

YOUR NAME:

# Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

12 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.

YOUR NAME:

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

1. 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 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 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.
- 
2. '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 newly produced lymphocytes then — the foreign tissue.'

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

- A. activated / reduction / attack
  - B. activated / proliferation / stimulate
  - C. primed / reduction / stimulate
  - D. suppressed / proliferation / activate
  - E. suppressed / proliferation / attack
- 
3. A publisher produces magazines all of which have a number of pages which 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.

YOUR NAME:

4. If Dombey & Son does not reduce wages then wage costs will continue to erode profits. 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. The employers will have to accept a fall in profits.
  - C. If wages are not reduced the business could close down.
  - D. If wages are reduced the company will be saved.
  - E. A fall in profits could mean the end of the business.
5. Calves farmed for veal are reared in extremely cruel conditions and have a short and miserable life. Other meats are available, such as lamb, and meat eaters who are concerned about cruelty to animals should avoid veal and consume one of these alternatives.

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

- A. Animals should be allowed to live as long as possible before being eaten.
  - B. Calves should not be reared for consumption of their meat.
  - C. Animals have a right to be treated humanely.
  - D. The methods used to rear animals other than calves for meat are not equally cruel.
  - E. Meat eaters who are concerned with cruelty to animals do not eat veal.
6. In many pre-schools, children tend to commonly get colds before their resistance develops and the colds become much less frequent. It is clear that a child requires several colds before white blood cell concentrations rise high enough to effectively deal with colds.

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

- A. Children commonly spread viruses and bacteria in a small closed environment.
- B. The use of Vitamin C increases resistance to the common cold and decreases its frequency.
- C. There are many strains of the cold virus and children develop resistance to individual strains.
- D. Parents stock up on cold medicine after a child gets sick that alleviate the symptoms of a cold.

YOUR NAME:

- E.** White blood cells fight infection and their production levels are stimulated by high infection levels.
7. 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.
8. James cannot afford to buy the paperback version of the book. The hardback version is even more expensive, so James cannot afford that either.

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

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

YOUR NAME:

9. 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
10. The opening theme of the song *Love at First Sight*, released in 2008, is virtually identical to the opening theme of *Flying in the Sky*, released in 1982. The theme is so unique that it is unlikely that the similarity is sheer coincidence. Therefore, it is probable that the writer of *Love at First Sight* had heard *Flying in the Sky*.

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

- A. *Love at First Sight* is a romantic song, whereas *Flying in the Sky* is a jazz song.
  - B. A third song that was probably heard by both the writer of *Love at First Sight* and the writer of *Flying in the Sky* was released in 1967 and contained essentially the same opening theme.
  - C. Both songs were released only in the United Kingdom.
  - D. The writer of *Love at First Sight* has written many songs with novel opening themes.
  - E. According to critics, *Love at First Sight* is a far better song and contains many innovative themes.
11. The Martial Arts Gym offers two courses, Karate and Judo. A person can apply to only one course. Men and women apply to the Martial Arts Gym in the same numbers. The overall acceptance rate for women is higher than the overall acceptance rate for men. And yet amongst those that apply to the Karate course, the men are accepted at the same rate as the women; and amongst those that apply to the Judo course, 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 applying to each course is equal.

YOUR NAME:

- B.** The number of men applying to each course is higher than the number of women applying to that course.
- C.** The number of men applying to each course is lower than the number of women applying to that course.
- D.** More men than women apply to the course with the higher acceptance rate.
- E.** More men than women apply to the course with the lower acceptance rate.

12. 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.** 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.
- B.** To reach Newcastle 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.
- C.** To be sure of catching the train you should have allowed 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.
- D.** 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.
- 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.

13. What causes the periods of strong and widespread stormy weather that Earth sometimes suffers? The answer is sunspots. Periodically, the sun develops relatively cool dark areas known as sunspots. Scientists have found that periods of high sunspot activity coincide with the stormy periods on Earth.

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

- A.** It disputes the fact that storms are the result of low-pressure systems in the Earth's atmosphere.

YOUR NAME:

- B.** It ignores the possibility that scientists' measurements might not be correct.
- C.** It overlooks the fact that there is always a storm somewhere on Earth.
- D.** It assumes that because two events coincide, one is the cause of the other.
- E.** It ignores the fact that there are stormy periods in some areas but not in others while there is sunspot activity.

14. If Alice 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 James and Jane 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.
- B.** If Helen and Robert 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 Simon wants to do better at school, he will need to give up his part-time job. He stresses that he wants to improve his schoolwork, so he will obviously have to give up his job.
- D.** If Louise is to start up her own business, she will need at least £5000 to cover her start up costs. She has only £1000, so she will need to borrow the rest from the bank.
- E.** If Frank and Laura 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.

15. It is often recommended that swimmers eat higher amounts of protein than would normally be indicated by their bodyweights in order to help build muscles broken down in strenuous swimming sessions. But recent studies have shown that any ingested protein that is in excess of the body's maintenance requirements is simply excreted. Therefore, swimmers can safely ingest a normal amount of protein for their bodyweight without worrying about any additional requirements which their vigorous lifestyle imposes on them.

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

YOUR NAME:

- A. Swimmers are generally larger than non-swimmers, so they need more protein.
- B. Swimmers enjoy eating food that contains a lot of protein.
- C. The dangers of excess protein intake are more substantial and longlasting than previously thought.
- D. The recent studies mentioned in the argument have all been funded by producers of food containing high levels of protein.
- E. Vigorous lifestyles breakdown more muscle tissue than can be rebuilt by normal protein intake.

16. For some theoretical purposes, we can treat the size of a distant star as \_\_\_\_\_. That is to say, we can regard the star as a luminous \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- A. infinite / disc
- B. unknown / object
- C. negligible / point
- D. miniscule / planet
- E. miniscule / entity

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

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

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

18. 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. Each employee has stated a preference for leave on the following days.

Andrew: Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday  
Beatrice: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday  
Charlotte: Wednesday or Saturday  
David: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday  
Emily: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday



YOUR NAME:

Fiona: Tuesday or Wednesday

You want to accommodate everyone's preferences. On what day should David get leave?

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

19. A drawer contains four black socks and four blue socks. What is the smallest number of socks that I must randomly take out so as to be *certain* of drawing two socks of the same colour?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5
- E. 6

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

Faculty of Philosophy

12 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

Space explorer Emily replaces each piece of her starship as it decays. After some time, each piece of the starship has been replaced. Is the starship Emily is left with at the end of this process the very same starship as the starship with which she began? Explain your answer.

### QUESTION 2

Tony has been living in the same prison cell all his life. The routine is the same every day: bread and water in the morning, potato and stock for lunch, more bread and water in the evening. When he's not sleeping, Tony does push-ups and counts the bricks in his cell. He has never tried to get out. In fact, it has never occurred to him. He is quite happy with his prison existence. Nor does anyone try to get him out or suggest that he should try to escape. Is Tony's prison existence free? Explain your answer.