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QUESTION 1

Selena: Asteroid impact on the Earth caused the extinction of the dinosaurs by raising vast clouds of dust, thus blocking the Sun's rays and cooling the planet beyond the capacity of the dinosaurs, or perhaps the vegetation that supported them, to adapt. A worldwide dust layer provides evidence of asteroid impact at approximately the correct time, and a huge crater exists on the edge of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico.

Trent: That asteroid crater is not large enough for the requisite amount of dust to have been produced.

Besides, the extinction of dinosaur species took many years, not just one or two.

So the extinctions must have been due not to asteroid impact on the Earth but to some other kind of cause.

Trent's argument assumes that

- A. any collision of an asteroid with the Earth would have occurred on a land area rather than an ocean
- B. dinosaurs in the neighborhood of an asteroid impact but not within the zone of direct impact would have survived such an impact
- C. any event that takes place over a long period of time has many different kinds of causes
- D. dust from the impact of an asteroid on the Earth would not have had any cooling effect on the climate
- E. no more than one large asteroid struck the Earth during the period when the dinosaurs were becoming extinct

Correct Answer: E

The stem tells us that Trent is the featured player in this one, but first Selena's argument. In a nutshell, Selena thinks asteroid impact unleashed a chain of events that caused the dinosaurs to die out. Trent responds that the extinction of the dinosaurs must have been due to some cause other than asteroid impact, based on the facts that the crater Selena mentions is too small to create the amount of dust required in her scenario, and that the extinction took many years. Both of Trent's facts seem to argue against the likelihood that the Mexican asteroid, by itself, did the dinosaurs in, but what if many asteroid impacts over time raised enough dust to set the process described in motion? (Notice that Selena never says that a single asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs.) If Trent accepted the possibility of multiple impacts, he'd have to rework his argument. For his argument as stated to stand, he'd have to assume that this didn't happen.

QUESTION 2

Moralist: TV talk shows are contributing to the moral decline in our country. By constantly being shown the least moral people in our society, viewers begin to think that such people are the norm, and that there is something wrong with being morally upright. TV talk show host: Well, if there is such a decline, it's not because of TV talk shows: we simply show people what they want to see. What can be wrong with letting the viewers decide? Furthermore, if restrictions were put on my show, that would amount to censorship, which is wrong.

The moralist's and the TV talk show host's statements provide the most support for holding that they disagree about whether



- A. TV talk shows should be censored
- B. people's moral standards have changed
- C. TV talk shows influence people's conception of what is the norm
- D. TV talk shows, by presenting immoral guests, are causing a moral decline
- E. it is wrong not to let the viewers decide what they want to see

Correct Answer: D

First up is a Point-At-Issue question, so we need to read carefully to figure out what these two are arguing about. The moralist believes that TV talk shows are the cause of moral decline in our country -- they broadcast the least moral people, thus causing viewers to question the legitimacy of higher moral standards. The talk show host's first sentence gets right to the heart of the debate: If there is a moral decline, it's not caused by TV talk shows. Her support for this position is interesting (she argues that talk shows represent an effect, not a cause, of immorality), but is not as central to her opposition as her blunt first statement. Comparing the first sentence of each argument brings to light the issue captured in option [TV talk shows, by presenting...], namely: Does presenting immoral guests on talk shows cause a moral decline? The moralist says "yup"; the host says "no way."

QUESTION 3

Physician: Heart disease generally affects men at an earlier age than it does women, who tend to experience heart disease after menopause. Both sexes have the hormones estrogen and testosterone, but when they are relatively young, men have ten times as much testosterone as women, and women abruptly lose estrogen after menopause. We can conclude, then, that testosterone tends to promote, and estrogen tends to inhibit, heart disease.

The physician's argument is questionable because it presumes which one of the following without providing sufficient justification?

- A. Hormones are the primary factors that account for the differences in age-related heart disease risks between women and men.
- B. Estrogen and testosterone are the only hormones that promote or inhibit heart disease.
- C. Men with high testosterone levels have a greater risk for heart disease than do postmenopausal women.
- D. Because hormone levels are correlated with heart disease they influence heart disease.
- E. Hormone levels do not vary from person to person, especially among those of the same age and gender.

Correct Answer: D

The question stem is just a wordy way of asking you to identify the logical flaw in the argument. This is a classic case of confusing correlation with causation. Just because X and Y appear together doesn't mean that X causes Y. Here the physician cites the evidence of high testosterone levels in younger men, and lower estrogen levels in post-menopausal women. The physician then couples this with the fact that men get heart disease earlier, and women get it later, and finally concludes that testosterone promotes heart disease, and estrogen tends to inhibit disease. Looking at this evidence, you can agree that hormone levels and heart disease do seem to be correlated, but does that necessarily mean that these hormones promote or inhibit disease? Might there be other causes? Couldn't the correlation just be coincidence? Once you have identified this flaw (and it should come naturally after having read numerous causal arguments) you should be able to go quickly to correct answer choice [Because hormone levels are correlated...].



