

YOUR NAME:

Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

11 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. 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.

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

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
2. Macrohard is attempting to dominate the computer market by promoting its products with an expensive television campaign. But the results of recent surveys reveal that, in the opinion of 87% of the customers, Macrohard already dominates the market. Since any product with more than half of all sales in any given market is already dominant, Macrohard 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 Macrohard might have received government funding to run its television campaign.
 - D. It accepts evidence that a claim is widely believed to be true as evidence that the claim itself is true.
 - E. It describes the result of a survey that was done in the past as acceptably predicting future conditions.
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.

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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. The continued use of drug X to treat patients with disease Y cannot be adequately supported by the proposition that any drug that treats disease Y is more effective than no treatment at all. What must also be taken into account is that drug X is very expensive and has notable side effects.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of this argument?

- A. Drug X is more effective than other forms of treatment of the disease.
 - B. The possible effectiveness of drug X in treating the disease is not sufficient justification for using it.
 - C. Drug X should not be used to treat the disease unless it is either effective or inexpensive.
 - D. Drug X is more expensive than other forms of treatment of the disease.
 - E. Drug X is more effective than no treatment at all.
5. 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.

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. Eleanor knew that if she wanted to write a film script she would have to learn the special techniques needed for such scripts. She has enrolled on a course to learn how to write them, so soon she will be writing her first script.
- C. Tony says that if he really wants to win the London Marathon he will have to train hard every day. He told me that he is determined to win, so that means he will be working hard on his training programme every day from now on.

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- D. 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.
 - E. 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.
6. School examination results in England this year reinforce the trend in improving pass rates. There is, however, no other evidence of improvements in school leavers' abilities, such as the data coming from employers or universities. One can reasonably conclude that teachers are simply succeeding in coaching their pupils better for examinations than in previous years.

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

- A. Employers' expectations of school leavers are unrealistic.
 - B. Teachers in previous years did not attempt to coach pupils for examinations.
 - C. Abilities of school pupils vary from year to year.
 - D. School examination results are a reliable indicator of pupils' abilities.
 - E. The level of difficulty of examinations has not been falling.
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. labyrinthine / cunning / unconvinced
 - B. specious / untenable / duped
 - C. specious / obviously untenable / unconvinced
 - D. cogent / brilliant / persuaded
 - E. cogent / cunning / persuaded
8. 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.

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

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- 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 avoid being overweight if you take sufficient exercise. You take sufficient exercise, so you will not become overweight.
 - C. 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.
 - D. You can become a good singer if you have perfect pitch. You are a good singer, so you must have perfect pitch.
 - E. 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.
9. 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.

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

- A. 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.
 - B. To enter for free you need to be over 65 and earn less than £8000 a year. You are 40 and your yearly salary is £20000. So you will not be able to enter for free.
 - 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 Portsmouth 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 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 results would be graduates whose understanding of their subject was shallower and whose intellectual development was much less extended. Universities should resist any measure that leads to a lowering of the quality of graduates.

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

- A. University graduates at present have an in-depth understanding of their subject.
- B. Universities are not proposing to reduce the length of degree courses to two years.
- C. Universities should oppose the shortening 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.

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. Reducing emissions is likely to reduce the severity of climate change.
- C. There have been many periods of severe climate fluctuation in the past.
- 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. 'It may be useful to think of a character in a fiction as a function of two — impulses: the impulse to individualize and the impulse to —.'

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

- A. divergent / typify
- B. similar / typify
- C. analogous / humanize
- D. disparate / aggrandize
- E. comparable / delineate

13. 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.

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

- A. 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.
 - B. 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 anymore! So I'm going to eat that cake.
 - C. 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.
 - D. 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.
 - 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 July (which has 31 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 July is a Wednesday.
 - C. There are only four Tuesdays.
 - D. There are also five Sundays.
 - E. The 31st of July is a Monday.
15. Country Z has told us that if we invade Y then it, 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 it 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 would not have invaded us even if we had invaded Y.
- D. It overlooks the possibility that Z might invade us even if we don't

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invade Y.

E. It overlooks the possibility that we will abort the planned invasion of W.

16. Independent tests have confirmed that, on average, the antilock brakes found on Lodge minivans outperform those of any other minivan. Thus, any consumer purchasing a minivan based solely on the criteria of safety should purchase a Lodge minivan.

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

- A.** Minivans are less safe than some other types of automobiles.
- B.** Most consumers purchase cars based on multiple criteria in addition to safety.
- C.** The Azda minivans achieved a better frontal crash-test rating than the Lodge minivans.
- D.** During the test, the brakes on some Azda minivans outperformed those on some Lodge minivans.
- E.** The brakes on Lodge minivans are simple to use and maintain.

17. Naughty boys and girls get sent to the dungeon. Carla is a girl. So if Carla is naughty she will get sent to the dungeon.

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.** All successful businessmen and scientists work long hours. Simon will be a businessman. Therefore if Simon is going to be successful he will work long hours.
- C.** Edward 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.** Helen will either be late for the meeting or on time. Anyone who is late for the meeting will be fired. So Helen will be fired.
- E.** If you really want to win the egg and spoon race, you'll have to train very hard every day. Zoe 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.

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- 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.

Alan: Tuesday or Wednesday

Barbara: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday

Claudia: Wednesday or Saturday

Daniel: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday

Emma: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday

Felicity: Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday

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

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

20. A drawer contains ten black socks and ten brown socks. What is the smallest number of socks that I must randomly take out so as to be *certain* of drawing two black socks?

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

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Admissions Test – Part II

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11 December 2013

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

'We know a great deal about the way that genetic information is encoded in DNA, and whole bio-tech industries are based on this knowledge.'

'But the DNA theory could turn out to be wrong, just as Newtonian mechanics turned out to be wrong. So we can't say that we know that's how genetic information is encoded.' Discuss.

QUESTION 2

Alison has a summer job in the offices of major polluter DirtyCorp, when she discovers that she can easily divert a small amount of money from company accounts every day without anyone noticing. If she moves £20 every day for two months, she will have over £1000 by the end of the summer to donate to her favourite environmental charity Clean. The charity will use this money to clean the area's drinking water, thereby saving hundreds of children from serious disease. After considering the issue carefully, Alison decides to divert the money. Is her action permissible? Explain your answer.