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Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

10 December 2013

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.

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

1. 'If there is nothing to absorb the energy of sound waves, they travel on —, but their intensity — as they travel further from their source.'

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

- A. indefinitely / mitigates
 - B. slowly / mitigates
 - C. erratically / diminishes
 - D. indefinitely / diminishes
 - E. slowly / alleviates
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 of 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 implies that Bryanair's cheap fares put customers off.
 - C. It assumes that even if Bryanair's fares were higher it would still have about as many customers.
 - D. It ignores the fact that there are different airlines for different destinations.
 - E. It overlooks the possibility that it will cost Bryanair more to serve more customers.
3. A publisher produces magazines all of which have a number of pages that is a multiple of 32. Thus, a magazine can have 32, 64, 96 ... pages. The front cover is always counted as page 1.

The centre spread of the magazine could have pages numbered

- A. 15 and 16.
 - B. 31 and 32.
 - C. 50 and 51.
 - D. 63 and 64.
 - E. 96 and 97.
4. If Bloggs and Co. does not increase wages then staff morale will continue

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to drop and productivity will fall. Either the company must pay better wages or run the risk of closing down.

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

- A.** If wages are not increased the business could close down.
 - B.** Staff morale has reached dangerously low levels.
 - C.** The employers will have to accept a fall in productivity.
 - D.** A fall in productivity could mean the end of the business.
 - E.** If wages are improved the company will be saved.
5. Earth Rover is attempting to dominate the automobile market by promoting its products with an expensive television campaign. But the results of recent surveys reveal that, in the opinion of 80% of the customers, Earth Rover already dominates the market. Since any product with more than half of all sales in any given market is already dominant, Earth Rover dominates the market now and must only preserve its market share in order to continue to dominate its market.

What questionable move does this argument depend on?

- A.** It confuses a condition necessary for a certain outcome to happen for a condition that, alone, is sufficient to assure that result.
 - B.** It treats the failure to establish the falsity of a specific claim as tantamount to showing that such a claim is certainly accurate.
 - C.** It ignores the possibility that Earth Rover might have received government funding to run its television campaign.
 - D.** It describes the result of a survey that was done in the past as acceptably predicting future conditions.
 - E.** It accepts evidence that a claim is widely believed to be true as evidence that the claim itself is true.
6. All successful businessmen and scientists work very long hours. Tom will be a businessman. Therefore if Tom 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.** Naughty boys and girls go to the dungeon. Charlotte is a girl. So if Charlotte is naughty she will go to the dungeon.

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- C.** Louis 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.
 - D.** Paul will either be late for the meeting or on time. Anyone who is late for the meeting will be fired. So Paul will be fired.
 - E.** If you really want to win the egg and spoon race, you'll have to train very hard every day. Emily 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 yellow and blue balls. A contains 2 blue balls and 98 yellow balls. B contains 2 yellow balls and 98 blue balls. Sarah 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 yellow then the second ball is probably blue.
 - B.** If the first ball is blue then the second ball is probably yellow.
 - C.** If the first ball is yellow then the second ball is probably yellow.
 - D.** If the first two balls are blue then the third is probably yellow.
 - E.** None of the above is true.
8. 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 gives a causal explanation when only a correlation is known.
 - B.** It confuses the absolute amount of debt with its value as a proportion of income.
 - 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.
9. 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

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good flautist.

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

- A.** 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.
- B.** You can avoid being overweight if you take sufficient exercise. You take sufficient exercise, so you will not become overweight.
- C.** You can become a good singer if you have perfect pitch. You are a good singer, so you must have perfect pitch.
- D.** 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.
- E.** 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.

10. 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 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.
- B.** 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 on time, but Paddington is very large so you won't be able to find the platform on time. Therefore you are going to 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 get to York you must either 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. Michael cannot afford to buy the paperback version of the book. The

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hardback version is even more expensive, so Michael cannot afford that either.

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

- A. Michael does not like foods containing garlic. This pizza contains garlic and anchovies, so Michael won't like it.
- B. It is too far for Michael to walk to the garden centre. The shops are closer, so he will go there instead.
- C. Michael 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.
- D. Michael cannot go skiing because he is not fit enough. Swimming is physically more demanding than skiing, so Michael cannot go swimming either.
- E. Michael's hair is shorter, and Callum's hair is longer, than Bill's. So Michael's hair is shorter than Callum's.

12. If Anna 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 Paula 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 Peter and Suzanna 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 Edward and Rosie 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.
- D. If Megan and David 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 John 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.

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13. Books & Co. publishes two journals, the Journal of X Studies and the Journal of Y Studies. You can submit an article to just one journal. Men and women submit articles to Publisher & Co. in the same numbers. The overall acceptance rate for women is higher than the overall acceptance rate for men. And yet amongst those that submit articles to the Journal of X Studies the men are accepted at the same rate as the women; and amongst those that submit articles to the Journal of Y studies, the men are accepted at the same rate as the women.

Which one of the following statements could also be true?

- A. The number of men and women submitting articles to each journal is equal.
 - B. More men than women submit articles to the journal with the higher acceptance rate.
 - C. More men than women submit articles to the journal with the lower acceptance rate.
 - D. The number of men submitting articles to each journal is higher than the number of women submitting articles to each journal.
 - E. The number of men submitting articles to each journal is lower than the number of women submitting articles to each journal.
14. A secretary is in a bad mood with her boss and has to write three letters intended for three different people. She makes sure that each of the recipients of the letters will receive one written to someone else.

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

- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 5
 - E. 6
15. 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.

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- 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.

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

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

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

17. 'Even wars fought for liberty and democratic rights require that these principles be occasionally —. 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.** suspended / incompatible with
- B.** suppressed / fulfilled through
- C.** rejected / inherent in
- D.** espoused / contrary to
- E.** followed / disruptive of

18. You are making plans for your employees' time off over the first six months of 2014. You ask each of your six employees in which month he or she wants time off, and get the following answers:

Andrew: February, March or June
Beatrice: February, March, April or May
Charlotte: March or June
David: January, February, April or June
Emily: January, February, March or June
Fiona: 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 David time off?

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

19. 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.

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.

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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

Janet the amazing scientist transplants Jill's left brain hemisphere into an empty-headed body and destroys Jill's right brain hemisphere. The recipient, Lefty, has the same psychology (memories and all) that Jill had. Is Lefty the same person as Jill? Explain your answer.

QUESTION 2

'We have no idea what the needs and desires of future people will be. So it is impossible to specify what our responsibilities to these future people are. But if we cannot specify what our responsibilities to future people are, we have no moral responsibility towards them. Therefore, we have no moral responsibility towards future people.'

What, if anything, is wrong with this argument?