Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

6 December 2018

The total time for the test is 1 hour.

The test has 2 parts. Part I, which lasts 20 minutes, contains 16 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.

1 "You can become a good guitarist 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 guitarist."

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 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.

   C You can become a good singer if you have perfect pitch. You are a good singer, so you must have perfect pitch.

   D You can avoid being overweight if you take sufficient exercise. You take sufficient exercise, so you will not become overweight.

   E 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.

2 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 on the other. And so on.

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

3 "Every year, thousands of customers buy cheap meat from Bargain Butcher. But all of them could afford to pay more. So Bargain Butcher could easily increase its profits by charging more."

Which of the following expresses the most serious flaw in the argument?

A It ignores the fact that it would cost Bargain Butcher more to serve more customers.

B It ignores the fact that many people do not eat meat.

C It ignores the fact that millions of meat enthusiasts do not use Bargain Butcher.

D It implies that some high-end customers are put off by Bargain Butcher's low prices.

E It assumes that even if Bargain Butcher charged more, it would still have as many customers.

4 "The inner workings of modern phones are extremely _____. So when phones malfunction, they are _____ to repair, to the point that it is quite usual to _____ the entire unit, rather than attempting to fix it."

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

A complex / difficult / replace

B simple / difficult / replace

C simple / difficult / discard

D simple / easy / repair

E complex / easy / repair

5 A pet shop sells rabbits and fish; each rabbit costs twice the price of a fish. A customer purchases five rabbits and three fish. If, instead, she had bought three rabbits and five fish, she would have spent £20 less. What is the price of each animal?

A Rabbit: £10; fish: £5

B Rabbit: £20; fish: £10

C Rabbit: £30; fish: £15

D Rabbit: £40; fish: £20

E Rabbit: £50; fish: £30

6 You have 3 urns. Urn A contains 2 red balls. Urn B contains 2 yellow balls. Urn C contains 1 red ball and 1 yellow ball. You select an urn at random and take out a ball. It is a yellow ball. What is the probability that the other ball in the urn is yellow?

    A 2/3

    B 3/5

    C 1/2

    D 2/5

    E 1/3

7 A secretary is in a bad mood with his boss and has to write three letters intended for three different people. He makes sure that each of the recipients of the letters will receive one written to someone else.

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

    A 6

    B 5

    C 3

    D 2

    E 1

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

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

    A There are only four Tuesdays.

    B The 1st of September is a Wednesday.

    C The first Friday of the month occurs before the 4th.

    D The 1st of October is a Sunday.

    E There are five Saturdays.

9 "All elephants are pachyderms. No monkey has a trunk. Everything which is not a monkey is not a pachyderm."

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

    A No elephant is a monkey.

    B Everything with a trunk is a pachyderm.

    C Nothing with a trunk is a pachyderm.

    D Every monkey is a pachyderm.

    E None of the above.

10 Cathy has twelve black socks and twelve white socks in her drawer. None of the socks are specific to left or right feet. In complete darkness and without looking, how many socks must she take from the drawer to ensure she gets a pair of the same colour?

    A 2

    B 3

    C 6

    D 12

    E 24

11 "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 the flaw in the above reasoning?

    A It assumes that all debts are owed to loan companies.

    B It fails to specify the amount by which debit increased over the preceding 10 years.

    C It gives a causal explanation when only a correlation is known.

    D It makes a sweeping generalisation on the strength of a very local sample.

    E It confuses the amount of debt with its value as a proportion of income.

12 You are managing a hair salon with 6 members of staff. Each member of staff gets 1 day of leave this week. There must be exactly 5 members of staff on each day Monday – Saturday, and the salon is closed on Sunday. The members of staff have the following preferences for their day off:

Aaliyah Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday

Bea Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday

Chris Wednesday or Friday

Dave Tuesday or Friday

Ellen Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday

Fiona Wednesday or Thursday

You want to accommodate everyone's preferences. What day should Fiona be off?

    A Monday

    B Tuesday

    C Wednesday

    D Thursday

    E Saturday

13 "The sentence 'Republicans _____ IRS chief over lost emails' is ambiguous; it is unclear in what sense the IRS chief is being _____."

Which of these fillings makes best sense of the passage?

    A question / questioned

    B defeat / defeated

    C grill / grilled

    D undermine / undermined

    E cook / cooked

14 There is a town where no two inhabitants have the same number of hairs. No inhabitant has exactly 226 hairs. There are more inhabitants than there are hairs on the head of any inhabitant. What is the largest possible number of inhabitants in this town?

    A 1,000

    B 227

    C 226

    D 225

    E 0

15 Which of the following statements is the only true one?

    A All five statements on this list are false.

    B E is the only true statement on this list.

    C A and D are false.

    D All five statements on this list are true.

    E B is true.

16 "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 Better-educated people commit fewer crimes.

    B The correlation between crime rates and incarceration rates indicates that high levels of imprisonment cause high levels of crime.

    C Criminals have a right to be treated humanely.

    D The correlation between crime rates and incarceration rates indicates that high levels of crime cause high levels of imprisonment.

    E It is better to prevent crime than to punish it.

Admissions Test – Part II

Faculty of Philosophy

6 December 2018

Write *one* essay on the topic of one of the questions below. You have 40 minutes for this part of the test.

QUESTION 1

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 or eating, 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 life. No one ever tries to get him out or suggests he should try to escape. Is Tony's prison life free? Explain your answer.

QUESTION 2

Could computers have beliefs?