased survival chances in an accident. But what the early analysts had failed to see was that cautious drivers were more likely to wear the belts and were also less likely to cause 'big accidents', while reckless drivers were more likely to be involved in 'big' accidents and were less likely to wear the belts.

Which of the following, if true, could an opponent of the view presented above best cite as a reason for recommending continued use of seat-belts?

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:
The argument suggests that seat belt use might not increase the chances of survival, and so the best way to oppose the argument would be to find cases where seat-belt use does increase survival. Hence A is the best answer.

8. French cuisine is highly regarded all over the world. Yet in Paris there are more American restaurants selling burgers and fries (which many people now class as 'junk food') than there are in any other European capital city. Obviously the French are very fond of 'junk food', and are not too proud to eat it.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's contention?

A. There are also a larger number of Lebanese restaurants in Paris than there are in other European capital cities

B. French Cordon Bleu cuisine is very expensive

C. The number of French tourists eating in New York burger restaurants is very low

D. Junk food is actually has high nutritional value when eaten in moderation

E. There are an unusually large number of American tourists in Paris who eat at burger joints

Correct Answer: E

Explanation:
The author's contention (argument) is that the French are very fond of junk food because there are so many American restaurants in Paris. The best way to defeat this argument is to show, if possible, that the French do not eat in those American restaurants. The closest to that is answer E which suggests that the American tourists are the ones who eat at those restaurants.

9. Samuel is obviously a bad fisherman. During the past season, in which he and the five members of his team spent four months on a boat together off Dutch Harbor, AK, he caught fewer fish than any of his teammates.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument above?

A) Two seasons ago, Samuel fished on another boat off Dutch Harbor and caught more fish than any other member of that boat.

B) Before becoming a fisherman, Samuel piloted a fishing boat whose members regularly caught record numbers of fish.

C) While fishing this past season, Samuel fell sick for a week and did not catch any fish during this time.

D) Unlike the other fishermen on his boat, at the order of the captain, Samuel fished this past season with experimental bait.

E) Amongst the fishing community in Dutch Harbor, Samuel has a reputation for being an especially bad fisherman.

Correct Answer: D

The conclusion to the argument is that "Samuel is obviously a bad fisherman" while the premise is Samuel's poor fishing performance relative to the peers on his fishing boat this past season.

The argument is flawed as the conclusion does not follow from the premise. The line of reasoning fails to take into consideration other possibilities for Samuel's performance this past season: perhaps Samuel fished with different bait. Similarly, just because Samuel caught fewer fish in one season than five other individuals does not mean that he is a bad fisherman. It simply means that he caught fewer fish than five individuals in one season. This season could have been an exception in Samuel's career or his teammates could be far above average.

A. The same logical flaws are at play in this answer (except in reverse). Using one season and a comparison to the fishermen on one boat does not provide a wide enough basis to make a judgment about a fishermen's ability relative to all other fishermen. Comparing this past season with another season still does not help to explain Samuel's poor performance this season (whereas knowing that Samuel

used experimental bait this season would provide a justification for why Samuel caught few fish yet was still not a terrible fisherman).

B. Samuel's performance as a pilot does not relate to his ability as a fisherman. This answer is off topic.

C. On first glance, this looks like a good answer. However, it does not consider whether Samuel's teammates were sick during the same period. Perhaps one of Samuel's teammates was sick for two weeks.

D. This answer highlights something that made Samuel's fishing performance uniquely different than his teammates. Moreover, Samuel did not make the choice to fish with alternative bait--his captain ordered him to do it. If Samuel made the choice to fish with alternative bait, it would be his poor fishing judgment that would be at fault. Similarly, the answer makes clear that no other fisherman on Samuel's boat faced the same predicament.

E. If anything, this answer strengthens the argument.

10. Virtually all health experts agree that second-hand smoke poses a serious health risk. After the publication of yet another research paper explicating the link between exposure to second-hand smoke and a shorter life span, some members of the State House of Representatives proposed a ban on smoking in most public places in an attempt to promote quality of life and length of lifespan.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the actions of the State Representatives?

