Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

4 December 2012

The total time for the test is 1 hour.

The test has two parts. Part I, which lasts 20 minutes, contains twenty multiple-choice questions. You should mark your answers to these questions onto this question paper itself. After 20 minutes the paper will be collected from you.

The question paper for Part II, which lasts 40 minutes, will then be given out. It will ask you to write a short essay. After 40 minutes that second question paper, together with your essay, will be collected from you.

You are not allowed to take either question paper from this room, nor any other notes or written material.

The test contains twenty questions. All are standard multiple-choice questions. Mark just one answer to each question by circling the corresponding letter.

1. 'Even a war fought for liberty and human rights requires that these principles be ———. For they are ——— the discipline necessary for military success.'

   Which of the following fillings makes the best sense of the passage?

   A. suppressed / fulfilled through
   B. suspended / incompatible with
   C. followed / disruptive of
   D. rejected / inherent in
   E. espoused / contrary to

2. Every year thousands of passengers take cheap flights on Bryanair. But all of them could afford to pay much more. So Bryanair could easily increase its profits by charging more.

   Which off the following best describes the flaw in this argument?

   A. It ignores the fact that millions of air travelers do not use Bryanair.
   B. It assumes that even if Bryanair's fares were higher it would still have about as many customers.
   C. It implies that Bryanair's cheap fares put customers off.
   D. It overlooks the possibility that it will cost Bryanair more to serve more customers.
   E. It ignores the fact that there are different airlines for different destinations.

3. A newspaper consists of 8 large sheets of paper printed on both sides stacked and folded inward down the middle like a book. The first sheet has the first and last page on one side and the second and second-last page on the other. The second sheet has the third and third-last page on one side and the fourth and fourth-last page on the other. And so on.

   Which four pages all lie on the same sheet?

   A. 1, 2, 15, 16.
   B. 2, 3, 30, 31.
   C. 3, 4, 30, 31.

D. 5, 6, 27, 28.
E. 13, 14, 17, 18.

4. If Bloggs and Co. does not reduce wages then wage costs will continue to erode profits. This could mean the end of the business altogether. The company must either pay lower wages or run the risk of closing down.

   Which of the following best expresses the conclusion of this argument?

   A. Staff morale has reached dangerously low levels.
   B. If wages are not reduced the business could close down.
   C. The employers will have to accept a fall in profits.
   D. A fall in profits could mean the end of the business.
   E. If wages are reduced the company will be saved.

5. Paula says that if she really wants to win the London Marathon she'll have to train hard every day. She told me that she is determined to win, so that means she'll be working hard on her training programme every day from now on.

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

   A. If I had more time to spend on this project I know that it would be very successful. I've been told that I'm not going to be given enough time, so the project isn't going to succeed.
   B. Kevin knew that if he wanted to write a film script he'd have to learn the special techniques needed for such scripts. He has enrolled on a course to learn how to write them, so soon he'll be writing his first script.
   C. If the foreign secretary can bring the two sides together for talks, there's a good chance for peace. Peace is something that both sides want, so he'll be talking to both sides soon.
   D. If the doctor thinks that you should be allowed out of your bed for a short while, then you must be recovering well from your operation. You have recovered much more quickly than she expected, so you'll be out of bed a lot from now on.
   E. If you want to earn a good salary these days, you have to gain considerable experience of working abroad. Since I've always wanted to earn a huge salary, it's obvious that I'm going to have to leave this country for some period of time.

6. Countries with high prison populations also have high crime rates. So if

the government wishes to reduce the crime rate it should invest less money in punishment and more money in preventative measures.

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

- **A.** The correlation between crime rates and incarceration rates indicates that high levels of crime cause high levels of imprisonment.
- **B.** The correlation between crime rates and incarceration rates indicates that high levels of imprisonment cause high levels of crime.
- **C.** Better-educated people commit fewer crimes.
- **D.** Criminals have a right to be treated humanely.
- **E.** It is better to prevent crime than to punish it.

7. 'His —— arguments don't fool us; the scheme is plainly ——. That even he is not —— by his own reasoning is clear enough from his unenthusiastic demeanour.'

Which of these fillings makes the best sense of the passage?

- **A.** specious / untenable / duped
- **B.** cogent / brilliant / persuaded
- **C.** labyrinthine / cunning / unconvinced
- **D.** specious / obviously untenable / unconvinced
- **E.** cogent / cunning / persuaded

8. 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.

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

- **A.** Children can become fluent in two languages if they start learning when young. My children learnt two languages when young, so they speak them fluently.
- **B.** You can become a good flautist 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 flautist.
- **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.

9. To light a fire you need dry kindling wood and a firelighter. You have got a firelighter but the kindling wood has been left out in the rain, so it isn't dry. So you will not be able to light the fire.

    Which of the following arguments has the same structure as this one?

    A. 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 low. So you are going to fail the exam.
    B. To catch the train you should allow enough time to get to the station and to find the platform. You may reach the station in time but it is very large, so you won't be able to find the platform in time. Therefore you will miss the train.
    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 the sea.
    D. To reach Leeds you will have to go by motorway or by 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.

10. The effect of lengthening degree courses at universities from three years to four would be that students would have one-third more time to think about their subject. The results would be graduates whose understanding of their subject was deeper and whose intellectual development was more extended. Universities should support any measure that raises the quality of graduates.

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

    A. University graduates at present have a poor understanding of their subject.
    B. Universities should support the extension of degree courses to four years.
    C. Universities are not proposing to reduce the length of degree courses to two years.
    D. Students should support moves by universities to extend degree courses.
    E. Universities should adopt more rigorous standards for the award of degrees.

11. Attempting to control emissions is a waste of time and money. We are now well past the point where climate change could be reversed, let alone prevented. So all of the time and resources that we are now spending on ways to reduce output and consumption would be better spent trying to alleviate the effects of climate change.

