YOUR NAME:

Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

Wednesday 6th December 2017

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

1. "His arguments are ____ and his proposal is ____. His lack of enthusiasm shows that even he is not ____ by his own reasoning."

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

    A. brilliant   /   cunning   /   persuaded

    B. brilliant   /   promising   /   persuaded

    C. complicated   /   cunning   /   confused

    D. complicated   /   dreadful   /   confused

    E. flawed   /   dreadful   /   fooled

2. "To avoid these bottles being ____, they must be packed ____. After all, they are very ____."

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

    A. damaged   /   carefully   /   fragile

    B. overheated   /   rapidly   /   early

    C. overheated   /   carefully   /   fragile

    D. damaged   /   rapidly   /   hot

    E. late   /   rapidly   /   damaged

YOUR NAME:

3. "If Anna is to complete the marathon, then she must train regularly. However, because she is unwilling to devote time to training, she will not complete the marathon."

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

A. Harry and Iona must talk to each other, in order for them to work well together. They will not work well together, since they do not talk to each other.

B. If Bella wants to earn more money, she will need another job. She wants to earn more money, so she will have to get another job.

C. If Clara and David are to start a business, they have to cooperate. They haven't got a good history of cooperating, so they must improve this.

D. If Ed is to afford a holiday, he will need at least £1000. He has only £500, so he will need to borrow the rest.

E. If Fiona and Gary are going to divorce, they must be sure of their decision. They both insist that divorce is the only option, so counselling is pointless.

4. "Children who are above average height also tend to have diets that are more healthy than average. So if David wishes to increase his child's height, then he should feed his child healthy food."

Which of the following is probably being assumed by this argument?

A. David's child is not already tall.

B. It is good for children to be tall and healthy.

C. David's child is an average child.

D. All families are fairly similar.

E. There is no third causal factor that affects both children's height and also the healthiness of their diet.

3

5. "If the team practises every day, then the team's star will be exhausted. However the team is not going to practise every day; the team will have weekends off. So the star will not be exhausted."

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

    A. It overlooks the possibility that in the future the manager may have a change of mind and the team will not have weekends off.

    B. It overlooks the possibility that the team might win whether or not the star is exhausted.

    C. It does not explain why it is so important for the star not to be exhausted.

    D. It overlooks the possibility that the star might be exhausted even if the team does not practise every day.

    E. It overlooks the possibility that the star would not be exhausted even if the team practises every day.

6. "Even if a new phone would make Sam happy, it does not follow that she should buy one. What must also be taken into account is that phones can be very expensive and there will be a new model coming out next year."

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

    A. Sam should either buy a phone now or wait a year.

    B. There is no perfect time to buy a phone as new models are always coming out.

    C. The fact that Sam would enjoy having a new phone does not by itself justify Sam in buying one.

    D. Sam should keep shopping until she finds an inexpensive phone.

    E. Sam should probably save her money and spend it on something other than a new phone.

7. An urn contains 1 yellow ball, 2 blue balls, 2 red balls and 2 green balls.

What is the minimum number of balls that you must take from the urn, in order to guarantee that you have two of the same colour?

    A. 2.

    B. 3.

    C. 4.

    D. 5.

    E. 6.

8. "Dancing bears have miserable lives. Other forms of animal entertainment are available, such as zoos. Insofar as people are concerned about animal welfare, they should not watch bears dance, and instead visit the zoo."

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

    A. Zoo animals are not as miserable as dancing bears.

    B. Animals have a right to be treated humanely.

    C. Zoos are not significantly more expensive than dancing bear shows.

    D. Animal welfare activists never watch bears dance.

    E. There are no bears at the zoo.

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

    A. C is the only true statement on this list.

    B. All five statements on this list are true.

    C. E is true.

    D. A and C are false.

    E. All five statements on the list are false.

10. "None of Snoopy's books are interesting. No inaccessible book is simple. No complicated book is charming. Any uninteresting book is inaccessible."

If all of this is true, what can we legitimately conclude?

    A. All Snoopy's books are simple.

    B. All Snoopy's books are not charming.

    C. All Snoopy's books are accessible.

    D. All inaccessible books are uninteresting.

    E. None of the above.

11. "A band wants to sell out their concert. Concerts sell out only if they are well advertised. The band plans on spending the largest amount ever on the concert's advertising campaign. So the concert will sell out."

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

    A. It does not consider which types of advertising are the most effective.

    B. It ignores the possibility that the costs of advertising exceed the revenue from ticket sales.

    C. It assumes that advertising causes ticket sales when all we know is that advertising and ticket sales are correlated.

    D. It confuses a condition necessary for a certain outcome to happen for a condition that, alone, is sufficient to assure the result.

