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QUESTION 1

A recent national study of the trash discarded in several representative areas confirmed that plastics constitute a smaller proportion of all trash than paper products do, whether the trash is measured by weight or by volume. The damage that a given weight or volume of trash does to the environment is roughly the same whether the trash consists of plastics or paper products. Contrary to popular opinion, therefore, the current use of plastics actually does less harm to the environment nationwide than that of paper products.

Which one of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- A. A given weight of paper product may increase in volume after manufacture and before being discarded as trash.
- B. According to popular opinion, volume is a more important consideration than weight in predicting the impact of a given quantity of trash on the environment.
- C. The sum of damage caused to the environment by paper trash and by plastic trash is greater than that caused by any other sort of trash that was studied.
- D. The production of any paper product is more harmful to the environment than is the production of an equal weight or volume of any plastic.
- E. The proportion of plastic trash to paper trash varies from one part of the country to another.

Correct Answer: D

As noted above, the conclusion is a broad one: Environmentally speaking, the use of paper causes more harm than does the use of plastic. But all of the author's evidence concerns the environmental impact of paper trash and plastic trash. What about paper vs. plastic production, which clearly falls under the scope of general use? The only way that the argument can work is if the production issue is taken off the table, and that's what option [The production of any paper product is] does, by indicting the production of paper as causing more damage than the production of plastic.

QUESTION 2

A chess tournament is occurring in the local community school, and the players at all four of the tables are engaged in their fourth game against their prospective opponents.

The players with white pieces are: David, Gerry, Lenny and Terry

The players with black pieces are: Don, Mike, Richie and Stephen

The scores are 3:0, 2.5:0.5, 2:1, 1.5:1.5

[note: tied games result in a score of 0.5 points for each player]

Lenny is playing at the table to the right of Stephen, who has lost all of his games until now.

Gerry is playing against Mike.

At least one game at table 1 has resulted in a tie.

Richie, who is not in the lead over his opponent, has not been in a tied game.



The player who is using the white pieces at table 4 is Terry, however, the current score at table 4 is not 2:1.

Don is leading his match after his last three games.

A.

Mike

B.

David

C.

Richie

D.

Don

E.

Terry

Which player has black pieces and is tied?

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 3

Cigarette companies claim that manufacturing both low-and high-nicotine cigarettes allows smokers to choose how much nicotine they want. However, a recent study has shown that the levels of nicotine found in the blood of smokers who smoke one pack of cigarettes per day are identical at the end of a day's worth of smoking, whatever the level of nicotine in the cigarettes they smoke.

Which one of the following, if true, most helps to explain the finding of the nicotine study?

A. Blood cannot absorb more nicotine per day than that found in the smoke from a package of the lowest-nicotine cigarettes available.

B. Smokers of the lowest-nicotine cigarettes available generally smoke more cigarettes per day than smokers of high-nicotine cigarettes.

C. Most nicotine is absorbed into the blood of a smoker even if it is delivered in smaller quantities.

D. The level of tar in cigarettes is higher in low-nicotine cigarettes than it is in some high-nicotine cigarettes.

E. When taking in nicotine by smoking cigarettes is discontinued, the level of nicotine in the blood decreases steadily.

Correct Answer: A

Here's a popular LSAT topic: cigarettes. And we know from the stem that we're looking for a choice that helps make a study's finding more understandable. "Explain" questions are a subset of Paradox questions, and we shouldn't be



surprised if the finding is unusual or puzzling. And so it is, as the ever-helpful Contrast Keyword "However" suggests. By producing both low- and high-nicotine cigarettes, the cigarette companies think they're offering smokers a choice as to how much nicotine they wish to consume. But the study found equal levels of nicotine in the blood of smokers who smoke one pack a day, no matter what the level of nicotine in their cigarettes. This is certainly hard to understand, but perhaps you picked up on the shift between nicotine consumed and nicotine found in the blood--perhaps there's something about the latter that evens things out no matter how much nicotine is initially imbibed. That's worth keeping in mind as we hit the choices, and look...

QUESTION 4

Editorial: Medical schools spend one hour teaching preventive medicine for every ten hours spent teaching curative medicine, even though doctors' use of the techniques of preventive medicine cuts down medical costs greatly. Therefore, if their goal is to make medicine more cost-effective, medical schools spend insufficient time teaching preventive medicine.

Which one of the following is an assumption on which the editorial's argument depends?

- A. Preventive medicine makes use of technologies that are lower in initial cost than the technologies used within the practice of curative medicine.
- B. Every hour devoted to the teaching of preventive medicine reduces medical costs by 10 percent or more.
- C. Medical schools could increase their total number teaching hours.
- D. Improvements in doctors' use of the techniques of curative medicine would only increase overall medical costs.
- E. The time required to teach preventive medicine thoroughly is greater than one hour for every ten that are now spent teaching curative medicine.

Correct Answer: E

When we see an Assumption question, we think "there's something missing, and it's required for this argument to work." Let's look for a gap between the evidence and conclusion. In medical school, learning how to cure medical problems outweighs learning how to prevent them 10 to 1, even though preventive medicine cuts down on medical costs. The editorial concludes that if the schools are interested in making medicine more cost-effective, then they're not spending enough time on preventive medicine. But even though time spent teaching curative medicine outweighs preventive 10 to 1, where does the editorial establish that this ratio is not sufficient to adequately teach preventive medicine? It doesn't. Sure, the 10 to 1 ratio sounds disproportionate, but maybe the subject of preventive medicine can be taught just fine in the time currently allotted. If so, then the editorialist would be wrong to argue that cost-conscious medical schools spend insufficient time teaching preventive medicine. E. must therefore be assumed: In a fairly long-winded manner, all it says is that the 10 to 1 ratio is not sufficient to teach preventive medicine well. If it was sufficient (the Denial Test), then the argument would make no sense.

QUESTION 5

At a concert, exactly eight compositions -- F, H, L, O, P, R, S, and T -- are to be performed exactly once each, consecutively and one composition at a time. The order of their performance must satisfy the

following conditions:

T is performed either immediately before F or immediately after R.



At least two compositions are performed either after F and before R, or after R and before F. O is performed either first or fifth. The eighth composition performed is either L or H. P is performed at some time before S. At least one composition is performed either after O and before S, or after S and before O.

If T is performed fifth and F is performed sixth, then S must be performed either

- A. fourth or seventh
- B. third or sixth
- C. third or fourth
- D. second or seventh
- E. first or fourth

Correct Answer: A

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