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

A. Climate change is largely natural.
B. There have been many periods of severe climate fluctuation in the past.
C. Reducing emissions is likely to reduce the severity of climate change.
D. Coping with the effects of climate change is very costly.
E. Climate change is likely to benefit people living in some parts of the world e.g. Greenland.

12. 'The author's —— style makes an interesting subject seem extraordinarily ——.'

Which of these fillings makes the best sense of the passage?

A. soporific / pedantic
B. lucid / tedious
C. colloquial / opaque
D. lugubrious / pedantic
E. soporific / tedious

13. If I do the housework the house will be clean and pleasant. If I go to the pub, I will be relaxed and pleasant. I prefer a pleasant me to a pleasant house, so I will go to the pub.

Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning in this argument?

A. If I eat that cake it will taste really good. But if I do not eat that cake I will lose weight. I don't care about losing weight any more! So I'm going to eat that cake.
B. If I learn to drive I will have a useful skill. If I save my money I will be able to travel around the world. I need to be able to drive, but I can learn that later. So I will travel the world while I am young.
C. If I work every evening in a bar, I will be able to buy my own clothes. But if I stay in and do my homework, I will get better grades. Right now it is more important to me to earn my own money, but I know I will

> regret it if I get bad grades. So I will only work two evenings a week.
>
> **D.** If I do more work tonight, I will earn more money. However if I go for a bike ride, I will get fitter. I need to get fitter more than I need more money. So I will go for a bike ride.
>
> **E.** If I go out now I will have fun with my friends. But if I go out I will not do my homework, and if I don't do my homework my teacher will shout at me in front of my friends. So I had better not go out.

14. In a particular year the month of June (which has 30 days) contains five Fridays.

   Which of the following could not be true in that year?

   A. The first Friday in the month occurs before the 4th.
   B. The 1st of June is a Wednesday.
   C. There are only four Tuesdays.
   D. There are five Saturdays.
   E. The 1st of July is a Sunday.

15. Advertising is largely to blame for a rise in personal debt. Research shows that the number of people in the UK with debts of more than 20% of income rose significantly over the last 10 years. Researchers also found that the average expenditure on advertising by loan companies rose by 40% over the same period.

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

   A. It confuses the absolute amount of debt with its value as a proportion of income.
   B. It gives a causal explanation when only a correlation is known.
   C. It makes a sweeping generalization on the strength of a very local sample.
   D. It assumes that all debts are owed to loan companies.
   E. It fails to specify the amount by which debt increased over the preceding 10 years.

16. Undoubtedly unemployment rates affect violent crime. A recent study demonstrated that areas with the highest unemployment rates also suffered the worst rates of violent crime. Consequently, if we could create more jobs in areas with high unemployment, we would be able to eliminate a significant proportion of the violence in our society.

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

A. It is not possible to force existing employers to take on more staff.
B. Many of the unemployed are law-abiding.
C. It has been shown that longer prison sentences are the best deterrent to crime.
D. Poor educational provision is the major cause of both unemployment and violent criminality.
E. Many young people turn to crime when they have too much time on their hands.

17. All successful businessmen and scientists work long hours. Alfred will be a businessman. Therefore if Alfred is going to be successful he will work long hours.

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

    A. If I had more time to spend on this project, I know that it would be very successful. I've been told that I'm not going to be given enough time, so the project isn't going to succeed.
    B. Brian wants his film to have a brilliant script and effective music. But a brilliant script needs a good scriptwriter and effective music needs a good composer. So he'll have to hire a good scriptwriter and a good composer.
    C. Charlie will either be late for the meeting or on time. Anyone who is late for the meeting will be fired. So Charlie will be fired.
    D. Naughty boys and girls get sent to the dungeon. Denise is a girl. So if Denise is naughty she will get sent to the dungeon.
    E. If you really want to win the egg and spoon race, you'll have to train very hard every day. Edwina is entering the egg and spoon race. So if she wants to win she'll be training every day.

18. Which of the following statements is the only true one?

    A. C and D are false.
    B. All five statements on the list are false.
    C. D is the only true statement on this list.
    D. C is the only true statement on this list.
    E. A is false.

19. You have six employees and each gets to take one day of leave this week. There must be five people on duty on any one day. The office is open Monday-Saturday. The six employees have stated a preference for

leave on the following days.

Alex: Tuesday or Wednesday
Billy: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday
Cheryl: Wednesday or Saturday
Danni: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday
Ellie: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday
Frank: Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday

You want to accommodate everyone's wishes. On what day should Danni get leave?

- **A.** Monday
- **B.** Tuesday
- **C.** Wednesday
- **D.** Thursday
- **E.** Saturday

20. A cutlery drawer is divided into compartments . The knife compartment contains six black knives and six red knives. The fork compartment contains six black forks and six red forks.

    I remove knives and forks from the drawer in the dark. Among the following possible draws, which specifies the smallest number of knives and forks that must be removed to guarantee having a knife and fork of the same colour?

    - **A.** Two knives and one fork.
    - **B.** Two knives and two forks.
    - **C.** Seven knives and one fork.
    - **D.** Seven knives and six forks.
    - **E.** Seven knives and seven forks.

YOUR NAME:

Admissions Test – Part II

Faculty of Philosophy

4 December 2012

Please write *one* essay on the topic of one of the questions below. You have 40 minutes for this part of the test.

QUESTION 1

'How is it that in every state a few people can govern very many? Force is always on the side of the many; the governors have nothing to support them but opinion. So it is upon opinion that the state depends. This is as true of the most despotic and military governments as of the most free and popular.' Is this argument plausible? If not, why not? If so, so what?

QUESTION 2

Is the future open in any sense in which the past is not?