A) The amount of damaging chemicals and fumes released into the air by cigarette smoke is far less than the amount released from automobiles, especially from older models.

B) Banning smoking in most public places will not considerably reduce the percent of the population in the state in question that smokes.

C) The state whose legislators are proposing the tough smoking legislation has a relatively high percent of its population that smoke.

D) Another state that enacted a similar law a decade ago saw a statistically significant drop in lung-cancer rates among non-smokers.

E) A nearby state up-wind has the highest number of smokers in the country.

Correct Answer: D

The State Representatives' argument for banning smoking is based upon scientific research and the presence of a correlation between second-hand smoke and life expectancy. However, it could be strengthened if data existed to show that other regions that enacted tough anti-smoking reform experienced longer life spans. In other words, although we know there is a relationship between second- hand smoke and life expectancy, we do not know that enacting tough anti-smoking reform will influence second-hand smoke levels and thereby influence life expectancy.

A. The legislators' argument is about protecting people from second-hand smoke, not about taking one action versus another (i.e., the legislators are not comparing sources of toxin, but rather attempting to prevent one source from entering the air).

B. The question at hand does not pertain to the percent of the population that smokes but the ability of the law to extend life expectancy. This answer fails to make a connection between the proposed law and extending life expectancy.

C. Although the percent of the state population that smokes will affect the extent of the impact made by the law, it does not support the merits of the law in and of itself. In other words, the argument is not based upon the number or percent of the population that smokes (and by corollary the number and percent of the population affected by second-hand smoke). Rather, the argument is based upon a connection between removing second-hand smoke inhalation via legislation and lengthening life span. This answer provides no direct evidence to strengthen the link between removing second-hand smoke via legislation and lengthening lifespan.

D. The evidence that passing a similar law reduced cancer rates supports the legislators' case that banning smoking in many places will promote "length of lifespan" (i.e., with people dying of cancer less, they live longer).

E. The number of smokers in a nearby state does not influence whether banning second-hand smoke in the state in question will affect life expectancy. The large number of smokers up-stream will hurt air quality and length of life downstream

(weakling the legislators' argument if it effected it at all). Fundamentally, this answer is wrong because it fails to strengthen the connection between removing second-hand smoke via legislation and lengthening life-expectancy.

A rock band tours five cities –Albany, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, and Evanston.

The tour schedule follows these rules:

The tour stops at Boston before either Detroit or Evanston.

The tour stops at one city after Albany before stopping at Detroit

The tour does not stop in Chicago second.

Use the passage above to answer 11-16

11. Evanston cannot be visited
    A. First
    B. Second
    C. Third
    D. Fourth
    E. Fifth

From the conditions, we have C; B..D; B...E; A-D The band must tour Boston before they tour Evanston. Thus, Evanston cannot be toured first.

The correct answer is (A).

12. Suppose the first stop on the tour is Albany. Which of the following must be true?

    A. The band visits Chicago before it visit Detroit.

    B. The band visits Chicago fourth

    C. The band visits Boston second.

    D. The band visits Evanston fourth.

    E. The band visits Chicago before it visits Boston.

    If the band tours Albany first, then they must tour Detroit third. Since they must tour Boston before they tour Detroit, Boston must be toured second. **The correct answer is (C).**

13. Every one of the cities can be scheduled for which particular spot on the tour?

    A. First

    B. Second

    C. Third

    D. Fourth

    E. Fifth

    We arrived at this answer by eliminating all the other choices. The band can tour Boston third since there is time for the band to tour Detroit and Evanston afterward. Albany can be toured third if Evanston is toured fifth. Detroit and Evanston can both be toured third as long as Boston is toured before. Finally, Chicago can also be toured third.

    The correct answer is (C).

