Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

6 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, which will then 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. 'The immune system can distinguish self from other at the cellular level. After grafting, if the immune system is not effectively ——, there is a —— of lymphocytes in the lymph glands. The new lymphocytes then —— the foreign tissue.'

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

   A. suppressed / proliferation / activate
   B. suppressed / proliferation / attack
   C. activated / reduction / attack
   D. activated / proliferation / stimulate
   E. primed / reduction / stimulate

2. 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 reducing output and consumption would be better spent trying to alleviate the effects of climate change.

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

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

3. A publisher produces magazines, all of which have a number of pages that is a multiple of 16. Thus, a magazine can have 16, 32, 48 ... pages. The front cover is always counted as page 1.

   The centre spread of the magazine could have pages numbered

   A. 7 and 8.
   B. 12 and 13.
   C. 15 and 16.
   D. 32 and 33.

E. 63 and 64.

4. If Widgett and Co. does not increase wages then staff morale will continue to drop and productivity will fall. This would reduce profits and could mean the end of the business altogether. Either the company must pay better wages or run the risk of closing down.

Which of the following is incompatible with the conclusion of this argument?

A. Staff morale has reached dangerously low levels.
B. The employers will not accept a fall in productivity.
C. If wages are improved the business will close down.
D. A fall in productivity would mean the end of the business.
E. Wages will not increase but the business won't risk closing down.

5. 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.

6. All successful businessmen and scientists work very long hours. Alfred will be a businessman. Therefore if Alfred is going to be successful he will work very 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 go to the dungeon. Denise is a girl. So if Denise is naughty she will go 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. So if she wants to win she'll be training every day.

7. Two bags A and B contain a combination of red and black balls. A contains 2 black balls and 98 red balls. B contains 2 red balls and 98 black balls. Stanley picks one of the bags at random and starts drawing balls at random from it.

   Which of the following statements is true?

   A. If the first ball is red then the second ball is probably black.
   B. If the first ball is red then the second ball is probably red.
   C. If the first ball is black then the second ball is probably red.
   D. If the first two balls are black then the third is probably red.
   E. None of the above is true.

8. Country Z has told us that if we invade Y then she, Z, will invade us; and we definitely do not want to be invaded by Z. However we are not going to invade Y; we have decided to invade W instead. So Z will not invade us.

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

   A. It implies that Z threatened to invade us because she wanted us not to invade Y.
   B. It does not explain why it is so important not to be invaded by Z.
   C. It overlooks the possibility that Z might invade us even if we don't invade Y.
   D. It overlooks the possibility that Z would not have invaded us even if we had invaded Y.
   E. It overlooks the possibility that we will abort the planned invasion of W.

9. If Suzy wins the lottery she'll take a holiday to the Bahamas. But she won't win the lottery, so she won't be taking that holiday.

YOUR NAME:

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.

10. To get a good job these days you need to be intelligent and hardworking. Unfortunately Johnny is very lazy. So, even though he is very intelligent, he won't get a good job.

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

A. To catch the train you must get to the station on time and buy a ticket. You will not reach the station on time. So even though you have got a ticket you won't catch 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 the sea.
D. To get to Leeds you must either have go up the motorway or take 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.

11. Arthur cannot afford to buy the standard model of the latest Audi. The fuel-injection version is even more expensive, so Arthur cannot afford that either.

Which one of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the

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above argument?

- **A.** Arthur does not like foods containing garlic. This pizza contains garlic and anchovies, so Arthur won't like it.
- **B.** It is too far for Arthur to walk to the garden centre. The shops are closer, so he will go there instead.
- **C.** Arthur cannot sleep at night if he drinks a cup of tea after 9pm, because tea contains caffeine. Coffee contains more caffeine than tea, so Arthur won't drink that after 9pm either.
- **D.** Arthur 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.** Arthur's hair is shorter, and Callum's hair is longer, than Bill's. So Arthur's hair is shorter than Callum's.