    E. It assumes that future concerts' ticket sales can be predicted from past sales.

12. "If the government does not spend more money on hospitals, then public health will continue to get worse and people will work fewer hours. This would harm the economy and could mean the government is voted out of office."

Which of the following is incompatible with the argument above?

A. The government will not spend more on hospitals, but it won't risk being voted out of office.

B. Public health has reached dangerously low levels.

C. People do not enjoy working.

D. Even if the government spends more money on hospitals, it will still be voted out of office.

E. People working fewer hours would mean the end of the government.

13. "Al is too young to cycle. You have to be older to drive than to cycle. So Al is too young to drive."

Which of the following is most similar to the reasoning used in the above argument?

A. Al cannot sleep if he drinks coffee after dinner. Tea contains less caffeine than coffee, but he still won't drink it.

B. Morocco is hotter than France, and Al wants to live somewhere only if it is colder than France. So Al does not want to live in Morocco.

C. Al does not like cycling. Rowing is like cycling, so he won't like rowing.

D. It is too far for Al to drive to the supermarket. The market is closer than the supermarket, so he'll go there instead.

E. Al does not have enough money to buy a horse. A motorcycle is also expensive, so he won't buy that either.

14. Rob amuses Peter and Sara. Peter amuses himself, Rob and Sara. Tara doesn't amuse anyone. Sara amuses herself, Peter and Tara.

Which of the following sentences is false?

   A. Everyone who amuses themselves amuses Peter.

   B. Everyone who is amused by Peter also amuses Sara.

   C. There is someone who is amused but doesn't amuse anyone.

   D. Anyone who amuses Peter and someone else is also amused by Peter.

   E. There is someone who amuses Peter but does not amuse Sara.

15. Julia is giving people a lift in her minivan. She keeps letting people into the minivan, until there are either (i) three passengers, who all know each other, or (ii) two passengers, who do not know each other.

What is the maximum number of people that she will let into the minivan?

   A. 2.

   B. 3.

   C. 4.

   D. 5.

   E. 6.

16. "All bad acrobats are clumsy. Since monkeys are agile, they are not bad at acrobatics."

Which of these is most similar to the above argument?

A. To be a good photographer, you have to be artistic. So it is not surprising that Hattie is both a good photographer and also artistic.

B. No one wins at chess, unless he or she is patient. The vicar is impatient. So when the vicar plays chess, he loses.

C. A sufficient condition for being an effective politician is that you not be shy. But Jim is shy. So if Jim is a politician, then he is an ineffective one.

D. Any animal who is fast will survive in the wild. But snails are slow. So if a snail survives in the wild, then it must have a very strong shell.

E. All foxes are cunning. Since Gina's pet is cunning, Gina's pet must be a fox.

17. Two bags, A and B, contain a combination of pink and yellow balls. Bag A contains 2 yellow balls and 18 pink balls. Bag B contains 2 pink balls and 18 yellow balls. You pick one of the bags at random and start drawing balls at random from it.

Which of the following statements is true?

A. If the first ball is pink, then the second ball is probably pink.

B. If the first ball is pink, then the second ball is probably yellow.

C. If the first two balls are different colours, then the third ball is probably pink.

D. If the first two balls are yellow, then the third ball is probably pink.

E. None of the above is true.

18. A bowl contains some red, yellow and green fruit. If you take three pieces of fruit from the bowl, at least one is red. If you take three pieces of fruit from the bowl, at least one is yellow.

How many green pieces of fruit are there in the bowl?

    A. 0.

    B. 1.

    C. 2.

    D. 3.

    E. Not enough information.

19. You are inside a room facing two doors: door A and door B. Jones says that door A will lead to the way out, but door B will not. Smith says that one door will lead to the way out, but the other door will not. One of Jones and Smith always tells the truth, and the other always lies (but you don't know which is which.)

Which doors, if any, will lead to the way out?

    A. Both doors.

    B. Neither door.

    C. Door A only.

    D. Door B only.

    E. Not enough information.

20. "All of Belinda's pets are furry. Nothing that is cute is also cruel. Everything which is not cute cannot be furry."

If all of these statements are true, what conclusion can we draw from them?

    A. Everything cruel is furry.

    B. Everything that is cute is also furry.

    C. Nothing cruel is one of Belinda's pets.

    D. None of Belinda's pets is cute.

    E. None of the above.

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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

If you find that you disagree about the answer to a question with someone who is equally well-informed and intelligent as you, does that mean that you should suspend belief in what the right answer to this question is?

QUESTION 2

"Security is the most important goal of any society, and it requires restricting people's freedom and privacy." Discuss.