

YOUR NAME: _____

Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

12 December 2019

The total time for the test is 1 hour.

The test has two 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.

YOUR NAME: _____

- 1 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 of the following best identifies the flaw in the above reasoning?

- A It assumes that all debts are owed to loan companies.
 - B It makes a sweeping generalisation on the strength of a local sample.
 - C It gives a causal explanation when only a correlation is known.
 - D It confuses the absolute amount of debt with its value as a proportion of income?
 - E It fails to specify the amount by which debt increased over the previous 10 years.
- 2 Which of the following statements is the only true one?
- A D and E are false.
 - B C is the only true statement on this list.
 - C B is true.
 - D All five statements on this list are true.
 - E All five statements on this list are false.
- 3 You are presented with 4 double-sided cards. Each card has a letter on one side and a number on the other. The first card has an 'A' on it, the second a 'B', the third a '1' and the fourth a '2'. In order to determine the truth of the statement 'If a card has a vowel on one side, then it has an even number on the other side', which of the cards *must* you turn over?
- A The 'A' and 'B' cards.
 - B The '1' and '2' cards.
 - C All of them.
 - D The 'A' and '1' cards.
 - E The 'A' and '2' cards.

YOUR NAME: _____

4 I buy a lamp for £9 and sell it for £10. I decide to buy it back for £11. I then sell the lamp again, this time for £12.

How much profit have I made overall?

- A £0
- B £1
- C £2
- D £3
- E £4

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 the 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 the 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.

YOUR NAME: _____

- 6 Aaliyah likes Bill and Danni. Bill likes himself, Aaliyah and Danni. Charlie doesn't like anyone. Danni likes herself, Bill and Charlie.

Which of the following sentences is false?

- A Everyone who likes themselves likes Bill.
 - B Everyone who likes Bill also likes Danni.
 - C Anyone who likes Bill and someone else is also liked by Bill.
 - D Someone who likes Bill likes themselves and no one else.
 - E There is someone who is liked but doesn't like anyone.
- 7 You are presented with two opaque boxes, box *A* and box *B*. They are guarded by two men, one of whom always lies, one of whom always tells the truth (but you don't know which is which). One of the men says 'Box *A* contains a prize and box *B* is empty'. The other man says 'One box contains a prize and the other is empty'. Which box(es) contain prizes?
- A Box *A* only
 - B Box *B* only
 - C Both
 - D Neither
 - E Not enough information
- 8 You are presented with two opaque boxes, box *A* and box *B*. They are guarded by two men. Either both men tell the true or both lie (but you don't know which). One of the men says 'There is either no prize in box *A* or a prize in box *B*'. The other man says 'There is a prize in box *A*'. Which box(es) contain prizes?
- A Box *A* only
 - B Box *B* only
 - C Both
 - D Neither
 - E Not enough information

YOUR NAME: _____

- 9 “All slow lorises are nocturnal. No sloth is lazy. Everything which is not a sloth cannot be nocturnal.”

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

- A Nothing lazy is a slow loris.
 - B Every sloth is nocturnal.
 - C No slow loris is a sloth.
 - D Everything lazy is nocturnal.
 - E None of the above.
- 10 A drawer contains 5 pink socks and 5 orange socks. What is the smallest number of socks that I must randomly take out so as to be certain of drawing a matching pair?
- A 2
 - B 3
 - C 4
 - D 5
 - E 6
- 11 A drawer contains the same number of pink and orange socks. The minimum number I have to take out to be certain of drawing a matching pair is the same as the minimum number I have to take out to be certain of drawing a distinct pair. How many socks are in the drawer?
- A 2
 - B 3
 - C 4
 - D 5
 - E 6

- 12 The author’s _____ style makes even an obviously _____ topic seem _____.

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

- A irritating/ laborious/ tedious
- B exciting/ laborious/ tedious
- C irritating/ engaging/ tedious
- D irritating/ engaging/ captivating
- E exciting/ opaque/ unclear

YOUR NAME: _____

- 13 “Anne cannot afford to buy the standard model of the latest phone. The deluxe version is even more expensive, so she cannot afford that either.”

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

- A Anne does not like food containing coriander. The curry contains parsley, which is like coriander, so she won't like it either.
 - B It is too far for Anne to walk to the supermarket. The market is closer, so she'll go there instead.
 - C Anne's hair is shorter than, and Colin's hair is longer than, Bianca's. So Anne's hair is shorter than Colin's.
 - D Anne does not have enough patience to complete the Guardian crossword. The Times crossword also requires patience, so she won't complete that either.
 - E Anne cannot sleep if she drinks coffee after dinner. Tea contains less caffeine than coffee, but she still won't drink it.
- 14 You take six children to a toyshop to buy them cuddly toys. You ask each child which toys they like and get the following answers:

Alex Dog, cat, sheep

Billy Mouse, rat, dog, cat

Cheryl Sheep, dog

Dan Mouse, bear, sheep, cat

Ellie Sheep, bear, cat, dog

Frank Cat, dog

You want to buy each child one toy that they like; the shop stocks only one of each toy. What will you buy for Dan?

- A Bear
- B Mouse
- C Cat
- D Sheep
- E Dog

YOUR NAME: _____

15 An allotment contains some turnips, cabbages and parsnips. Whenever you choose three vegetables from the allotment, at least one is a turnip. Whenever you pick three vegetables from the allotment, at least one is a cabbage. How many parsnips are in the allotment?

A 0

B 1

C 2

D 3

E Not enough information

16 A relation is called *asymmetric* if whenever x has it to y , y does *not* have it to x . For example, the relation x is taller than y is asymmetric, because whenever x is taller than y , y is *not* taller than x .

Which of the following is another asymmetric relation?

A x is not the same weight as y

B x is at least as old as y

C x lives within five miles of y

D x is y 's brother

E x is y 's father

YOUR NAME: _____

Admissions Test – Part II

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

QUESTION 1

‘It is now true, or it is now false, that there will be a sea battle tomorrow. But if it is now true that there will be a sea battle tomorrow, then there will be a sea battle tomorrow, and nothing I do can change this. And if it is now false that there will be a sea battle tomorrow, then there will not be a sea battle tomorrow, and nothing I do can change this. So nothing I do can change whether there is a sea battle tomorrow.’ Is this reasoning correct? Explain your answer.

QUESTION 2

Andy and Ben are alike in every respect. They are both driving cars, at the same speed, on straight roads. Both fail to notice a red traffic light, indicating that they should stop. But as Andy goes through the traffic light, he hits and kills a pedestrian. Ben is lucky: no one steps out in front of his car.

Is Andy any more blameworthy than Ben? Explain your answer.