QUESTION 4

At some point in any discussion of societal justice, the only possible doctrinal defense seems to be "That is the way we do things here." Different communities that each recognize the dignity and equality of all citizens - will, for example, nevertheless settle on somewhat different provisions for the elderly. So we can see that general principles of justice are never sufficient to determine the details of social policies fixed within a particular state.

Which one of the following statements, if true, most strengthens the argument concerning the general principles of justice?

- A. Although two socialist states each adhered to the same electoral principles, one had a different type of machine for counting ballots in public elections than the other did.
- B. Two democratic industrial states, both subscribing to capitalistic economic principles, differed markedly in the respective proportions of land they devoted to forestry.
- C. Although each adhered to its own principles, a democracy and a monarchy each had the same distribution of wealth in its population.
- D. Two states founded on and adhering to similar principles of justice had different requirements that had to be met in order to be eligible for government-subsidized daycare.
- E. Two societies based on different principles of justice, each adhering to its own principles, had the same unemployment benefits.

Correct Answer: D

This stimulus cuts a little deeper than most, philosophically speaking. The idea introduced in the first sentence and reinforced at the end is that any given state will have its own conception of "social justice" that goes beyond any universal set of principles about that which is just. The example they provide -- that two states may have different ideas about the just way to treat the elderly, even though both states operate under the same general ideals -- helps to clarify matters and also may help to identify [Two states founded on and adhering to...] as correct. In the same way as the stimulus example, it is revealing that two different states have different ideas about the just way to qualify for day care, even though their general principles of justice are the same.

QUESTION 5

Until about 1970, anyone who wanted to write a comprehensive history of medieval English law as it actually affected women would have found a dearth of published books or articles concerned with specific legal topics relating to women and derived from extensive research in actual court records. This is a serious deficiency, since court records are of vital importance in discovering how the law actually affected women, as opposed to how the law was intended to affect them or thought to affect them.

These latter questions can be answered by consulting such sources as treatises, commentaries, and statutes; such texts were what most scholars of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries concentrated on whenever they did write about medieval law. But these sources are of little help in determining, for example, how often women's special statutory privileges were thwarted by intimidation or harassment, or how often women managed to evade special statutory limitations. And, quite apart from provisions designed to apply only, or especially, to women, they cannot tell us how general law affected the female half of the population? how women defendants and plaintiffs were treated in the courts in practice when they tried to exercise the rights they shared with men. Only quantitative studies of large numbers of cases would allow even a guess at the answers to these questions, and this scholarly work has been attempted by few.

One can easily imagine why. Most medieval English court records are written in Latin or Anglo-Norman French and have never been published. The sheer volume of material to be sifted is daunting: there are over 27,500 parchment



pages in the common plea rolls of the thirteenth century alone, every page nearly three feet long, and written often front and back in highly stylized court hand. But the difficulty of the sources, while it might appear to explain why the relevant scholarship has not been undertaken, seems actually to have deterred few: the fact is that few historians have wanted to write anything approaching women's legal history in the first place. Most modern legal historians who have written on one aspect or another of special laws pertaining to women have begun with an interest in a legal idea or event or institution, not with a concern for how it affected women. Very few legal historians have started with an interest in women's history that they might have elected to pursue through various areas of general law. And the result of all this is that the current state of our scholarly knowledge relating to law and the medieval Englishwoman is still fragmentary at best, though the situation is slowly improving

It can be inferred from the passage that, in the author's view, which one of the following factors is most responsible for the current deficiencies in our knowledge of women's legal history?

- A. most modern legal historians' relative lack of interest in pursuing the subject
- B. the linguistic and practical difficulties inherent in pursuing research relevant to such knowledge
- C. a tendency on the part of most modern legal historians to rely too heavily on sources such as commentaries and treatises
- D. the mistaken view that the field of women's legal history should be defined as the study of laws that apply only, or especially, to women
- E. the relative scarcity of studies providing a comprehensive overview of women's legal history

Correct Answer: A

Last up is an Inference question, and again the topic doesn't stray far at all from the main issue at hand, namely the deficiency that so irks our author. 2nd paragraph clearly state the author's explanation ?lack of interest on the part of historians. The sentence that follows clears up which historians the author means here: modern legal historians, most of which don't give a hoot about how laws affect women. And the sentence in 3rd paragraph clinches it: "Very few legal historians have started with an interest in women's history . . ." Put it all together and we've got choice A.

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