14. Which of the following must be true if the band visits Albany immediately before Chicago?

    A. The third city on the tour is Albany.

    B. The first city on the tour is Boston.

    C. The fourth city on the tour is Chicago

    D. The fifth city on the tour is Detroit

    E. The second city on the tour is Evanston

Since we know that the band toured Albany immediately before they toured Chicago, we know that they toured Albany, Chicago and Detroit one after each other in that order. Since the band must tour Boston before they tour Detroit, they must also tour Boston before they tour Albany and Chicago. Since the band must tour Boston before they tour Evanston, Boston must be toured first.

The correct answer is (B).

15. Suppose three consecutive stop on the tour are Boston, Detroit, and Evanston, respectively. What can Albany be visited?

    A. Either first or second.

    B. Either fifth or fourth

    C. Either second or third.

    D. Either third or fifth.

    E. Either fourth or fifth

We arrive at this answer by eliminating all the other choices. For this choice, Two possible schedule could be.

A	B	D	E	C		C	A	B	D	E
1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5

The correct answer is (A).

16. If the band decide to play Detroit last, then

    A. Albany must be third

    B. Boston must be second.

    C. Chicago must be first.

    D. Chicago must be fourth.

    E. Evanston must be fourth.

The band must tour Albany two cities before they tour Detroit. Thus, If they tour Detroit last, or Fifth, then they must tour Albany third. **The correct answer is (A).**
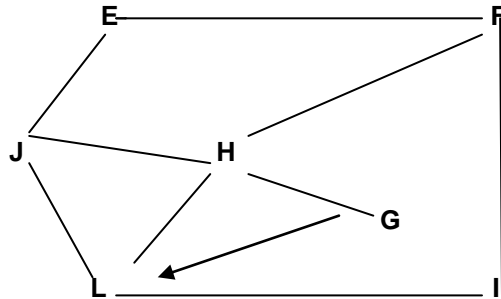
17. A skier is at the Ice Palace and wants to go to the gorge with as few stops as possible. The first two stops will be

    A. Frost forest and then Heavenly

    B. The lodge and then the Gorge

    C. Frost Forest and then Evergreen

    D. The lodge and then Joker's Peak

    E. The Gorge and then Heavenly

From the description of the Ski resort, we can construct the following diagram of the ski trails:

In order to reach the Gorge, the skier must pass by Heavenly. The two shortest paths from the ice Palace to Heavenly are either IL H or I FH. Since the lodge and then Heavenly is not one of the choices, the correct choice is Frost Forest and then Heavenly.

The correct answer is (A)

18. A skier is at Joker's Peak and wants to go to the Ice Palace. Her next stop must be

    A. Ice Palace

    B. Evergreen

    C. Heavenly

    D. The lodge

    E. Frost Forest

As you can see, the shortest route from joker's peak to ice Palace is going directly through the lodge, which is the one and only intermediate stop. All the other routes involve at least two stops. **The correct answer is (D).**

19. Suppose a skier is at the lodge, and she wants to go to Joker's Peak and the Gorge in no particular order but with the fewest possible stops. What will the order of her first two stops?

  A. The Gorge, Heavenly

  B. Heavenly, the Gorge

  C. Heavenly, Joker's Peak

  D. Joker's Peak, Heavenly

  E. Joker's Peak, the lodge

Since the skier cannot go directly from the lodge to the gorge, the shortest path she can take to reach both joker's Peak and the Gorge from the Lodge is L J H G. Any other way would require more stops than that. Thus, joker's Peak and Heavenly are the first two stops, respectively. **The correct answer is (D).**

20. A skier at Evergreen heads to the Ice Palace, but not through frost Forest and in the fewest number of stops. The first two stops have to be.

  A. Joker's peak and then Heavenly

  B. Frost Forest and then the Gorge

  C. Joker's Peak and then the Lodge

  D. The Gorge and then Heavenly.

  E. Heavenly and then the Lodge.

The shortest path involving going to the Gorge and not through T is E J L I. Thus, her first two stops are Joker's peak and the Lodge.

The correct answer is (C).