12. If Nora 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 Doris wants to do better at school, she will need to give up her part-time job. She stresses that she wants to improve her schoolwork, so she will obviously have to give up her job.
    - **B.** If Joseph and Mary 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 Alan is to start up his own business, he will need at least £5000 to cover his start up costs. He has only £1000, so he will need to borrow the rest from the bank.
    - **D.** If Brenda and Tony 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.
    - **E.** If Gilbert and Isabel 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.

13. At the University of X, there are two departments, Music and Geography. You can apply to just one department. Boys and girls apply to the University in the same numbers. The overall acceptance rate for girls is higher than the overall acceptance rate for boys. And yet amongst those

that apply to the Music department the boys are accepted at the same rate as the girls; and amongst those that apply to the Geography department, the boys are accepted at the same rate as the girls.

Which one of the following statements could also be true?

A. The number of boys and girls applying to each department is equal.
B. The number of boys applying to each department is higher than the number of girls applying to that department.
C. The number of boys applying to each department is lower than the number of girls applying to that department.
D. More boys than girls apply to the department with the lower acceptance rate.
E. More boys than girls apply to the department with the higher acceptance rate.

14. A secretary is in a bad mood with her boss and has to write four letters intended for four different people. She makes sure that although each intended recipient gets just one letter, all but one of them receives one written to someone else.

In how many different ways can she send the four different letters to achieve this?

A. 4
B. 5
C. 6
D. 7
E. 8

15. Technology that would capture carbon dioxide emitted by power plants and sequester it underground instead of releasing it into the atmosphere might double the cost of generating electricity. But sequestration does not affect the cost of electricity transmission and distribution. So delivered prices will rise less, by no more than 50 percent. Research into better technologies for capturing carbon dioxide will undoubtedly lower costs.

The passage implies which of the following about the current cost of generating electricity?

A. It is higher than it would be if better technologies for capturing carbon dioxide were available.
B. It is somewhat less than the cost of electricity transmission and distribution.

C. It constitutes at most half of the delivered price of electricity.

D. It is dwelt on by policymakers to the exclusion of other costs associated with electricity delivery.

E. It is not fully recovered by the prices charged directly to electricity consumers.

16. 'The author's —— style makes a dry subject seem extraordinarily ——.'

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

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

17. 'Even wars fought for liberty and democratic rights require that these principles be ———. For the principles are ——— the military discipline necessary for conducting the wars.'

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

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

18. You are making plans for your employees' time off over the first six months of 2013. You ask each of your six employees in which month he or she wants time off, and get the following answers:

Alex: February, March or June
Billy: February, March, April or May
Cheryl: March or June
Danni: January, February, April or June
Ellie: January, February, March or June
Frank: February or March

Each employee can take time off in only one month; not more than one employee can be off in any one month. If you want to give each employee time off in a month that he or she wants, when should you allow Danni time off?

A. January
B. February
C. April
D. May
E. June

19. A drawer contains ten green socks and ten yellow socks. What is the smallest number of socks that I must randomly take out so as to be *certain* of drawing a matching pair of green socks?

A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 11
E. 12

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

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

YOUR NAME:

Admissions Test – Part II

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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

'£1 could easily save the life of a child in Africa. So every time you forgo the opportunity to donate this much to a relief agency you are causing the death of an innocent person. But everyone in the West does this many times every day; what makes it even worse is that we all know this perfectly well. So most of us are morally on the same level as serial killers.'

What if anything is wrong with this argument?

QUESTION 2

Prof. X has invented a device that can scan your brain and download your psychology (memories and all) into another brain, whose psychological contents it altogether replaces. Unfortunately the process has not yet been perfected and the 'donor' brain invariably suffers immediately terminal damage. Prof. X offers by this means to transfer your psychology into the brain of his colleague Dr Y in Sydney. Is this a new way to die or a new way to visit Australia?